Montana Code Annotated
2023

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
ORO Y PLATA

Public Utilities & Carriers • Property
Mortgages, Pledges & Liens
Estates, Trusts & Fiduciary Relationships
Environmental Protection
Land Resources & Use • State Lands

VOLUME 9

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Part 1
Public Service Commission

69-1-101. Definition of commission. As used in this title, the term "commission" means the public service commission provided for in 2-15-2602.

History: En. by Code Commissioner, 1979.

69-1-102. Creation of public service commission. A public service commission is hereby created, whose duty it is to supervise and regulate the operations of public utilities, common carriers, railroads, and other regulated industries listed in this title. Such supervision and regulation shall be in conformity with this title.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

Cross-References

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69-1-103. Composition of commission. The commission shall consist of five members, who shall be qualified electors of the district from which they are elected, with each such member elected from a separate district of the state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101(part).

Cross-References

Composition of Public Service Commission, 2-15-2602.

69-1-104. Public service commission districts. (1) In this state there are five public service commission districts, with one commissioner elected from each district. Districts are based on the house districts submitted as part of the redistricting plan to the secretary of state pursuant to Article V, section 14, of the Montana constitution. The house districts are distributed as follows:

(a) first district: 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 43, 44, 45;
(b) second district: 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62;
(c) third district: 37, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 85, 86;
(d) fourth district: 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 87, 88, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100; and
(e) fifth district: 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 91, 92, 99.

(2) During a legislative session and following the receipt of the latest official final decennial census data, the legislature:

(a) shall evaluate existing commission districts;
(b) may adjust commission boundaries to comply with the United States constitution;
(c) shall prepare and adopt a final commission district map; and
(d) shall file the final commission district map with the secretary of state.

History: En. 70-101.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 26, 2023.

69-1-105. Term of office — term limits. (1) A term is for a period of 4 years. A commissioner when elected shall qualify at the time and in the manner provided by law for other state officers and shall take office on the first Monday of January after the election.

(2) A commissioner shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) The secretary of state or other authorized official may not certify a candidate's nomination or election to the public service commission or print or cause to be printed on any ballot the name of a candidate for the public service commission if, at the end of the current term of that office, the candidate will have served in that office or, had the candidate not resigned or been recalled, would have served in that office for 8 or more years in a 16-year period.

(4) When computing the time served for the purposes of subsection (3), the provisions of subsection (3) do not apply to time served in terms that ended during or prior to January 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Limitation on terms of office, Art. IV, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

Term of office, 2-15-2602.

69-1-106. Vacancies. (1) Any vacancy occurring in the commission must be filled by appointment by the governor as provided in this section. The appointee shall hold office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. At the biennial election following the occurrence of any vacancy in the commission, there must be elected one member to fill out the unexpired term for which the vacancy exists.

(2) (a) When a vacancy occurs, if the former incumbent represented a party eligible for primary election under 13-10-601, the person appointed by the governor must be a member of the same political party and must be selected by the governor as provided in subsections (3) and (4).

(b) If the former incumbent was an independent or was originally nominated from a party that does not meet the requirements of 13-10-601, the governor shall appoint an individual to the vacant position within 45 days of receiving notification from the secretary of state of the vacancy.

(3) Within 7 days of being notified of a vacancy as described in 2-16-501, the secretary of state shall notify the governor and, if the former incumbent represented a party eligible for primary election under 13-10-601, the state party that was represented by the former incumbent.

(4) (a) Upon receipt of a notification of a vacancy, the state party central committee notified pursuant to subsection (3) has 30 days to forward to the governor a list of three prospective appointees, each of whom must be a resident of the district represented by the former incumbent.

(b) If the governor does not select an appointee from the list forwarded pursuant to subsection (4)(a) within 15 days, the central committee shall, within 15 days, forward a second list of three prospective appointees, each of whom must be a resident of the district represented by the former incumbent. The second list may not contain a name submitted on the first list. Within 15 days of receipt of the second list, the governor shall select an appointee from either list.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101(part); amd. Sec. 1979, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Vacancy in Executive Branch office, Art. VI, sec. 6 and 14, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 16, part 5.

Powers and duties of Governor, 2-15-201.

69-1-107. Presiding officer of commission. A presiding officer must be selected by the commission from its membership at the first meeting of each year after a general election.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3879, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-101(part); amd. Sec. 1980, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Commission as head of Department of Public Service Regulation, 2-15-2601.

69-1-108. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 35, L. 2009.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4367, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3783, R.C.M. 1921; rep. in part by Ch. 176, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3783, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-105, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4371, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3790, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3790, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-112, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-105(part), 72-112; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-1-109. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 35, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4367, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3783, R.C.M. 1921; rep. in part by Ch. 176, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3783, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-105(part).

69-1-110. Conduct of commission business. (1) The commission shall hold sessions at times and places in this state as may be expedient. A majority of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(2) The members of the commission may administer oaths and affirmations.

(3) The commission may adopt rules to govern its proceedings and to regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings concerning railroad companies and other parties before it in the establishment of rates, orders, charges, and other acts required of it under the law.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4365, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3781, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3781, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-103.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Investigations by Public Service Commission, 69-2-102.

69-1-111. Reimbursement for expenses. The commission and its staff are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Expenditures must be sworn to by the person who incurred the expenses and be approved by the presiding officer of the commission or the presiding officer's designee.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 32, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3912, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3912, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1977; Sec. 70-134, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 7, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4369, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3785, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3785, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 439, L. 1975; Sec. 72-107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-134, 72-107; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 35, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1982, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-1-112. Prohibition on acceptance of favors from railroads. (1) Public service commissioners or their staff may not, directly or indirectly, solicit or request from or recommend to any railroad corporation or any officer, attorney, or agent the appointment of any person to any place or position, and any railroad corporation or its attorney or agent may not offer any place, appointment, or position or other consideration to commissioners or their staff. Commissioners and their staff may not accept, receive, or request any pass from any railroad in this state for themselves or for any other person, except as otherwise provided in 69-1-111, or any present, gift, or gratuity of any kind from any railroad corporation.

(2) A request or acceptance, except as specified in 69-1-111, of any place or position, pass, present, gift, or other gratuity referred to in subsection (1) results in forfeiture of the office of the commissioner or the staff requesting or accepting the same. A person violating any of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4394, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3813, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3813, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-136; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 35, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Code of ethics, Title 2, ch. 2, part 1.
Governmental code of fair practices, Title 49, ch. 3.

69-1-113. Removal or suspension of commissioner. If a commissioner fails to perform the commissioner's duties as provided in this title, the commissioner may be removed from office as provided by 45-7-401. Upon complaint made and good cause shown, the governor may suspend any commissioner, and if, in the governor's judgment the exigencies of the case require, the governor may appoint temporarily some competent person to perform the duties of the suspended commissioner during the period of the suspension.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4397, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3816, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3816, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-139(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1983, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Governmental code of fair practices, Title 49, ch. 3.

69-1-114. Fees. (1) Each fee charged by the commission must be reasonable.

(2) Except for a fee assessed pursuant to 69-3-204(2), 69-3-1204(6)(b), 69-3-1207(4)(b), 69-3-1612(4), or 69-12-423(2), a fee set by the commission may not exceed $500.

(3) All fees collected by the department under 69-3-1204(6)(b) and 69-3-1207(4)(b) must be deposited in an account in the special revenue fund. Funds in this account must be used as provided in 69-3-1204(6)(b) and 69-3-1207(4)(b).

(4) All fees collected by the commission under 69-3-1612(4) must be treated as financing costs and used in accordance with a financing order issued in accordance with 69-3-1606.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 442, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 449, L. 2019.**

Cross-References

Fees to be charged by Commission, 69-3-204.

69-1-115. Commission recordkeeping and employment of personnel. (1) The commission shall keep a full and complete record of all its proceedings and preserve at the office of the commission all books, maps, documents, and papers entrusted to its care.

(2) The commission may appoint secretaries, stenographers, inspectors, experts, and other persons whenever determined necessary by the commission to perform its duties.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 2009.**

Part 2
Consumer Committee and Consumer Counsel

Part Cross-References

Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 15, part 2.

Penalties for violation of this part, 69-2-205.

69-1-201. Definitions. As used in this part and part 2 of chapter 2, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Committee" means the legislative consumer committee provided for in Title 5, chapter 15, part 1.

(2) "Consumer counsel" means the consumer counsel provided for in Title 5, chapter 15, part 2.

(3) "Regulated companies" means all those organizations, corporations, associations, or other public or private entities which now are or may hereafter become subject to regulation in any manner by the department of public service regulation or the public service commission or any successor agency.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1973; Sec. 70-702, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; R.C.M. 1947, 70-702(part).**

69-1-202 through 69-1-210 reserved.

69-1-211. Meetings of committee. The committee shall meet at least once each quarter to advise and consult with the consumer counsel.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-704(part).**

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

69-1-212. Compensation of committee members. Committee members are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-704(part).**

69-1-213 through 69-1-220 reserved.

69-1-221. Staff of consumer counsel. The consumer counsel may, with the approval of the committee, appoint employees and consultants necessary to carry out the provisions of this part and part 2 of chapter 2, within the limits of legislative appropriation.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 65, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 70-706.**

Cross-References

State employee classification, compensation, and benefits, Title 2, ch. 18.

69-1-222. Annual report. (1) The consumer counsel shall prepare and submit a yearly report and other interim reports to the consumer committee that the consumer counsel determines advisable concerning the consumer counsel's activities during the year. The consumer counsel also may recommend appropriate remedial legislation to the committee.

(2) The annual report and any recommendations for remedial legislation prepared in accordance with subsection (1) must also be provided to the energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707(7); amd. Sec. 1984, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

69-1-223. Funding of office of consumer counsel. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund to which all fees collected under this section must be deposited and from which all appropriations to the office of the consumer counsel must be paid. An appropriation to the office of the consumer counsel may consist of a base appropriation for regular operating expenses and a contingency appropriation for expenses due to an unanticipated caseload.

(2) In addition to all other licenses, fees, and taxes imposed by law, all regulated companies shall:

(a) within 30 days after the close of each calendar quarter, file with the department of public service regulation and the department of revenue a statement, in a form that the commission and department may determine, showing the gross operating revenue from all activities regulated by the commission within the state for that calendar quarter of operation or portion of a quarter, separately stating gross revenue from sales to other regulated companies for resale; and

(b) at that time pay to the department of revenue a fee based on a percentage of the gross operating revenue reported, as determined by the department of revenue under 69-1-224.

(3) The amount of money which may be raised by the fee on the regulated companies during a fiscal year may not be increased, except as provided in 69-1-224(1)(c), from the amount appropriated, including both base and contingency appropriations, by the legislature for that fiscal year. Any additional money required for operation of the office of the consumer counsel must be obtained from other sources in a manner authorized by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-709(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 647, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 508, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.

69-1-224. Determination of fee — reporting. (1) On or before August 31 of each year, the department of revenue shall:

(a) determine the total gross operating revenue generated by all regulated activities within this state for all regulated companies for the previous fiscal year;

(b) compute the percentage, subject to revision as provided in subsection (2), of the amount determined in subsection (1)(a) that will produce an amount equal to the current appropriation to the office of the consumer counsel, except that a regulated company owned and operated by any municipal corporation within this state may not be required to pay a sum in excess of 0.06 of 1% of its gross operating revenue;

(c) adjust the percentage multiplier computed in subsection (1)(b) to ensure that sufficient funds are generated to meet the appropriation and that excess funds are not generated or retained by:

(i) determining the appropriation to the office of the consumer counsel for the previous fiscal year and comparing it to the fees collected from the previous fiscal year;

(ii) reducing or increasing the percentage determined in subsection (1)(b) for the current year in order to account for any difference determined in subsection (1)(c)(i); and

(iii) if necessary, reducing the revenue to be collected for the current year by any funds remaining unspent at the close of the prior fiscal year; and

(d) give notice by mail to each regulated company of the percentage to be applied to the gross operating revenue reported under 69-1-223(2) to determine the amount of the fee to be paid.

(2) (a) The department of revenue shall adjust the percentage multiplier if the department considers a change necessary to meet or to not exceed the amount to be raised by the fee because of:

(i) fluctuations in the actual gross operating revenue subject to the fee; or

(ii) submission and approval of a budget amendment authorizing the spending of money from a contingency appropriation included in the appropriation measure for the office of the consumer counsel and authorized to be raised by means of the fee.

(b) Adjustments of the percentage multiplier are subject to the exception provided in subsection (1)(b) for municipally owned and operated regulated companies.

(c) Regulated companies must be given at least 30 days' notice of any change in the percentage multiplier.

(d) Any change in the percentage multiplier is effective at the beginning of the next calendar quarter.

(3) In the event that the fee charged in 1 year is in excess of the amount actually expended in that year, the excess must be deducted from the amount required to be raised by the fee for the next year before the determination required by subsection (1) is made. Money remaining unspent at the close of the fiscal year must be used to reduce the percentage calculated in subsection (1) in the subsequent fiscal year.

(4) All fees paid by a regulated company pursuant to this section are immediately recoverable by the regulated company in its rates and charges. Within 30 days after the issuance by the department of revenue of the notice required by subsection (1), the public service commission shall by separate order authorize each regulated company to fully recover in its rates and charges, on an annual basis, the fees levied by this part.

(5) (a) By January 15 and July 15 of each year, the department of revenue shall submit a written report to the legislative consumer committee identifying the following:

(i) the amount of total fees collected by the department dedicated to the consumer counsel;

(ii) the amount of fees collected in the previous 2 quarters and the percentage multiplier applied; and

(iii) the total amount of collections in the previous fiscal year and the percentage multiplier applied.

(b) The report must be provided in an electronic format.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-709(3), (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 647, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 508, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 257, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.

69-1-225. Computation and collection of fee in absence of statement — penalty and interest. (1) If a regulated company or an officer or employee of a regulated company fails, neglects, or refuses to file the statement required by 69-1-223(2), the department of revenue may after the time for filing has expired proceed to inform itself, as best it may, regarding the regulated company's gross operating revenue from all activities regulated by the commission within the state for the calendar quarter, quarters, or portion thereof and may determine and fix the amount of the consumer counsel fee due.

(2) (a) When a deficiency is determined and the fee becomes final, the department shall mail a notice and demand for payment to the regulated company. The fee is due and payable at the expiration of 10 days after the notice and demand were mailed. Interest on any deficiency assessment bears interest until paid, at the rate of 1% a month or fraction of a month, computed from the original due date of the return.

(b) If payment is not made within 10 days, the amount of the deficiency is considered delinquent. A 10% penalty must be added to the amount of the deficiency.

(c) The taxpayer may seek review of the department's action pursuant to 15-1-211.

(3) The 10% penalty may be waived by the department of revenue if reasonable cause for failure and neglect to file the statement is provided to the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1979; amd. Secs. 8, 19, Ch. 676, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 811, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Penalties for violation, 69-2-205.

69-1-226. Failure to pay fee — penalty and interest — collection of fee. (1) If a regulated company or an officer or employee of a regulated company files the statement required by 69-1-223(2) but fails, neglects, or refuses to pay the fee due within the time required, the department of revenue may after the time for payment has expired add to the fee due, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, a penalty of 10% thereof plus interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of month computed on the total amount of the fee. Interest is computed from the date the fee is due to the date of payment.

(2) The department of revenue shall mail to the regulated company a notice, pursuant to 15-1-211, setting forth the amount of the fee, penalty, and interest. The taxpayer may seek review of the department's action pursuant to 15-1-211.

(3) The 10% penalty may be waived by the department of revenue if reasonable cause for failure and neglect to make payment is provided to the department.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 439, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 676, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 811, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue, Title 2, ch. 15, part 13.
Warrant for distraint, Title 15, ch. 1, part 7.
Penalties for violation, 69-2-205.

69-1-227. Warrant for distraint. If the fee imposed by this part is not paid when due, the department may issue a warrant for distraint as provided in Title 15, chapter 1, part 7. The resulting lien has precedence over any claim, lien, or demand thereafter filed and recorded.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

69-1-228. Credit for overpayment — interest on overpayment. (1) If the department of revenue determines that the amount of fee, penalty, or interest paid for any year is more than the amount due, the amount of the overpayment must be credited against any tax, penalty, or interest then due from the taxpayer and the balance refunded to the taxpayer or the taxpayer's successor through reorganization, merger, or consolidation or to the taxpayer's shareholders upon dissolution.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), interest is allowed on overpayments at the same rate as is charged on deficiency assessments from the due date of the return or from the date of overpayment, whichever date is later, to the date the department of revenue approves refunding or crediting of the overpayment.

(3) (a) Interest does not accrue during any period in which the processing of a claim for a refund is delayed more than 30 days by reason of failure of the taxpayer to furnish information requested by the department of revenue for the purpose of verifying the amount of the overpayment.

(b) Interest is not allowed:

(i) if the overpayment is refunded within 6 months from the date the return is due or from the date the return is filed, whichever is later; or

(ii) if the amount of interest is less than $1.

(c) Only a payment made incident to a bona fide and orderly discharge of actual tax liability or one reasonably assumed to be imposed by this chapter is considered an overpayment with respect to which interest is allowable.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 676, L. 1991.

69-1-229 reserved.

69-1-230. Statute of limitations. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a deficiency may not be assessed or collected with respect to the year for which a return is filed unless the notice of the additional fee proposed to be assessed is mailed within 5 years from the date the return was filed. For purposes of this section, a return filed before the last day prescribed for filing is considered as filed on the last day. If the taxpayer, before the expiration of the period prescribed for assessment of the fee, consents in writing to an assessment after that time, the fee may be assessed at any time prior to the expiration of the period agreed upon.

(2) A refund or credit may not be allowed or paid with respect to the year for which a return is filed after 5 years from the last day prescribed for filing the return or after 1 year from the date of the overpayment, whichever period expires later, unless before the expiration of the period the taxpayer files a claim or the department of revenue determines the existence of the overpayment and approves the refund or credit. If the taxpayer has agreed in writing under the provisions of subsection (1) to extend the time within which the department of revenue may propose an additional assessment, the period within which a claim for refund or credit may be filed or a credit or refund allowed if no claim is filed is automatically extended.

(3) If a return is required to be filed and the taxpayer fails to file the return, the tax may be assessed or an action to collect the tax may be brought at any time. If a return is required to be filed and the taxpayer files a fraudulent return, the 5-year period provided for in subsection (1) does not begin until discovery of the fraud by the department of revenue.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 676, L. 1991.**

Part 3 reserved

Part 4
Funding of Department of Public Service Regulation

69-1-401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of public service regulation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 26.

(2) "Regulated companies" means all organizations, corporations, associations, or other public or private entities which now are or may hereafter become subject to regulation in any manner by the department of public service regulation, the public service commission, or any successor agency. The term does not include motor carriers regulated pursuant to Title 69, chapter 12.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, Sp. L. June 1986.**

69-1-402. Funding of department of public service regulation. (1) All fees collected under this section and any other fees, except as provided in 69-1-114(3), must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. An appropriation to the department may consist of a base appropriation for regular operating expenses and a contingency appropriation for expenses due to an unanticipated caseload.

(2) In addition to all other licenses, fees, and taxes imposed by law, all regulated companies shall, within 30 days after the close of each calendar quarter, pay to the department of revenue a fee based on a percentage of gross operating revenue reported pursuant to 69-1-223(2)(a), as determined by the department of revenue under 69-1-403.

(3) The amount of money that may be raised by the fee on the regulated companies during a fiscal year may not be increased, except as provided in 69-1-224(1)(c), from the amount appropriated to the department by the legislature for that fiscal year, including both base and contingency appropriations. Any additional money required for operation of the department must be obtained from other sources in a manner authorized by the legislature.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 647, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 508, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 6, Sp. L. November 2017.**

69-1-403. Determination and collection of fee. (1) The fee provided for in 69-1-402 to be paid by regulated companies must be determined in the manner set forth in 69-1-224 for determining the consumer counsel fee, except that gross revenues from sales to other regulated companies for resale, as calculated by the public service commission, must be excluded from the determination of the total gross operating revenue pursuant to 69-1-224.

(2) The department of revenue shall give notice by mail to each regulated company of the percentage determined pursuant to 69-1-224 and this section to be applied to gross operating revenues reported under 69-1-223, excluding gross revenues from sales to other regulated companies for resale.

(3) The fee provided for in 69-1-402 may be computed and collected in the manner provided in 69-1-225 through 69-1-227.

(4) All fees paid by a regulated company pursuant to this section are immediately recoverable by the regulated company in its rates and charges. Within 30 days after the issuance by the department of revenue of the notice required by 69-1-224(1), the public service commission shall by separate order authorize each regulated company to fully recover in its rates and charges, on an annual basis, the fees levied by this part.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 647, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 508, L. 1993.**

69-1-404. Repealed. Sec. 56, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 32, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 112, L. 1991.**

CHAPTER 2
GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS

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Chapter Cross-References

Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.

Part 1
Role of Public Service Commission

69-2-101. Adoption of rules for rate cases. The commission shall adopt such rules of practice and procedure for the filing, investigation, and hearing of petitions or applications to increase or decrease rates and charges of railroads, motor carriers, and public utilities as the commission finds necessary or appropriate to enable it to reach a final decision in an orderly manner.

History: En. 70-104.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-104.1.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.

69-2-102. Role of commission when consumer counsel protests. In any case involving an application by a regulated entity to the commission for authority to increase its rates that is actively contested by the consumer counsel, the commission shall leave representation of the interests of consumers to the consumer counsel when the consumer counsel timely petitions to become a party to the case. This section does not prohibit the commission or its staff from investigating and interrogating in any hearing to clarify the case or present an issue. Evidence may be introduced by the commission on an issue that has not been adequately addressed by any party if the commission first requests counsel of record to address the issue and counsel fails to introduce sufficient or adequate evidence.

History: En. 70-707.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 474, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707.1; amd. Sec. 1985, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Conduct of hearing, 69-3-326.
Immunity for witnesses, 69-3-329.

69-2-103. Hearings examiner. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), if requested by the applicant, the commission shall appoint a hearings examiner for proceedings under this title.

(b) If four public service commissioners determine that a hearings examiner is not required for a proceeding, the commission is not required to appoint a hearings examiner.

(c) If three public service commissioners determine that a hearings examiner is necessary for a proceeding, the commission shall appoint a hearings examiner.

(d) The determinations in this subsection (1) must be made by a vote of the commission during a public meeting.

(e) If a hearings examiner is appointed at the request of an applicant in accordance with subsection (1)(a), the commission may assess the costs to the applicant.

(f) If the public service commission determines a hearings examiner is required in accordance with subsection (1)(c), the commission shall cover the costs and may not pass those costs on to an applicant.

(g) The commission may disqualify the hearings examiner and appoint another hearings examiner. The affidavit must state the facts and the reasons for the belief that the hearings examiner should be disqualified.

(2) The hearings examiner may not communicate with any party or a party's representative in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case unless there is notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. The commission may not communicate with any party before the conclusion of the hearing.

(3) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement the utilization of a hearings examiner in accordance with this section.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 449, L. 2019.**

Part 2
Role of Consumer Counsel

Part Cross-References

Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 15, part 2.

69-2-201. Appearance at hearings by counsel. The consumer counsel may appear at public hearings conducted by the commission, as the representative of the consuming public, on all matters which come before the commission which in any way affect the consuming public and shall have all the rights and powers of any party in interest appearing before the commission regarding examination and cross-examination of witnesses, presentation of evidence, and other matters.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707(1).**

Cross-References

Conduct of hearing, 69-3-326.
Immunity for witnesses, 69-3-329.

69-2-202. Institution of and intervention in proceedings involving regulated companies. (1) The consumer counsel may institute proceedings before the commission against regulated companies.

(2) The consumer counsel may institute, intervene in, or otherwise participate in appropriate proceedings in the state and federal courts and administrative agencies in the name of and on behalf of the utility and transportation consuming public of the state of Montana or substantial elements thereof, including review of decisions rendered by or failure to act by the commission and applications for restraining orders pending the investigation of and decision upon a matter by the commission, pursuant to 27-19-203.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707(2), (5); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 43, L. 1979.**

69-2-203. Investigatory powers of counsel. (1) The consumer counsel has all the investigatory powers necessary to perform the counsel's duties as provided in this section and all discovery powers sanctioned by the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure and the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. It is the specific intent of this section to provide the authority and availability of the process of discovery to the consumer counsel in administrative contested-case procedure. Violations of discovery procedure must be heard and administered by the district court. In the event of an appeal to district court for enforcement of discovery procedures, the time limits imposed by 69-3-302 and 69-3-303 are suspended pending order of the district court.

(2) The consumer counsel may examine in any commission proceedings, under oath, any officer, director, manager, or employee of any regulated company and may inspect the business and corporate records of any regulated company in accordance with the law to aid in the exercise of the consumer counsel's duties.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707(3), (4); amd. Sec. 1986, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases — discovery, 2-4-602.

69-2-204. Representation of consuming public. (1) The consumer counsel shall meet and confer with members or representatives of the consuming public at times and places that the consumer counsel determines appropriate.

(2) The consumer counsel has other powers necessary to fully represent the interests of the consuming public before the commission as may be granted and promulgated by the committee in accordance with the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-707(6), (8); amd. Sec. 1987, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-2-205. Violations. (1) Any regulated company or any officer or employee of any regulated company who, with intent to evade any fee or any requirement of this part or part 2 of chapter 1 or any lawful requirement of the commission thereunder, fails to pay the fee, to make, render, sign, or verify any statement, or to supply any information, within the time required by or under the provisions of this part or part 2 of chapter 1, or who, with like intent, makes, renders, signs, or verifies any false or fraudulent statement or supplies any false or fraudulent information:

(a) shall be liable to a penalty of not more than $1,000, to be recovered by the attorney general, in the name of the state, by action in any court of competent jurisdiction; and

(b) shall also be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, be fined not to exceed $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed 1 year or both, at the discretion of the court.

(2) The certificate of the department of revenue to the effect that a fee has not been paid, that a report has not been filed, or that information has not been supplied, as required by or under the provisions of this part or part 2 of chapter 1, shall be prima facie evidence that such fee has not been paid, that such statement has not been filed, or that such information has not been supplied.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 65, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-709(5), (6).

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
False swearing, 45-7-202.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.

69-2-206 through 69-2-210 reserved.

69-2-211. Notice to consumer counsel. In addition to all other forms of notice of hearings conducted by the commission provided for in this title, notices of all hearings shall be served upon the consumer counsel.

History: En. 70-710 by Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-710.

69-2-212. Notice to advise public of availability of consumer counsel. All forms of notice of public hearings conducted by the commission under this title, including all notices posted in public places or published in the legal advertising sections of newspapers, shall advise members of the consuming public of the existence of the office of the consumer counsel and its availability to function on behalf of members of the consuming public.

History: En. 70-711 by Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-711.

69-2-213 through 69-2-215 reserved.

69-2-216. Customer fiscal impact analysis — requirements. (1) Within 10 days of receiving an application pursuant to subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b), the department of environmental quality shall notify the office of consumer counsel that it is in receipt of:

(a) a permit application pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, or 10, for a new electrical generation facility; or

(b) an application for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act for a new facility or upgrade, as defined in 75-20-104.

(2) The office of consumer counsel shall complete an analysis outlining the fiscal impacts of the project on electricity customers in Montana. The analysis must include an estimation of how customers' rates may be impacted.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the analysis must be completed within 30 days of receipt of the notice from the department.

(b) The department shall extend the 30-day deadline if compliance with the deadline is not necessary to comply with the requirements of subsection (4).

(4) The analysis must be provided to the department and incorporated into the department's environmental review, including draft documents released for public comment.

(5) (a) Within 5 days of the close of the public comment period for an application referred to in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b), the department shall forward public comments related to the analysis to the consumer counsel.

(b) The consumer counsel shall respond to the comments and return the responses to the department within 30 days, and the responses must be included in the final environmental reviews.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 2007.

69-2-217. Exemptions — definition. (1) Projects proposed by utilities, as defined in 69-8-103, or their affiliates are exempt from the analysis required by 69-2-216 if the utility or affiliate files the necessary tariffs, rate schedules, and other requisite information with the commission or the federal energy regulatory commission.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "affiliate" means an entity wholly or partially owned by, closely connected to, or associated with a utility.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 469, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3

REGULATION OF UTILITIES

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Parts 17 through 19 reserved

Part 20 — Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development (Repealed)

Chapter Compiler's Comments

Select Committee — Membership: Section 1, Ch. 579, L. 2023, provided for the membership of the select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition. Effective May 18, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.

Select Committee — Duties: Section 2, Ch. 579, L. 2023, provided for the duties of the select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition. Effective May 18, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.

Chapter Cross-References

Local government provisions not to modify this chapter, 7-3-4302.

Metropolitan sanitary district ratemaking, 7-13-144.

Emergency regulation of utilities, 10-3-505.
Contract for provision of utility service exempt from plain language in contracts provisions, 30-14-1104.
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.
Special assessment — telecommunications services for the handicapped, 53-19-311.
Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.

Part 1
Role of Commission and Power of Eminent Domain

69-3-101. Meaning of term "public utility". (1) The term "public utility", within the meaning of this chapter, includes every corporation, both public and private, company, individual, association of individuals, and their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court that own, operate, or control any plant or equipment, any part of a plant or equipment, or any water right within the state for the production, delivery, or furnishing for or to other persons, firms, associations, or corporations, private or municipal:

(a) heat;

(b) street-railway service;

(c) light;

(d) power in any form or by any agency;

(e) except as provided in chapter 7, water for business, manufacturing, household use, or sewerage service, whether within the limits of municipalities or towns or elsewhere;

(f) regulated telecommunications service.

(2) The term does not include:

(a) privately owned and operated water, sewer, or water and sewer systems that do not serve the public;

(b) county or consolidated city and county water or sewer districts as defined in Title 7, chapter 13, parts 22 and 23;

(c) except as provided in chapter 7, municipal sewer or water systems and municipal water supply systems established by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to Title 7, chapter 13, parts 42, 43, and 44; or

(d) a person exempted from regulation as a public utility as provided in 69-3-111.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3881, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3881, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-103(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 631, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 214, L. 2011.

Cross-References
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.
Utility defined, 60-4-401, 75-20-104.
Records of public utilities, 69-3-202.
Montana Telecommunications Act, Title 69, ch. 3, part 8.

69-3-102. Supervision and regulation of public utilities. The commission is hereby invested with full power of supervision, regulation, and control of such public utilities, subject to the provisions of this chapter and to the exclusion of the jurisdiction, regulation, and control of such utilities by any municipality, town, or village.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3881, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3881, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-103(part).

Cross-References
Prohibited contributions for ballot issues, 13-35-236.
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

69-3-103. General powers and rulemaking authority of commission. (1) In addition to the modes of procedure hereinafter prescribed in particular cases and classes of cases, said commission shall have power to prescribe rules of procedure and to do all things necessary and convenient in the exercise of the powers conferred by this chapter upon the commission; provided that nothing in this chapter shall be construed as vesting judicial powers on said commission or as denying to any person, firm, association, corporation, municipality, county, town, or village the right to test in a court of competent jurisdiction the legality or reasonableness of any fixed order made by the commission in the exercise of its duties or powers.

(2) The commission shall have the power to:

(a) adopt reasonable and proper rules relative to all inspections, tests, audits, and investigations;

(b) adopt and publish reasonable and proper rules to govern its proceedings; and

(c) regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings of public utilities and other parties before it.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3882, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3882, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 70-104, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3894, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3894, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 70-116, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-104, 70-116(part).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-3-104. Hearings to be open. All hearings shall be open to the public.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3894, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3894, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-116(part).

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

69-3-105. Access to commission records and reports — protective order. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the reports, records, accounts, files, papers, and memoranda of every nature in the possession of the commission are open to the public during regular business hours, as defined in 2-16-117.

(2) The commission may issue a protective order when necessary to preserve trade secrets, as defined in 30-14-402, or other information that must be protected under law, as required to carry out its regulatory functions.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3889, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3889, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-111; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

69-3-106. Supervision of management of public utilities. (1) The commission has the authority to inquire into the management of the business of all public utilities, shall keep itself informed as to the manner and method in which the business is conducted, and has the right to obtain from any public utility all necessary information to enable the commission to perform its duties.

(2) The commission, any commissioner, or any person or persons employed by the commission for that purpose, upon demand, has the right to inspect the books, accounts, papers, records, and memoranda of any public utility and to examine, under oath, any officer, agent, or employee of the public utility in relation to its business and affairs. Any person, other than one of the commissioners, who makes the demand shall produce the person's authority to make the inspection.

(3) The commission may require by order or subpoena, to be served on any public utility in the same manner that a summons is served in a civil action in the district court, the production, within this state and at a time and place that it may designate, of any books, accounts, papers, or records kept by a public utility in any office or place outside of the state or verified copies in lieu of the books, accounts, papers, or records, if the commission orders, so that that an examination of the books, accounts, papers, or records may be made by the commission or under its direction. Any public utility failing or refusing to comply with any an order or subpoena is subject to the liability provided for in 69-3-206.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3895, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3895, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117; amd. Sec. 1988, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.
Effect of noncooperation or noncompliance with Public Service Commission orders, 69-3-206, 69-3-208.

69-3-107. Investigation and reports of accidents. (1) The commission, some member of the commission, or some person deputed by it shall investigate and make inquiry into every accident occurring in the operation of any public utility in this state resulting in death or injury to any person that requires 3 days or more of hospitalization. The report of the accident must be filed in the office of the commission.

(2) A public utility operating within this state shall promptly upon the occurrence of any accident in the public utility's operation and resulting in death or injury to any person

that requires hospitalization report the accident within the next 2 business days, followed by a written report that states the time and place of the accident, the names of persons killed or injured, and in concise form the nature and cause of the accident. The commission shall prescribe forms for the purpose of making these written reports.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3907, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3907, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-129; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Subpoena of witnesses, 69-3-327.

69-3-108. Standards for and examinations of products and services. (1) The commission shall ascertain and prescribe for each kind of public utility suitable and convenient commercial units of product or service. These are lawful units for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The commission shall ascertain and fix adequate and serviceable standards for the measurement of quality, pressure, initial voltage, or other conditions pertaining to the supply of the product or service rendered by any public utility and establish reasonable standards for examination and testing of the product or service and for the measurement of the product or service.

(3) The commission shall provide for the examination and testing of appliances used for the measuring of any product or service of a public utility. A consumer or user may have appliances tested upon payment of the fees fixed by the commission. The commission shall establish reasonable fees to be paid for testing appliances on the request of the consumers or users, the fee to be paid by the consumer or user at the time of the request. These fees must be paid by the public utility and repaid to the complaining party if the quality or quantity of the product or the character of the service is found by the commission defective or insufficient in a degree to justify the demand for testing, or the commission may apportion the fees between the parties as justice may require.

(4) The commission may, in its discretion, purchase materials, apparatus, and standard measuring instruments for examinations and tests as it considers necessary.

(5) The commission or its agents, experts, or examiners may enter upon any premises occupied by a public utility for the purpose of making the examinations and tests provided in this chapter and set up and use on the premises any apparatus and appliances and occupy reasonable space for the examinations and tests. A public utility refusing to allow examinations to be made, as provided in this chapter, is subject to the penalties prescribed in 69-3-206.

(6) The standards and fees established by the commission pursuant to this section must be established through administrative rules or ordered tariff provisions, in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3890, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3890, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-112; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Searches and seizures, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-3-109. Ascertaining property values. The commission may, in its discretion, investigate and ascertain the value of the property of each public utility actually used and useful for the convenience of the public. The commission is not bound to accept or use any particular value in determining rates. However, if any value is used, the value may not exceed the original cost of the property, except that the commission may include all or some of an acquisition adjustment for certain property purchased by a public utility in the purchasing utility's rate base if the transfer of the property to the purchasing utility is in the public interest. In making the investigation, the commission may avail itself of all information contained in the assessment rolls of various counties or in the public records of the various branches of the state government or of any other information obtainable, and the commission may at any time on its own initiative make a revaluation of the property.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3884, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3884, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-106; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Assessment of public utilities in one county, 15-8-406.
Properties centrally assessed, 15-23-101.
Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, ch. 20.

69-3-110. Enforcement of public utility law. (1) The commission shall inquire into any neglect or violation of the laws of this state by any public utility, as hereinbefore defined, doing business in this state or by the officers, agents, or employees thereof. The commission shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and report all violations thereof to the attorney general.

(2) All rates, fares, charges, classifications, and joint rates fixed by the commission shall be enforced and are prima facie lawful from the date of the order until changed or modified by the commission or in pursuance of part 4. All rules, practices, and services prescribed by the commission shall be enforced and enforcement actions shall be brought pursuant to the provisions of part 4 until the rules, practices, or services are changed or modified by the commission upon a satisfactory showing being made.

(3) Upon the request of the commission, it is the duty of the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of any county to aid in any investigation, prosecution, hearing, or trial had under the provisions of this chapter and to institute and prosecute all actions or proceedings necessary for the enforcement of this chapter.

(4) Any forfeiture or penalty herein provided shall be recovered and suit thereon shall be brought in the name of the state in the district court of any county having jurisdiction of the defendant. The attorney general shall be the counsel in any proceeding, investigation, hearing, or trial prosecuted or defended by the commission, as also shall any prosecuting attorney selected by the commission or other special counsel furnished the commission in any county where such action is pending.

(5) In addition to the other remedies provided by this chapter for the prevention and punishment of any violation of the provisions thereof and all orders of the commission, the commission may compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter and of the orders of the commission by proceedings in mandamus, by injunction, or by other civil remedies.

History: En. Secs. 24, 25, 30, 31, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Secs. 3904, 3905, 3910, 3911, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 3904, 3905, 3910, 3911, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-126, 70-127, 70-132, 70-133; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Attorney General, Title 2, ch. 15, part 5.
County Attorney, Title 7, ch. 4, part 27.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.
Penalties, 69-3-206, 69-3-207.
Judicial remedies, 69-5-111.

69-3-111. Persons with interest in property leased or to be sold to public utility — exemption. (1) Upon application, the commission may, by order, determine that any person not otherwise a public utility is not a public utility subject to the jurisdiction, control, or regulation of the commission under this title solely because the person owns or controls any plant or equipment, any part of or undivided interest in a plant or equipment, or any water right described in 69-3-101:

(a) that is leased or sold or held for lease or sale to any public utility or other lessee;

(b) the operation and use of which is vested by lease or other contract in a public utility or other lessee; or

(c) for a period of not more than 90 days after termination of any lease or contract described in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) or after the person gains possession of the property following a breach of a lease or contract.

(2) An order may not be revoked or modified by the commission unless there is a material change in the lease or contract terms forming the basis of the order.

(3) The commission may, upon application by a public utility, issue its order approving the terms of any lease or contract described in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) for the purpose of qualifying any party to the lease or contract for an exemption by the United States securities and exchange commission, or its successor, from the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005.

(4) A public utility, as lessee of any plant or equipment, any part of or undivided interest in a plant or equipment, or any water right described in 69-3-101, that is subject to any lease or contract described in this section shall comply with this title regarding the plant, equipment, or water right.

(5) Nothing in this section may be construed to alter or modify the authority of the commission to regulate the rates and services of a public utility that is subject to the provisions of this title.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Certificate of water right, 85-2-315.
Transfer of appropriation right, 85-2-403.

69-3-112. Evaluation of coal or other boiler fuel costs. (1) The purchases of coal or other boiler fuel for the generation of electricity by a public utility from a fuel supplier that is an affiliate of the public utility are subject to review by the commission to enable the commission to determine whether the costs incurred by the public utility are reasonable.

(2) In determining whether the costs incurred are reasonable, the commission shall compare the costs incurred by the public utility to the costs that the public utility would have incurred if the coal or other boiler fuel had been purchased from a different supplier under similar contract terms.

(3) The commission may disallow recovery in the rates charged by the public utility of any amount by which the costs incurred exceed the amount that the commission determines to be reasonable based on the comparison required under subsection (2).

(4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Affiliate" means a corporation or other entity wholly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the public utility or by a corporation or other entity that wholly owns or controls, directly or indirectly, the public utility.

(b) "Different supplier" means a fuel supplier that is not an affiliate of the public utility that is subject to commission review under this section.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 166, L. 1995.

69-3-113. Power of eminent domain. A public utility as defined in 69-3-101 may acquire by eminent domain any interest in property, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, for a public use authorized by law to provide service to the customers of its regulated service.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 2011.

Part 2
Requirements for Public Utilities

69-3-201. Utilities to provide adequate service at reasonable charges. Every public utility is required to furnish reasonably adequate service and facilities. The charge made by any public utility for any heat, light, power, water, or regulated telecommunications service produced, transmitted, delivered, or furnished or for any service to be rendered as or in connection with any public utility shall be reasonable and just, and every unjust and unreasonable charge is prohibited and declared unlawful.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3883, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3883, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-105; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Definition of public utility, 69-3-101.
Montana Telecommunications Act, Title 69, ch. 3, part 8.

69-3-202. Records of public utilities. (1) Every public utility shall keep and render to the commission, in the manner and form prescribed by the commission, uniform accounts of all business transacted.

(2) Every public utility engaged directly or indirectly in any other businesses than those mentioned in 69-3-101 shall, if required by the commission, keep and render separately to the commission, in like manner and form, the accounts of all such other businesses, in which case all the provisions of this chapter shall apply with like force and effect to the books, accounts, papers, and records of such other businesses.

(3) The commission shall cause to be prepared suitable blanks for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and shall, when necessary, furnish such blanks to each public utility. No public utility shall keep any other books, accounts, papers, or records of the business transacted than those prescribed or approved by the commission.

(4) Each public utility shall have an office in one of the towns, villages, or cities in this state in which its property or some part thereof is located and shall keep in said office all such books, accounts, papers, and records as shall be required by the commission to be kept within the state. No books, accounts, papers, or records required by the commission to be kept within the state shall at any time be removed from the state except upon such conditions as may be prescribed by the commission.

(5) Any commissioner or any person or persons authorized by the commission shall have the right to examine the books, accounts, records, and papers of any public utility for the purposes of determining their correctness and whether they are being kept in accordance with the rules and system prescribed by the commission.

History: (1) thru (4)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3885, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3885, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 70-107, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3887, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3887, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 70-109, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-107, 70-109.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-3-203. Annual report to commission. (1) The accounts of all public utilities must be closed annually on either June 30 or December 31. A balance sheet must be taken promptly from the accounts, and a full annual report of the business of the utility must be made to the commission not later than October 31 if the accounts are closed on June 30 and not later than April 30 if the accounts are closed on December 31.

(2) The reports must be in the form prescribed by the commission and must contain all the information that the commission considers necessary for the proper performance of its duties. The commission may at any time request information omitted from the reports or not provided for in the reports whenever, in the judgment of the commission, the information is necessary.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3886, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 3886, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-108; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-3-204. Fees to be charged by commission. (1) The public service commission may, except as otherwise provided by law, require and receive fees before filing annual reports, schedules, and supplements not provided by law to be furnished free of charge.

(2) The commission shall require and receive an additional sum to be set by the commission to pay the cost of publishing notice as required by this chapter.

(3) This section does not require or authorize the public service commission to collect fees for the filing of annual reports, schedules, and supplements of these which relate solely to interstate commerce.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 3847.26, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-126(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Fees, 69-1-114.

69-3-205. Verification of reports and other papers. Every annual report, record, or statement required by this chapter to be made to the commission shall be sworn to by the proper officer, agent, or person in charge of such public utility. Any intentionally false oath as to the correctness of such report, record, or statement shall be deemed perjury, and the person making such false oath shall upon conviction be punished as in the case of other perjuries.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3909, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3909, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-131.

Cross-References

Perjury, 45-7-201.

69-3-206. Penalty for failure to make reports or permit examinations. (1) Any officer, agent, or person in charge of the books, accounts, records, and papers or any of them of any public utility who shall refuse or fail for a period of 30 days to furnish the commission with any report required by the provisions of this chapter and any officer, agent, or person in charge of any particular books, accounts, records, or papers relating to the business of such public utility who shall refuse to permit any commissioner or other person duly authorized by the commission to inspect such books, accounts, records, or papers on behalf of the commission shall be subject to a fine of not less than $100 or more than $1,000.

(2) Such fine shall be recovered in a civil action upon the complaint of the commission in any court of competent jurisdiction. Each day's refusal or failure on the part of such officer, agent, or person in charge shall be deemed a separate offense and be subject to the penalty herein prescribed.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3888, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3888, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 70-110(part).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
Supervision of management of public utilities, 69-3-106.
Standards for and examination of products and services, 69-3-108.
Deviations from scheduled rates, tolls, and charges, 69-3-305.

69-3-207. Penalty for violation of natural gas pipeline safety provisions and regulations. (1) A person violating any safety regulation or provision adopted under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended, that applies to areas the commission has authority to enforce is subject to a fine not to exceed $239,142 for each violation for each day. Each day in which a violation of a safety regulation or provision continues is considered a separate offense and is subject to the penalty prescribed in this subsection, except that the maximum fine may not exceed $2,391,412 for any related series of violations.

(2) In determining the amount of the penalty, the following must be considered: the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability; any history of prior violations; the effect on ability to continue to do business; any good faith in attempting to achieve compliance; ability to pay the penalty; and other matters as justice may require.

(3) The fine must be recovered in a civil action upon the complaint of the commission in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(4) The commission may prescribe rules necessary to effectively administer this section.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3888, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3888, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 70-110(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
Supervision of management of public utilities, 69-3-106.
Standards for and examination of products and services, 69-3-108.
Deviations from scheduled rates, tolls, and charges, 69-3-305.

69-3-208. Effect of failure by utility to cooperate with commission. An officer, agent, or employee of any public utility is subject to the penalty prescribed in 69-3-206 whenever the officer, agent, or employee:

(1) willfully fails or refuses to fill out and return any blanks as required by this chapter;

(2) willfully fails or refuses to answer any questions contained in blanks as provided in this chapter;

(3) knowingly or willfully gives a false answer to any questions or evades the answer to the questions, where the fact inquired of is within the officer's, agent's, or employee's knowledge; or

(4) upon proper demand, willfully fails or refuses to exhibit to any commission or any commissioners or any person also authorized to examine the same, any book, paper, or account of the public utility that is in the officer's, agent's, or employee's possession or under the officer's, agent's, or employee's control.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3903, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3903, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-125; amd. Sec. 1989, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

False swearing, 45-7-202.
Unsworn falsification to authorities, 45-7-203.

69-3-209. Violations of public utility laws or orders. If any public utility violates any provision of this chapter, does any act herein prohibited, or fails or refuses to perform any duty enjoined upon it, fails to place in operation any rate or joint rate, or fails, neglects, or refuses to obey any lawful requirement or order made by the commission or any court, then for every such violation, failure, or refusal the public utility is subject to the penalty prescribed by 69-3-206.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3908, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3908, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-130; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-3-210 through 69-3-220 reserved.

69-3-221. Public utility errors in billing customers. (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "public utility" does not include a municipal utility as defined in chapter 7 of this title;

(b) a "customer billing error":

(i) includes any bill issued by the utility that is not designated as an estimated bill and that understates the amount owed by the customer;

(ii) includes a utility's failure to bill a customer for service provided that would be billed to the customer under the utility's normal billing practices;

(iii) excludes errors that result from the theft of service by the customer;

(iv) excludes errors involving a utility's industrial class customers; and

(v) excludes errors incurred in the billing of long-distance services by a telecommunications utility.

(2) Whenever a public utility discovers a customer billing error, the utility may submit a bill to the customer for a period not to exceed the 6 months preceding the date the billing error is discovered.

(3) The commission may adopt rules to implement subsections (1) and (2).

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 587, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Utility services, Title 7, ch. 13.
Theft of services, 45-6-305.
Obtaining communication services with intent to defraud, 45-6-306.
Liability for bypassing or tampering with meter, Title 69, ch. 4, part 11.

69-3-222. Utility disclosure required — definition. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a utility shall provide the average annual energy use for a property.

(2) Average annual energy use must:

(a) be calculated using an average of the past 12 months of usage on a property and the rates currently in effect;

(b) include the electricity, natural gas, or both used on the property based on meters used for measuring or registering utility service; and

(c) be expressed in dollars.

(3) (a) A utility may not make public or otherwise disclose personal information protected by an individual privacy interest or information of a personal nature that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(b) A utility may provide the information required pursuant to subsection (1) only to a person or entity owning the property or representing the person or entity or to a person involved in a real estate-related transaction on the property.

(4) As used in 69-3-223 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Real estate-related transaction" means any of the following:

(i) the making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance:

(A) for purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a housing accommodation or property; or

(B) secured by real estate; or

(ii) the selling, leasing, brokering, or appraising of real property.

(b) "Utility" means any public utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, that provides electricity or natural gas for sale to customers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 2013.

69-3-223. Utility — liability. A utility is liable for direct damages resulting from a discontinuance of utility service caused by breach of a continuous service agreement.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 2013.

69-3-224 reserved.

69-3-225. Overbilling of regulated telecommunications tariff charges — statute of limitations for recovery. (1) A person or entity alleging overbilling of tariffed telecommunications charges by a regulated telecommunications company shall file the action before the commission or a court of competent jurisdiction within 2 years of the date of overbilling.

(2) This section is intended to be consistent with limitations on actions as provided in 47 U.S.C. 415.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Overbilling" means presenting a bill to a customer of a regulated telecommunications company that includes charges that overstate the amount owed by the customer pursuant to the tariff for the service as approved by and on file with the commission.

(b) "Regulated telecommunications company" means all public utility companies that are regulated pursuant to 69-3-101(1)(f), Title 69, chapter 3, part 8, and 69-3-803(10).

(c) "Tariffed telecommunications charges" means all charges and fees for regulated services billed by a regulated telecommunications company as authorized by a tariff that has been approved by and filed with the commission.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 2021.

Part 3
Ratemaking Procedures

69-3-301. Schedule of rates, tolls, and charges. (1) Every public utility shall file with the commission, within a time fixed by the commission, schedules which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls, and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed by it within the state or for any service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it. Every public utility shall file with and as a part of such schedule all rules that in any manner affect the rates charged or to be charged for any service. When a schedule of joint rates or charges is or may be in force between two or more public utilities, such schedule shall in like manner be printed and filed with the commission.

(2) A copy of so much of the schedule as the commission considers necessary for the use of the public shall be printed in plain type and kept on file in every station or office of the public utility where payments are made by the consumers or users. Such copy shall be open to the public and in such form and place as to be readily accessible to the public and conveniently inspected.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-113(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

69-3-302. Changes in schedules. (1) Except as provided in 69-3-308, a change may not be made in any schedule, including schedules of joint rates, except as approved by the commission, upon the passage of 9 months, or by operation of 69-3-907(1). If the 9-month time period expires prior to commission approval of a schedule, a utility may waive the time period.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title to the contrary, other than rate adjustments made pursuant to 69-3-308, the rates, tolls, or charges set forth in any schedule filed with the commission pursuant to 69-3-301 must become effective and be lawful rates, tolls, or charges for the utility service rendered 9 months after the date upon which the schedule was filed under the rules of practice and procedure for filing as adopted by the commission or upon commission approval, whichever occurs first, unless the utility waives the 9-month time period. However, if the rates, tolls, or charges become effective because of the passage of 9 months, the revenue collected is subject to rebate, plus interest at an annual rate determined by the commission, to the extent that the rates, tolls, or charges ultimately approved by the commission in its final

decision produce revenue that is less than that collected under the filed schedules. In the case of an investor-owned utility, the interest rate set by the commission may not exceed the cost of equity capital as last determined by the commission.

(3) The commission may prescribe rules necessary to effectively administer this section.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-113(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 570, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Investigatory powers of Consumer Counsel, 69-2-203.

69-3-303. Notice and hearing on proposed change. (1) Except as provided in 69-3-308, before the commission may approve any change increasing the rate or rates for utility service in a schedule generally affecting consumers in a utility's service area or before any change may become effective due to the passage of 9 months, the commission shall publish a notice of the proposed change, conforming to the requirements of 2-4-601 in one or more newspapers published and of general circulation within the area affected by the proposed change. This notice must announce a hearing on the proposed change and must inform interested persons as to how they may petition the commission to become parties to the hearing.

(2) The commission shall proceed to conduct the hearing under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. The final decision of the commission in any matter decided after a hearing conducted pursuant to this section must conform to the requirements of a decision in a contested case under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) The consumer counsel may petition to become a party to the hearing.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-113(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 570, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Fees, 69-1-114, 69-3-204.
Investigatory powers of Consumer Counsel, 69-2-203.

69-3-304. Temporary approval of rate increases or decreases. The commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision. If the final decision is to disapprove an increase, the commission may order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. If the final decision is to disapprove a decrease, the commission may order a surcharge to be paid by all consumers for the amount not collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. The commission shall order interest to be paid on a rebate or surcharge as determined by the commission. An order of the commission approving or denying a temporary rate increase or decrease shall be based upon consistent standards appropriate for the nature of the case pending and shall be an intermediate agency action subject to judicial review under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3891, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-113(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 588, L. 1983.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

69-3-305. Deviations from scheduled rates, tolls, and charges. (1) Except as provided in subsection (5)(a), a public utility may not:

(a) charge, demand, collect, or receive a greater or less compensation for a utility service performed by it within the state or for any service in connection with a utility service than is specified in the printed schedules, including schedules of joint rates, that may at the time be in force;

(b) demand, collect, or receive a rate, toll, or charge not specified in the schedules; or

(c) grant a rebate, concession, or special privilege to a consumer or user that, directly or indirectly, has or may have the effect of changing the rates, tolls, charges, or payments.

(2) The rates, tolls, and charges named in the printed schedules are the lawful rates, tolls, and charges until the rates, tolls, and charges are changed, as provided in this chapter.

(3) The commission may order refunds or credits of rates, tolls, or charges collected in violation of this section and may order payment of interest at a reasonable rate on the refunded amount.

(4) The provisions of this section do not prohibit the sharing of profits or revenues with customers in conjunction with an alternative form of regulation approved under 69-3-809.

(5) (a) A provider of regulated telecommunications service may offer, for a limited period of time, rebates, price reductions, or waivers of charges in conjunction with promotions, market trials, or other sales-related activities that are common business practices. Promotional pricing for services to end users does not require advance approval of the commission. Informational price lists must be filed with the commission on or before the date that the promotion begins.

(b) A public utility providing electricity or natural gas may offer grants and subsidized loans to install energy conservation and nonfossil forms of energy generation systems in dwellings.

(c) The commission may define the appropriate scope of promotions, rebates, market trials, and grants and subsidized loans, either by rule or in response to complaints. The commission may determine whether a particular sales activity or grant or subsidized loan program under this subsection is unfairly discriminatory or is not cost-effective. Costs and expenses incurred or revenue foregone with respect to sales activities and grant and subsidized loan programs that the commission determines are unfairly discriminatory or not cost-effective are the responsibility of the provider's shareholders in rates set by the commission.

(6) A public utility violating the provisions of this section is subject to the penalty prescribed in 69-3-206. However, this does not have the effect of suspending, rescinding, invalidating, or in any way affecting existing contracts.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3892, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3892, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-114; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 210, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Prohibition against laws impairing contracts, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.

69-3-306. Classification of service. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the commission may prescribe classifications of the service of all public utilities. Classifications may take into account the quantity used, the time when used, and any other reasonable consideration. A public utility is required to conform its schedule of rates, tolls, and charges to the classifications.

(2) The commission shall prescribe a declining block rate structure or a structure appropriate to customer-generators for electric service, when cost-justified.

(3) Classifications of service for customer-generators must be determined in accordance with Title 69, chapter 8, part 6.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3893, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3893, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-115; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Fees, 69-1-114, 69-3-204.

Power and energy companies, Title 69, ch. 5.

69-3-307. Treatment of advertisement costs and contributions. Costs or expenses incurred by public utilities for advertising, transfers of funds without full and adequate consideration, contributions, donations, and gifts may not be treated as expenses deductible from income or from capital assets or in any other manner by the public service commission in setting or regulating rates that may be charged by the public utilities pursuant to this chapter. This section does not apply to advertising that encourages the conservation of energy or product safety or informs the public of the availability of alternative forms of energy or recommends usage at times of lower rates or lower demand. Furthermore, for communications public utilities, the provisions of this section do not apply to advertising that relates to special equipment that is available to aid persons with disabilities or to special services that are designed to protect the public health, welfare, and safety, to promote more efficient use of a communications system, or to promote increased use of regulated communications services.

History: En. 70-121.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-121.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 472, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Home weatherization programs, Title 90, ch. 4, part 2.

69-3-308. Disclosure of taxes and fees paid by customers of public utility — automatic rate adjustment and tracking for taxes and fees. (1) A public utility may separately disclose in a customer's bill the amount of state and local taxes and fees assessed against the public utility that the customer is paying.

(2) (a) (i) Except as provided in 15-72-601, the commission shall allow a public utility to file rate schedules containing provisions for the automatic adjustment and tracking of Montana state and local taxes and fees, except state income tax, paid by the public utility. The resulting rate schedule changes must include:

(A) adjustments for the net change in federal and state income tax liability caused by the deductibility of state and local taxes and fees;

(B) retroactive tax adjustments; and

(C) adjustments related to the resolution of property taxes paid under protest.

(ii) The rate schedules must include provisions for annual rate adjustments, including both tax increases and decreases.

(b) The amended rates must automatically go into effect on January 1 following the date of change in taxes paid on an interim basis, subject to any adjustments determined in subsection (2)(c).

(c) The amended rate schedule must be filed with the commission on or before the effective date of the change in taxes paid, and if the commission determines that the revised rate schedule is in error, the commission may, within 45 days of receipt of the revised rate schedule, ask for comment and order the public utility to address any errors or omissions including, if necessary, any refunds due customers.

(d) Failure of the commission to issue an order pursuant to subsection (2)(c) is considered approval on the part of the commission.

(e) A public utility may challenge an order issued by the commission under subsection (2)(c) in accordance with the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 570, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 14, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

69-3-309 reserved.

69-3-310. Rulemaking authority. The commission may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 210, L. 1991.

69-3-311 through 69-3-320 reserved.

69-3-321. Complaints against public utility — hearing. (1) The commission shall proceed, with or without notice, to make such investigation as it may deem necessary upon a complaint made against any public utility by any mercantile, agricultural, or manufacturing society or club; by any body politic or municipal organization or association, the same being interested; or by any person, firm, or corporation, provided such person, firm, or corporation is directly affected thereby, that:

(a) any of the rates, tolls, charges, or schedules or any joint rate or rates are in any way unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory;

(b) any regulations, measurements, practices, or acts whatsoever affecting or relating to the production, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of heat, light, water, power, or regulated telecommunications service, or any service in connection therewith is in any respect unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory; or

(c) any service is inadequate.

(2) No order affecting such rates, tolls, charges, schedules, regulations, measurements, practices, or acts complained of shall be entered without a formal hearing, except the commission may issue an order to provide service to a residential consumer pending a hearing on a complaint by such consumer or by the consumer counsel on behalf of such consumer against a public utility, providing that the hearing is held within 20 days unless further delayed by consent of all parties.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-119(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Witness fees and mileage, 26-2-501, 26-2-505.

69-3-322. Treatment of multiple complaints. When complaint is made of more than one rate, charge, or practice, the commission may, in its discretion, order separate hearings upon the several matters complained of and at such times and places as it may prescribe.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-121(part).

69-3-323. Complaint by public utility. Any public utility may make complaint as to any matter affecting its own product or service with like effect as though made by any mercantile, agricultural, or manufacturing society; body politic or municipal organization; or person. Notice of the hearing upon any such complaint shall be given to the persons interested in such manner as the commission may by rule prescribe.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-121(part).

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

69-3-324. Initiation of action by commission itself. The commission may at any time, upon its own motion, investigate any of the rates, tolls, charges, rules, practices, and services and after a full hearing as provided in this part may make by order such changes as may be just and reasonable, the same as if a formal complaint had been made.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-121(part).

69-3-325. Notice of hearing. The commission shall give the public utility and the complainant or complainants at least 10 days' notice of the time when and the place where such hearing will be held.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-119(part).

Cross-References

Fees, 69-1-114, 69-3-204.

69-3-326. Conduct of hearing. At the hearing, both the complainant and the public utility have the right to appear by counsel or otherwise and to be fully heard. Either party is entitled to an order by the commission for the appearance of witnesses or the production of books, papers, and documents containing material testimony. Witnesses appearing upon the order of the commission are entitled to the same fees and mileage as witnesses in civil cases in the courts of the state, and the fees and mileage must be paid out of the state treasury in the same manner as other claims against the state are paid. Fees or mileage may not be allowed unless the presiding officer of the commission certifies to the correctness of the claim.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3897, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-119(part); amd. Sec. 1990, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Witness fees in courts of record, 26-2-501.
Expert witnesses, 26-2-505.
Records of public utilities, 69-3-202.

69-3-327. Subpoena of witnesses. If any party ordered to appear before the commission as a witness fails to obey the order, the commission or its staff may apply to the clerk of the nearest district court for a subpoena commanding the attendance of the witness before the commission. It is the duty of the clerk to issue the subpoena and of any peace officer to serve the subpoena. Disobedience to the subpoena is considered contempt of court and is punishable accordingly.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3898, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3898, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-120; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Refusal to obey subpoena or testify, 3-1-501; 26-2-104; 45-7-309.
Subpoenas, Title 26, ch. 2, part 1.

69-3-328. Depositions of witnesses. The commission or any party to any proceeding before it may cause the depositions of witnesses to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for like depositions in civil actions.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3900, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3900, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-122.

69-3-329. Immunity for witnesses. (1) A person may not be excused from testifying or from producing books and papers in any proceedings based upon or growing out of any alleged violation of the provisions of this chapter on the ground of or for the reason that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of the person may tend to incriminate or subject the person to penalty or forfeiture. Except as provided in subsection (2), a person having testified may not be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which the person may have testified or produced any documentary evidence.

(2) A person testifying is not exempt from prosecution or punishment for perjury.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3902, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3902, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-124; amd. Sec. 1991, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right against self-incrimination, Art. II, sec. 25, Mont. Const.
Perjury, 45-7-201.
Self-incrimination and immunity, 46-4-305.

69-3-330. Decision by commission. (1) If, upon a hearing and due investigation, the rates, tolls, charges, schedules, or joint rates are found to be unjust, unreasonable, or unjustly discriminatory or to be preferential or otherwise in violation of the provisions of this chapter, the commission may fix and order substituted the rates, tolls, charges, or schedules as are just and reasonable.

(2) If the commission determines that a rate, toll, or charge has been collected in violation of 69-3-305(1)(b), the commission may order refunds or credits as specified in 69-3-305(3).

(3) If the commission finds that any regulation, measurement, practice, act, or service complained of is unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, preferential, unjustly discriminatory, or otherwise in violation of the provisions of this chapter or that the service is inadequate or any reasonable service cannot be obtained, the commission may substitute other regulations, measurements, practices, services, or acts and make an order relating to it as is just and reasonable.

(4) In any decision ordering a change in the rates that may be charged for electricity or natural gas, the commission shall list each expenditure submitted by the utility for allowance as an operating cost that is disallowed by the commission as an element of operating costs. The list of disallowed expenditures must appear in the written decision of the commission and must itemize each expenditure by amount, category, and purpose.

(5) A party in interest who is aggrieved by a commission-contested case decision may petition for judicial review pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act in accordance with Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3899, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 70-121, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 70-136 by Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1975; Sec. 70-136, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-121(part), 70-136; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 327, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

69-3-331. Cost tracking and recovery. (1) If the commission approves a cost-tracking adjustment for electricity supply costs for a public utility regulated in accordance with chapter 8 or under this chapter, the cost-tracking adjustment must provide for:

(a) 90% customer and 10% shareholder sharing of costs, if cost sharing is required; and

(b) full recovery of costs incurred by a public utility as a result of qualifying small power production facility purchase requirements established in Title 69, chapter 3, part 6.

(2) A cost-tracking adjustment may not include a deadband.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "deadband" means a level of cost recovery variance, including levels of underrecoveries and overrecoveries to be borne by the public utility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2021.

69-3-332. Digital asset mining ratemaking. (1) The commission may not establish a rate classification for digital asset mining, digital asset mining businesses, or home digital asset mining that creates unduly discriminatory rates.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Data center" means a use involving a building or premises in which the majority of the use is occupied by computers, telecommunications, or related equipment, including supporting equipment, where information is processed, transferred, and stored.

(b) "Digital asset mining" means the use of electricity to power a computer for the purpose of securing a blockchain network.

(c) "Digital asset mining business" means a group of computers working at a single site that consume more than 1 megawatt of energy on an average annual basis for the purpose of generating digital assets by securing a blockchain network.

(d) "Discriminatory rates" means electricity rates substantially different from other industrial similar uses of electricity in similar geographic areas after accounting for the cost of service.

(e) "Home digital asset mining" means mining digital assets in areas zoned for residential use that consume less than 1 megawatt of energy on an average annual basis for the purpose of generating digital assets by securing a blockchain network.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 344, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 2, 2023.

Cross-References

Digital assets taxation, 15-1-150.

Right to mine digital assets, 76-2-1003.

Part 4
Review of Commission Actions
(Repealed)

69-3-401. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-128(part).

69-3-402. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-128(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 1979.

69-3-403. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-128(part).

69-3-404. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-128(3), (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1983.

69-3-405. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 322, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 52, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3906, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-128(5).

Part 5
Issuance of Securities and Creation of Liens

Part Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — investment securities, Title 30, ch. 8.

69-3-501. Regulation of issuance of securities and creation of liens by utilities. (1) Whenever a public utility furnishing electric or gas service in the state has revenue derived from sources in Montana which exceeds $5 million or 5% of its gross revenue, the utility's right to issue, assume, or guarantee securities and to create liens on its property in the state is subject to the regulation and supervision of the commission, as set forth in this part.

(2) The public utility, when authorized by order of the commission and not otherwise, may issue stocks and stock certificates and may issue, assume, or guarantee other securities payable at periods of more than 12 months thereafter for the following purposes:

(a) the acquisition of property;

(b) the construction, completion, extension, or improvement of its facilities;

(c) the improvement or maintenance of its service;

(d) the discharge or lawful refunding of its obligations;

(e) the reimbursement of money actually expended for said purposes from income or from other money; or

(f) any other purpose approved by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

69-3-502. Petition for issuance of securities. Such public utility shall, by written petition, filed with the commission and setting forth the pertinent facts involved, make application to the commission for an order authorizing the proposed issue, assumption, or guarantee of securities and the application of the proceeds therefrom for the purposes specified.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.2(part).

69-3-503. Prompt consideration of petition. All applications to the commission hereunder shall be disposed of promptly and in any event within 30 days after petition is filed with the commission unless, for good cause, it is necessary to continue consideration thereof for a longer period. Whenever such application is continued beyond said 30-day period, the commission shall enter its order effecting such continuance and stating fully therein the facts requiring continuance for a designated period of time.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.4.

69-3-504. Decision on petition. After such hearing and upon such notice as the commission may prescribe, the commission shall enter its written order approving the petition and authorizing the proposed securities transactions unless the commission shall find that:

(1) such transactions are inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) the purpose or purposes thereof are not permitted by this part; or

(3) the aggregate amount of the securities outstanding and proposed to be outstanding would exceed the fair value of the properties and business of the public utility.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.2(part).

69-3-505. Issuance of certain short-term obligations. Such public utility may issue notes or drafts maturing not more than 1 year after the date of such issue, renewal, or assumption of liability and aggregating, together with all other then outstanding notes and drafts of a maturity of 1 year or less on which such public utility is primarily or secondarily liable, not more than 5% of the par value of the other securities of the public utility then outstanding, without application to or order of the commission. In the case of securities having no par value, the par value for the purpose of this section shall be the fair market value as of the date of issuance of such notes or drafts.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.3.

69-3-506. Unapproved securities void. Except as provided in 69-3-505, all securities issued, assumed, or guaranteed after July 1, 1961, without approval by the commission as provided herein shall be void.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.5.

69-3-507. State not obligated on securities. No provision of this part or any act or deed done or performed in connection therewith shall be construed to obligate the state to pay or guarantee in any manner whatsoever any security authorized, issued, assumed, or guaranteed under the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 74, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 70-117.6.

Cross-References

State debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

State Finance, Title 17.

Part 6
Small Power Production Facilities

Part Compiler's Comments

Repealer — Contingent Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 284, L. 2003, provided that the repeal of this part is effective on the effective date of the repeal of 16 U.S.C. 824a-3.

69-3-601. *(Temporary)* **Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commission" means the Montana public service commission.

(2) "Electric cooperative" means a rural electric cooperative organized under the laws of Montana, or a foreign corporation admitted to do business in Montana.

(3) "Qualifying small power production facility" means a facility that:

(a) produces electricity by the use, as a primary energy source, of biomass, waste, water, wind, or other renewable resource, or any combination of those sources; or

(b) produces electricity and useful forms of thermal energy, such as heat or steam, used for industrial, commercial, heating, or cooling purposes through the sequential use of energy known as cogeneration; and

(c) has a power production capacity that together with any other facilities located at the same site is not greater than 80 megawatts; and

(d) is owned by a person not primarily engaged in the generation or sale of electricity other than electric power from a small power production facility.

(4) "Utility" means any public utility supplying electricity and regulated by the commission. *(Repealed on occurrence of contingency—secs. 1, 3, Ch. 284, L. 2003—see part compiler's comment.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

69-3-602. *(Temporary)* **Generation and sale of electricity by qualifying small power production facility.** (1) A qualifying small power production facility may generate electricity from the sources described in 69-3-601(3)(a) and (3)(b) and may contract for the sale of that electricity with a utility.

(2) A qualifying small power production facility may generate electricity from the sources described in 69-3-601(3)(a) and (3)(b) and may contract for the sale of that electricity with an electric cooperative under terms and conditions mutually agreed upon between the parties and in compliance with the rates and regulations established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. *(Repealed on occurrence of contingency—secs. 1, 3, Ch. 284, L. 2003—see part compiler's comment.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1983.

69-3-603. *(Temporary)* **Required sale of electricity under rates and conditions prescribed by commission.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), if a qualifying small power production facility and a utility are unable to mutually agree to a contract for the sale of electricity or a price for the electricity to be purchased by the utility, the commission shall require the utility to purchase the electricity under rates and conditions established under the provisions of subsection (2).

(2) (a) The commission shall determine the rates and conditions of the contract upon petition of a qualifying small power production facility or a utility or during a rate proceeding involving the review of rates paid by a utility for electricity purchased from a qualifying small power production facility. The commission shall render a decision within 180 days of receipt of the petition or, in accordance with subsection (2)(b), before the completion of the rate proceeding. The rates and conditions of the determination must be made according to the standards prescribed in 69-3-604.

(b) When a utility files a request to establish or revise rate schedules for qualifying small power production facilities pursuant to rules adopted by the commission, the commission shall issue an order within 270 days of receipt of the request.

(3) (a) If a qualifying small power production facility is eligible to sell electricity to a utility pursuant to a rate schedule approved by the commission, neither the qualifying small power production facility nor the utility may petition the commission in accordance with subsection (2)(a) to authorize a rate or term different from that in the rate schedule.

(b) A qualifying small power production facility may file a complaint pursuant to 69-3-321 if the facility feels the rate schedule approved by the commission is unreasonable. *(Repealed on occurrence of contingency—secs. 1, 3, Ch. 284, L. 2003—see part compiler's comment.)*

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 436, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 2015.

69-3-604. *(Temporary)* **Standards for determination of rates and conditions.** (1) The commission shall determine the rates and conditions of the contract for the sale of electricity by a qualifying small power production facility according to the standards in subsections (2) through (6).

(2) Long-term contracts for the purchase of electricity by the utility from a qualifying small power production facility must be encouraged in order to enhance the economic feasibility of qualifying small power production facilities.

(3) The rates to be paid by a utility for electricity purchased from a qualifying small power production facility must be established with consideration of the availability and reliability of the electricity produced.

(4) The commission shall set these rates using the avoided cost over the term of the contract.

(5) Avoided cost rates may not include a bonus or adder to provide additional compensation for environmental externalities or other costs above avoided costs, except when a bonus or adder is necessary to compensate for a real and actual cost required by existing regulation or existing law.

(6) The commission may adopt rules further defining the criteria for qualifying small power production facilities, their cost-effectiveness, and other standards. *(Repealed on occurrence of contingency—secs. 1, 3, Ch. 284, L. 2003—see part compiler's comment.)*

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 436, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 7
Conservation Purchases or Investments by Utilities

69-3-701. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commission" means the Montana public service commission created in 2-15-2602.

(2) "Conservation" means any reduction in electric power or natural gas consumption as a result of investment in measures that increase the efficiency of electricity or gas use in building shells, space heating or cooling equipment, water heating equipment, or refrigeration equipment or other cost-effective measures which, over its economic life meet the criteria of 69-3-702.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 157, L. 1993.

69-3-702. Eligible conservation. Conservation purchases or investments are eligible under this part if they are provided for in 69-3-1206 and in accordance with 69-3-714 or 69-3-1209.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 449, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 535, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

69-3-703. Utility investment in or purchase of conservation — approval by commission. (1) A utility may:

(a) purchase conservation from a person or private firm; or

(b) directly engage in conservation investments.

(2) The conservation purchases or investments provided for in subsection (1) are subject to approval by the commission.

(3) Cost-effective conservation measures approved by the commission may, at the customer's discretion, be installed by:

(a) a person or a private firm;

(b) the customer; or

(c) the utility.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1992, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Home weatherization programs, Title 90, ch. 4, part 2.

69-3-704 through 69-3-710 reserved.

69-3-711. Criteria for allowable conservation and demand-side management programs — onsite audits. (1) The commission shall approve cost-effectiveness criteria for conservation that may be placed into a utility's rate base under this part and demand-side management programs in accordance with 69-3-1201 through 69-3-1209.

(2) The commission may conduct onsite energy audits to ensure compliance with the criteria established under subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-712. Commission to include conservation and demand-side management programs in rate base — rate of return. (1) In order to encourage the purchase of or investment in conservation by a utility, the commission may include conservation purchases or investments and demand-side management programs eligible under 69-3-702 and in compliance with criteria adopted under 69-3-711 and 69-3-1201 through 69-3-1209 in a utility's rate base.

(2) In establishing the rate of return, the commission may allow an increment of up to 2% added to the rate of return on common equity permitted on the utility's other investments.

(3) The commission shall allow the rate of return increment provided for in subsection (2) for a period not to exceed 30 years after the conservation is first placed in the rate base.

(4) The commission shall prescribe amortization periods for conservation that is included in a utility's rate base.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-713. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 11, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 610, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-714. Criteria for allowable advanced conductor programs. (1) The commission may approve cost-effectiveness criteria for advanced conductor projects that may be placed into a utility's rate base under this part.

(2) Criteria must be based on established direct current resistance at standard pressure and a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius.

(3) As used in this section, "advanced conductor" means an overhead electricity conductor installed in a transmission or distribution project that has a direct current electrical resistance at least 10% lower than existing conductors of a similar diameter on the system.

(4) In establishing cost-effectiveness criteria, the commission may consider decreased electrical losses and any other relevant consumer, environmental, and system benefits provided by advanced conductors.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 535, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 18, 2023.

Part 8
Montana Telecommunications Act

Part Cross-References

9-1-1 emergency telephone system, Title 10, ch. 4.

69-3-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Telecommunications Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

69-3-802. Purpose. The legislature declares that it remains the policy of the state of Montana to maintain universal availability of basic telecommunications service at affordable rates. To the extent that it is consistent with maintaining universal service, it is further the policy of this state to encourage competition in the telecommunications industry, thereby allowing access by the public to resulting rapid advances in telecommunications technology. It is the purpose of this part to provide a regulatory framework that will allow an orderly transition from a regulated telecommunications industry to a competitive market environment, and it is further the purpose of this part to clarify that the commission has authority to implement alternative forms of regulation for providers of regulated telecommunications services.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 1991.

69-3-803. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commercial mobile radio service" means commercial mobile radio service as defined in 47 CFR 20.9.

(2) "Commission" means the public service commission.

(3) "Eligible telecommunications carrier" means a telecommunications provider designated by the commission under 69-3-840.

(4) "Fund" means the universal service fund established in 69-3-842.

(5) "Incumbent local exchange carrier" means, with respect to an area, the local exchange carrier that:

(a) on February 8, 1996, provided telephone exchange service in the area; and

(b) on February 8, 1996, was considered to be a member of the exchange carrier association pursuant to 47 CFR 69.601(b) or is a person or entity that, after that date, became a successor or assign of a member of the exchange carrier association.

(6) "Local telecommunications" means:

(a) telecommunications originating in a wireline local calling area, including extended area service areas, and terminating in the same wireline local calling area or extended area service area; or

(b) commercial mobile radio service that originates from or terminates to a commercial mobile radio service provider within the same major trading area as defined in 47 CFR 24.202(a).

(7) "Nonlocal telecommunications" means:

(a) wireline telecommunications traffic carried by either an interlocal access transport area carrier or an intralocal access transport area toll provider that originates in one wireline local calling area and terminates in another wireline local calling area; or

(b) commercial mobile radio service that originates in a major trading area and terminates in a different major trading area as defined in 47 CFR 24.202(a).

(8) "Originating carrier" means a telecommunications carrier from whose network a customer originates telecommunications traffic.

(9) "Private telecommunications service" means a system, including the construction, maintenance, or operation of the system, for the provision of telecommunications service or any portion of the service, by a person or entity for the sole and exclusive use of that person or entity and not for resale, directly or indirectly. For purposes of this definition, the term "person or entity" includes a corporation and all of its affiliates and subsidiaries if the corporation, affiliates, and subsidiaries have a common ownership or control of 80% of the outstanding voting shares.

(10) (a) "Regulated telecommunications service" means two-way switched, voice-grade access and transport of communications originating and terminating in this state and nonvoice-grade access and transport if intended to be converted to or from voice-grade access and transport.

(b) Except as provided in 69-3-815, the term does not include the provision of terminal equipment used to originate or terminate the regulated service, private telecommunications service, one-way transmission of television signals, cellular communication, or provision of radio paging or mobile radio services.

(11) "Retail revenue" means the gross Montana revenue from telecommunications services that originate or terminate in Montana and are billed for a service address in Montana, excluding revenue from the resale of telecommunications services to another telecommunications services provider that uses the telecommunications services to provide telecommunications services to the ultimate retail consumer who originates or terminates the transmission.

(12) "Rural telephone company" means a local exchange carrier operating entity to the extent that the entity:

(a) provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study area that does not include either:

(i) all or any part of an incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more based on the most recently available population statistics of the United States bureau of the census; or

(ii) any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area, as defined by the United States bureau of the census as of August 10, 1993;

(b) provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines;

(c) provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines; or

(d) has less than 15% of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on February 8, 1996.

(13) "Telecommunications" means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing without a change in the form or content of the information upon receipt.

(14) (a) "Telecommunications carrier" or "carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services. A person providing other products and services in addition to telecommunications services is considered a telecommunications carrier only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications services.

(b) The term does not mean aggregators of telecommunications services as defined in 47 U.S.C. 226.

(15) "Terminating carrier" means a telecommunications carrier upon whose network telecommunications traffic terminates.

(16) (a) "Transit traffic" means telecommunications traffic that an originating carrier delivers to a transiting carrier or carriers for delivery to a terminating carrier.

(b) The term does not mean traffic carried by interlocal access transport area carriers or providers of intralocal access transport area toll services.

(17) "Transiting carrier" means a telecommunications carrier or carriers that transport transit traffic from an originating carrier to a terminating carrier and that do not originate or terminate telecommunications traffic.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Public Service Commission, 2-15-2602.

69-3-804. Exemption for private telecommunications service. Construction, maintenance, or operation of a private telecommunications service does not constitute the provision of regulated telecommunications service, and a private telecommunications service is not subject to any of the provisions of this title. If any other person or entity, including the owners or shareholders of the entity owning or operating a private telecommunications service, uses the telecommunications service, whether for hire or not, the private telecommunications service is a regulated telecommunications service under this part. An occasional or accommodative use of a private telecommunication system by a third person is not a violation of this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

69-3-805. Registration of telecommunications providers. (1) Before any person or entity provides telecommunications service within the state of Montana, it shall file with the commission a notice including:

(a) the name, address, and telephone number of the provider;

(b) the name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for regulatory contacts and customer dispute resolution on behalf of the provider;

(c) a description of the provider's existing operations and general service and operating areas in any other jurisdictions;

(d) a list of the provider's parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies, together with principal addresses and telephone numbers of each;

(e) initial tariffs or price lists for regulated telecommunications services, including a narrative description of the regulated telecommunications to be offered and the geographic area and markets to be served;

(f) a general description of the facilities and equipment that will be used to provide services, including whether the service will be offered on a facilities basis, a resale basis, or a combination of both of them;

(g) a statement of whether the provider intends to draw from the federal or state universal service fund or other explicit support funds, including a statement of whether the provider intends to seek the commission's designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier;

(h) disclosure of any formal actions against it by any court or state or federal regulatory agency that resulted in any type of penalty or sanction within the 5 years prior to the date of filing the notice;

(i) if the provider is other than a corporation, a description of the form of ownership, the names and addresses of all principal owners and managers, the provider's agent for service of process in Montana, and the date of creation of the business entity; and

(j) other information from regulated telecommunications carriers as the commission may require to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The commission may waive any of the requirements set forth in subsection (1).

(3) The provider shall file with the commission a report of any judgment, penalty, or sanction entered in any other jurisdiction that could adversely affect the provider's ability to provide communications services in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-806. Prohibition against cross-subsidization. A provider of regulated telecommunications services may not use current revenue earned or expenses incurred in conjunction with services subject to regulation under this chapter to subsidize services that are not regulated or are not tariffed. Expenses incurred in conjunction with services that are not regulated or that are not tariffed under this chapter may not be attributed to services that are subject to regulation for any reason.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-807. Regulation of rates and charges. (1) The commission may establish specific rates, tariffs, or fares for the provision of regulated telecommunications service to the public. The rates, tariffs, or fares must be just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory.

(2) Alternatively, the commission may authorize the provision of regulated telecommunications service under terms and conditions that best serve the declared policy of this state. For a service detariffed under this subsection, the provider shall maintain a current price list on file with the commission and shall provide notice of changes in the price list as prescribed by the commission. The commission is not required to fix and determine specific rates, tariffs, or fares for the service and in the alternative may:

(a) totally detariff the service;

(b) detariff rates for the service but retain tariffs for service standards and requirements;

(c) establish only maximum rates, only minimum rates, or permissible price ranges as long as the minimum rate is cost compensatory; or

(d) provide other rate or service regulation as will promote the purposes of this part.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), in determining applications under subsection (2), the commission shall consider the following factors:

(a) the number, size, and distribution of alternative providers of service;

(b) the extent to which services are available from alternative providers in the relevant market;

(c) the ability of alternative providers to make functionally equivalent or substitute services readily available;

(d) the overall impact of the proposed terms and conditions on the continued availability of existing services at just and reasonable rates; and

(e) other factors that the commission may prescribe through rulemaking that are appropriate to fulfill the purposes of this part.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the commission may exercise its power under subsection (2)(c) with respect to any services of a telecommunications provider if the commission finds that action consistent with the provisions of 69-3-802 and with the public interest. Noncompetitive local exchange access to end users and carrier access services may not be detariffed.

(5) A provider of regulated message telecommunications service and related services shall average its service rates on its routes of similar distance within the state unless otherwise authorized by the commission. This subsection may not be construed to prohibit volume discounts, discounts in promotional offerings, or other discounts as long as the discounts are not offered in a discriminatory manner.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 210, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

Ratemaking procedures, Title 69, ch. 3, part 3.

69-3-808. Forbearance of rate regulation to facilitate competition. (1) In accordance with the provisions of this section, the commission shall forbear regulation as to rates, tariffs, fares, or charges to facilitate competition and shall authorize the provision of all or any portion of regulated telecommunications service under stated or negotiated terms to any person or entity that has acquired or is contemplating acquisition of, through construction, lease, or any other form of acquisition, similar telecommunications service from an alternative source.

(2) At any time, the provider of regulated telecommunications service may file a verified application with the commission for forbearance of regulation to facilitate competition. The application must describe the telecommunications service to be offered, the customer to be served, and the party or parties offering similar service, together with other information and in a form that the commission may prescribe. The additional information must be reasonably related to the determination of the existence of an alternative offer but may not require information relating to the cost of providing the service.

(3) The commission shall approve or deny an application for forbearance of regulation to facilitate competition within 15 days after the filing of the application. If the commission has not acted on an application within the permitted time period, the application is considered granted. The commission shall deny the application only upon a finding that the application is incomplete or that the subject or similar service is not being offered to the customer by parties other than the applicant. If a customer or potential customer of the provider seeking forbearance requests a quotation of prices from another provider of telecommunications service having tariffs or price lists for similar services on file with the commission, the commission may presume the existence of competition.

(4) The provisions of 2-4-601, relating to notice and hearing, do not apply to this section.

(5) Upon approval of the application, the provider of telecommunications service may negotiate with a person or an entity for the provision of the service without regard to its tariffs or price lists on file with the commission.

(6) Within 10 days after the conclusion of the negotiations, the provider of regulated telecommunications service shall file with the commission the final contract or other evidence of the service to be provided, together with the charges and other conditions of the service. Thereafter, for the term of the contract, the provider of regulated telecommunications service may provide the service to the customer without regard to its tariffs or price lists on file with the commission.

(7) Services provided pursuant to subsection (1) remain subject to the regulatory powers of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 546, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 210, L. 1991.

69-3-809. Alternative forms of regulation. (1) The commission may authorize a provider of regulated telecommunication services, as defined in 69-3-803, to implement alternatives to the ratemaking practices required under parts 2, 3, and 9 of this chapter, including but not limited to price caps and equitable sharing of earnings or revenues between a provider of regulated telecommunications services and its customers.

(2) A provider of regulated telecommunications services may petition the commission to regulate the provider under an alternative form of regulation. The provider shall submit its plan for an alternative form of regulation with its petition. The commission's order on the petition must be issued no later than 9 months after the filing of the petition. The commission shall review and may authorize implementation of the plan if it finds, after notice and hearing, that the plan:

(a) will not degrade the quality of or the availability of efficient telecommunications services;

(b) will produce fair, just, and reasonable rates for telecommunications services;

(c) will not unduly or unreasonably prejudice or disadvantage a customer class;

(d) will reduce regulatory delay and costs;

(e) is in the public interest;

(f) will enhance economic development in the state;

(g) will result in the improvement of the telephone infrastructure in the state; and

(h) conforms to the purpose stated in 69-3-802 more nearly than regulation under part 2, 3, or 9 of this chapter conforms to the stated purpose.

(3) If the commission determines that the plan does not satisfy the requirements of this section, it may either reject the petition or issue a proposed order modifying the plan as submitted by the provider.

(4) Upon petition or upon its own motion, the commission may rescind its approval or amend an alternative form of regulation if, after notice and hearing, it finds that the conditions in subsection (2) are no longer satisfied.

(5) Nothing contained in this section may be construed as limiting or otherwise affecting the commission's authority to conduct investigations or hear complaints as provided in part 3 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 210, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 2011.

69-3-810. New service — withdrawal of services. (1) A provider of regulated telecommunications service shall provide notice, in the form prescribed by the commission, of its intent to offer a new service to its customers. The notice must include a description of the service, a minimum price, and the terms and conditions under which it will be offered. At the end of a 10-day comment period for interested parties, the commission may immediately approve, suspend, or disapprove the new service offering or it may allow the interim introduction of the service pending a hearing at a later date. If the commission has not acted at the end of 30 days following issuance of notice, the provider may proceed to offer the service.

(2) A new service may be offered on a detariffed basis. A price list containing the price of the new service must be filed with the commission at the time the service is offered to the public.

(3) For purposes of this section, "new service" means any service that is introduced separately or in combination with other services and that is not functionally required to provide local exchange service or that is not a repackaged current service or a direct replacement for a regulated telecommunications service.

(4) A provider of regulated telecommunications service may withdraw a service upon 30 days' notice to the commission and to the users of the service. The commission may, however, suspend the withdrawal of the service, either on its own motion or at the request of an interested person, and shall then proceed to hearing.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 210, L. 1991.

69-3-811. Costs for services provided — jurisdiction over complaints. (1) Prices charged for a regulated telecommunications service must be above relevant costs unless otherwise ordered by the commission. If the commission determines that a price is below relevant costs, it may ensure that shareholders and not ratepayers are responsible for any relevant costs not recovered through prices.

(2) With regard to competitive services, the term "relevant costs" includes the price for any components that are used by the telecommunications provider and that would be essential for alternative providers to use in providing the competitive services pursuant to commission-approved methodology.

(3) The commission has jurisdiction to consider complaints and initiate investigations to determine whether the price charged by a provider of regulated telecommunications service is above relevant costs. The commission may also consider complaints that a pricing or promotional practice violates any provision of this title.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 210, L. 1991.

69-3-812 through 69-3-814 reserved.

69-3-815. Nondiscriminatory intercarrier compensation — billing records — enforcement — rulemaking. (1) An originating carrier of local telecommunications service shall transmit with the originating carrier's telecommunications traffic information necessary to enable the terminating carrier to identify, measure, and appropriately charge the originating carrier for the termination of the local telecommunications service.

(2) A provider of intralocal access transport area toll services or any other carrier that provides nonlocal telecommunications services in Montana shall transmit with its telecommunications traffic information necessary to enable the terminating carrier to identify, measure, and appropriately charge for the termination of the telecommunications traffic.

(3) A transiting carrier shall deliver telecommunications traffic to terminating carriers by means of facilities that enable the terminating carrier to receive from the originating carrier

any and all information that the originating carrier transmits with its telecommunications traffic that enables the terminating carrier to identify, measure, and appropriately charge the originating carrier or the interlocal access transport area carrier or intralocal access transport area toll provider of nonlocal telecommunications traffic for the termination of its telecommunications traffic.

(4) A transiting carrier is required to provide billing records for its transit traffic to the terminating carrier upon request. The transiting carrier shall provide billing records pursuant to existing policies and agreements until the commission adopts rules pursuant to subsection (7).

(5) A local exchange carrier or commercial mobile radio services provider that delivers local telecommunications traffic to a terminating carrier, directly or indirectly through a transiting carrier, shall, upon request of the terminating carrier, negotiate an interconnection agreement with the terminating carrier, as provided in 69-3-831 through 69-3-839. The interconnection agreement must include rates, terms, and conditions for reciprocal compensation for the transport and termination of local telecommunications traffic.

(6) A telecommunications carrier registered to provide telecommunications services in Montana pursuant to 69-3-805 may file a complaint with the commission requesting enforcement of this section, including enforcement of an agreement approved by the commission under 69-3-839. Upon the filing of a complaint, the commission may authorize the terminating carrier to refuse to terminate traffic from the originating carrier or the commission may authorize interim payments. The commission may order compensation to the terminating carrier and may order other appropriate relief.

(7) The commission shall adopt rules for the implementation of this section. The rules must provide for the expedited resolution of complaints filed pertaining to the provisions of this section. The rules must identify what type of transit records are available and what the cost of the transit records should be and must determine which party is responsible for the payment of detailed call records to the transiting carrier.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 423, L. 2003.

69-3-816 through 69-3-820 reserved.

69-3-821. Examination of books and records. Nothing in this part precludes the commission from exercising its authority under the provisions of 69-3-202. The commission may require such accounting or reporting systems as are necessary to allow a proper allocation of investments, costs, or expenses that are joint or common to both regulated telecommunications services and other services or to both tariffed regulated telecommunications services and nontariffed regulated telecommunications services.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

69-3-822. Rulemaking authority. The commission may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

69-3-823. Exception. Nothing in this part affects the exemption from regulation provided by 35-18-104.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

69-3-824. No preemption of laws governing anticompetitive activity. Nothing in this part in any way preempts, abrogates, or otherwise affects any right, liability, or obligation arising from any federal or state law regarding unfair business practices or anticompetitive activity.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 546, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Montana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, Title 30, ch. 14, part 1.

Unfair trade practices generally, Title 30, ch. 14, part 2.

69-3-825 through 69-3-828 reserved.

69-3-829. Expedited complaint proceeding — commission authority. (1) The commission may conduct expedited complaint proceedings involving interconnection arrangements that include but are not limited to exchange access services between telecommunications carriers.

(2) The provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act do not apply to petitions for an expedited complaint proceeding under 69-3-830 and this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 310, L. 2003.

69-3-830. Expedited complaint proceeding — procedure. (1) (a) A party that petitions the commission for an expedited complaint proceeding shall file with the commission, at the same time as it submits the petition, the following:

(i) a statement that the petitioner has attempted in good faith to resolve the petitioner's disagreement with the respondent prior to petitioning the commission to initiate an expedited complaint proceeding;

(ii) a description of facts, including relevant documentation, of the issues in dispute and the position of each of the parties with respect to those issues; and

(iii) a statement that the petitioner has informed the respondent of the petitioner's intent to file a petition for expedited complaint proceeding at least 10 days prior to filing the petition with the commission.

(b) The petitioner shall provide a copy of the petition and any associated documentation to the other party or parties not later than the day on which the commission receives the petition.

(c) The commission shall limit its consideration during an expedited complaint proceeding to those issues set forth by the parties in the petition and the response to the petition.

(2) A nonpetitioning party may respond to the other party's petition and provide any additional information within 25 days after the commission receives the petition.

(3) (a) The commission may appoint a hearings examiner, who shall file with the commission a proposed decision within the time set by order of the commission.

(b) (i) On the filing by a party, in good faith, of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias, lack of independence, disqualification by law, or other disqualification of a hearings examiner or on the hearings examiner's own motion, the commission shall include the affidavit or motion as a part of the record in the case.

(ii) The affidavit for disqualification must state the facts and the reasons for the belief that the hearings examiner should be disqualified and must be filed not more than 10 days after the date of the appointment of the hearings examiner.

(iii) The commission may disqualify the hearings examiner and appoint another hearings examiner.

(4) Participation in the expedited complaint proceeding must be limited to the petitioning party, named respondents, and the Montana consumer counsel.

(5) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the commission or the hearings examiner shall, within 10 days of the filing of the petition, conduct a conference with the parties for the purpose of establishing a schedule for the orderly and timely disposition of the petition. The schedule must include discovery deadlines and a hearing date.

(6) (a) The hearing must be conducted pursuant to the Montana Rules of Evidence and the parties:

(i) are entitled to be heard;

(ii) may present evidence material to the issues; and

(iii) may cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing.

(b) Parties must be allowed to conduct discovery pursuant to the schedule determined by the hearings examiner or the commission, and the discovery must be conducted pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(7) The commission or the hearings examiner may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, documents, and other evidence relevant to the issues being heard and may administer oaths. Subpoenas must be served and enforced in the manner provided by law for the service and enforcement of subpoenas in a civil action in district court. The commission or the hearings examiner shall regulate the course of the hearing and the need for filing briefs and may direct the parties to appear and confer to consider simplification of the issues.

(8) The commission shall issue a final order on the petition not later than 120 days from the date that the petition for expedited complaint proceeding was filed with the commission.

(9) If the hearings examiner becomes unavailable to the commission, the commission is not precluded from issuing a final decision based on the record if the demeanor of the witnesses is considered immaterial by all parties.

(10) Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law, the person or persons who are charged with the duty of rendering a decision or of making findings of fact and conclusions of law in an expedited complaint proceeding, after issuance of notice of hearing, may not communicate with any party or party's representative in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case unless there is notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

(11) As part of its final order, the commission may order relief that is justified under the circumstances. The commission may order the payment of monetary damages, by one party or parties to another party or parties, not to exceed $10,000.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 310, L. 2003.

69-3-831. Interconnection — construction and effect. Sections 69-3-832 through 69-3-849 and this section do not grant any jurisdiction to the commission over telecommunications carriers except as expressly set forth in 69-3-832 through 69-3-849 and this section, and 69-3-832 through 69-3-849 and this section may not be construed to limit or repeal exemptions from the commission's jurisdiction otherwise recognized by statute or law. Legislation may not be considered to supersede or modify any provision of 69-3-832 through 69-3-849 and this section except to the extent that the legislation does so expressly.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-832. Interconnection — jurisdiction. In addition to the authority granted to the commission in 69-3-102 to supervise and regulate public utilities, the commission has authority, for the purposes of implementing 69-3-829 through 69-3-839, over all telecommunications carriers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 2003.

69-3-833. Rulemaking authority. The commission may adopt rules of procedure to implement 69-3-836 through 69-3-840.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-834. Duty to interconnect. (1) The purpose of this section is to implement specific provisions of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104.

(2) (a) Each telecommunications carrier shall perform the duties enumerated in 47 U.S.C. 251(a).

(b) Each local exchange carrier shall perform the duties enumerated in 47 U.S.C. 251(b).

(c) In addition to the duties provided for in subsection (2)(b), each incumbent local exchange carrier shall perform the duties enumerated in 47 U.S.C. 251(c).

(3) (a) Except under the circumstances set forth in subsection (4), the provisions of subsection (2)(c) do not apply to a rural telephone company until:

(i) the company has received a bona fide request for interconnection, services, or network elements; and

(ii) the commission determines under subsection (3)(b) that the request is not unduly economically burdensome, is technically feasible, and is consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254 (other than 47 U.S.C. 254(b)(7) and (c)(1)(D)).

(b) The party making a bona fide request of a rural telephone company for interconnection, services, or network elements shall submit a notice of its request to the commission. The commission shall conduct an inquiry for the purpose of determining whether to terminate the exemption provided by subsection (3)(a). Within 120 days after the commission receives notice of the request, the commission shall terminate the exemption if the request is not unduly economically burdensome, is technically feasible, and is consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254 (other than 47 U.S.C. 254(b)(7) and (c)(1)(D)). Upon termination of the exemption, the commission shall establish an implementation schedule for compliance with the request that is consistent in time and manner with the federal communications commission's regulations.

(4) The exemption provided by subsection (3)(a) does not apply with respect to a request from a cable operator providing video programming and seeking to provide any telecommunications

service in the area in which the rural telephone company was providing video programming on February 8, 1996.

(5) (a) A local exchange carrier with fewer than 2% of the nation's subscriber lines, installed in the aggregate nationwide, may petition the commission for a suspension or modification of the application of a requirement of subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c) to telephone exchange service facilities specified in the petition. The commission shall grant the petition for the suspension or modification to the extent and for the duration that the commission determines:

(i) is necessary:

(A) to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally;

(B) to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome; or

(C) to avoid imposing a requirement that is technically infeasible; and

(ii) is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

(b) The commission shall act upon any petition filed under subsection (5)(a) within 180 days after receiving the petition. Pending action, the commission may suspend enforcement of the requirement to which the petition applies with respect to the petitioning carrier.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-835. Voluntary negotiation of interconnection agreements. Upon receiving a request for interconnection, services, or network elements pursuant to 69-3-834, an incumbent local exchange carrier may negotiate and enter into a binding agreement with the requesting telecommunications carrier without regard to the duties set forth in 69-3-834(2)(b) or (2)(c). The agreement must include a detailed schedule of itemized charges for interconnection and each service or network element included in the agreement.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-836. Mediation of interconnection agreements. Upon the written request of any party negotiating an agreement for interconnection with another telecommunications carrier, the commission may designate a mediator, who may be a commission member, to mediate any differences arising in the course of the negotiation.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-837. Arbitration of interconnection issues. (1) The commission has the authority to arbitrate any open interconnection issues pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252(b), as it existed on February 8, 1996, according to the duties in subsections (3) through (14) of this section. Except as expressly provided in this section, the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act do not apply to arbitrations conducted under the authority granted by this section.

(2) During the period from the 135th to the 160th day, inclusive, after the date on which an incumbent local exchange carrier receives a request for negotiation under 69-3-834, the carrier or any other party to the negotiation may petition the commission to arbitrate any open issues. A party that petitions the commission under this section shall, at the same time as it submits the petition, provide the commission all relevant documentation concerning the following:

(a) the unresolved issues;

(b) the position of each of the parties with respect to those issues; and

(c) any other issue discussed and resolved by the parties.

(3) A party petitioning the commission under this section shall provide a copy of the petition and any documentation to the other party or parties not later than the day on which the commission receives the petition.

(4) A nonpetitioning party to a negotiation under 69-3-834 may respond to the other party's petition and provide any additional information that it wishes within 25 days after the commission receives the petition.

(5) The commission shall limit its consideration to those issues set forth by the parties to the negotiation in the petition for arbitration and the response to the petition.

(6) The commission may appoint a hearings examiner for arbitration proceedings under this section. The hearings examiner shall file with the commission a proposed decision within the time set by order of the commission. A hearings examiner must be assigned with regard to the expertise required for the particular matter. On the filing by a party, in good faith, of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias, lack of independence, disqualification by law,

or other disqualification of a hearings examiner or on the hearings examiner's own motion, the commission shall determine the affidavit or motion as a part of the record in the case. The commission may disqualify the hearings examiner and appoint another hearings examiner. The affidavit must state the facts and the reasons for the belief that the hearings examiner should be disqualified and must be filed not less than 10 days before the original date set for the hearing.

(7) Participation in the arbitration proceeding must be limited to the telecommunications carrier requesting the arbitration, the telecommunications carrier from which interconnection is being sought, and the Montana consumer counsel.

(8) Negotiations among the telecommunications carriers may continue, pending a final decision by the arbitrator.

(9) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the commission shall, within 10 days of the filing of a request for arbitration, conduct a conference with the parties for the purpose of establishing a schedule for the orderly and timely disposition of the arbitration. The schedule must include discovery deadlines and a hearing date.

(10) The hearing must be conducted pursuant to the Montana Rules of Evidence, and the parties are entitled to be heard, present evidence material to the issues, and cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. Parties must be allowed to conduct discovery pursuant to the schedule determined by the arbitrator, and the discovery must be conducted pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(11) The commission may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, documents, and other evidence relevant to the issues being arbitrated and may administer oaths. Subpoenas must be served and enforced in the manner provided by law for the service and enforcement of subpoenas in a civil action in district court. The commission shall regulate the course of the hearings and the need for filing briefs and may direct the parties to appear and confer to consider simplification of the issues by consent of the parties.

(12) The commission shall issue its final decision no later than 9 months after the request for negotiations on a petition issued under 69-3-834. When the commission files its final decision or when the hearings examiner files the proposed decision with the commission, each party must be simultaneously given a copy delivered personally or by certified mail. The decision must:

(a) ensure the resolution of issues presented by the parties and ensure that the resolution meets the requirements of 69-3-834 and this section;

(b) establish rates for interconnection, services, or access to unbundled network elements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252(d); and

(c) provide a schedule for implementation of the terms and conditions of the decision by the parties.

(13) If the person who conducted the hearing becomes unavailable to the commission, the commission is not precluded from issuing a final decision based on the record if the demeanor of the witnesses is considered immaterial by all parties.

(14) Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law, the person or persons who are charged with the duty of rendering a decision or of making findings of fact and conclusions of law in an arbitration proceeding, after issuance of notice of hearing, may not communicate with any party or a party's representative in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case unless there is notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-838. Approval of arbitration decision. (1) If the commission has not approved or rejected in its entirety an agreement adopted by arbitration under 69-3-837(12) within 30 days of submission by the parties, the agreement is considered approved.

(2) The commission may reject the agreement only if the commission finds that the agreement does not meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. 251 and the regulations prescribed to implement that section by the federal communications commission or the standards set forth in 47 U.S.C. 252(d). Upon rejection of an agreement, the commission shall provide the parties with written findings as to any deficiencies.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-839. Approval of interconnection agreements. (1) Within 90 days of filing of an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation of the parties to an agreement, the commission shall approve or reject the agreement, or the agreement is considered approved.

(2) The commission may reject an agreement filed under this section only if the commission finds that:

(a) the agreement or a portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or

(b) the implementation of the agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

(3) Upon rejecting an agreement filed under this section, the commission shall issue written findings detailing any deficiencies in the agreement.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-840. Determination of eligible carrier status — universal service support. (1) The commission is authorized to designate telecommunications carriers as eligible for federal universal service support, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1) and 47 U.S.C. 254, and for any Montana universal service funds. This authorization applies to all telecommunications carriers notwithstanding the carrier's exemption from further regulation by the commission.

(2) Upon the petition of a telecommunications carrier or upon its own motion, the commission shall designate a telecommunications carrier that meets the requirements of 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the commission. In the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, the term "service area" means the company's "study area" for federal universal service support unless the federal communications commission and the commission, after taking into account recommendations of a federal-state joint board instituted under 47 U.S.C. 410(c), establish a different definition of service area for the company. The term "service area" for all other telecommunications carriers means a geographic area, such as a census block or grid block, as established by the commission for the purpose of determining federal universal service obligations and support mechanisms.

(3) Upon receiving a petition from a telecommunications carrier and consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, the commission may, in the case of an area served by a rural telephone company, and shall, in the case of all other areas, designate more than one telecommunications carrier for a service area, so long as each additional requesting telecommunications carrier meets the requirements of 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1). Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier for an area served by a rural telephone company, the commission shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

(4) If no telecommunications carrier will provide the services that are supported by universal service support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. 254(c) to all or a part of an unserved community that requests service, the commission shall determine which telecommunications carrier is best able to provide the service to the requesting unserved community. Any telecommunications carrier ordered to provide service under this section shall meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(1) and must be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for that community or the unserved portion of the community.

(5) The commission shall permit an eligible telecommunications carrier to relinquish its designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier in any area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier. An eligible telecommunications carrier that seeks to relinquish its eligible telecommunications carrier designation for an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier shall give advance notice to the commission of the relinquishment. Prior to permitting a telecommunications carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to cease providing universal service in an area served by more than one eligible telecommunications carrier, the commission shall require the remaining eligible telecommunications carrier to ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served and shall require sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier. The commission shall establish a time, not to exceed 1 year after the commission approves relinquishment under this section, within which the purchase or construction must be completed.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 2003.

69-3-841. Universal service policies. The legislature finds that universally available telecommunications services are essential to the health, welfare, and economic well-being of the citizens of Montana. The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, requires a transition to local competition. Implicit subsidies have historically been used to further the public policy of keeping local rates to customers in high-cost areas at affordable levels. The federal act and the transition to competition require that all subsidies used to keep local rates at affordable levels be explicit. Additionally, the federal act's universal service provisions establish a system of discounts for schools, libraries, and health care providers. Securing these discounts can be dependent on state actions. In order to preserve and advance the goal of universal service in the new competitive environment established by the federal act, the legislature finds that a new Montana universal service fund, supported by contributions from the telecommunications carriers operating in Montana, should be created that will:

(1) not duplicate the federal universal service fund mandated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 but that will complement the federal fund by providing additional funding as necessary to ensure universal service in the state of Montana;

(2) be competitively and technologically neutral in both funding and distribution;

(3) provide a specific, predictable, and sufficient mechanism of support for high-cost areas; and

(4) allow for implementation of the federal support system for telecommunications services provided to schools, libraries, and health care providers.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-842. Universal service fund established — purpose. (1) Upon petition for good cause by a telecommunications carrier or the consumer counsel or on the commission's own motion, the commission shall investigate the need for a fund to assist eligible telecommunications carriers in providing affordable telecommunications services in high-cost areas. This investigation must take into account the evolving nature of universal service as well as changes in federal and state telecommunications support systems, including but not limited to universal service funds and access reform.

(2) If the commission determines that a state universal service fund is necessary to promote the policies in 69-3-841 and is consistent with the public interest, the commission shall establish a state universal service fund. The fund must provide support for the following services:

(a) voice grade access to the public switched network, including some usage;

(b) dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF or "touch tone") signaling or its equivalent;

(c) single-party service;

(d) access to emergency services, including access to 9-1-1, where available, and access to enhanced 9-1-1 when requested by a telecommunications carrier's local community and when the telecommunications carrier has technical capacity to provide it;

(e) access to operator services;

(f) access to interexchange services; and

(g) access to directory assistance.

(3) The fund must support only access to the services listed in subsections (2)(d) through (2)(g) and not support the services themselves.

(4) The fund must be administered to ensure that its operation is competitively and technologically neutral.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "interexchange services" means telecommunications long-distance services.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 2001.

69-3-843. Fund administrator — commission rulemaking authority. (1) A fiscal agent and daily administrator must be selected by the commission to receive and distribute funds under 69-3-841, 69-3-842, 69-3-844, 69-3-845, and this section.

(2) The fiscal agent must be selected by the commission based upon a competitive bidding process after an opportunity for public comment on the specific qualifications required of the fiscal agent. A telecommunications carrier is not eligible to be the fiscal agent. The duties of the fiscal agent must be determined by a contract consistent with 69-3-841, 69-3-842, 69-3-844,

69-3-845, and this section. The contract term of the fiscal agent may not be for a period greater than 3 years.

(3) The commission may adopt rules for the administration of the fund.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 2001.**

69-3-844. Contributions to fund. (1) The fiscal agent shall collect contributions from all telecommunications carriers on a quarterly basis, based on a January 1 to December 31 calendar year. Those contributions must be determined on a percentage of total intrastate retail revenue for all telecommunications carriers registered in the state. If the high-cost mechanisms of the federal universal service program are eliminated, contributions must be determined on a percentage of total intrastate and interstate retail revenue for all telecommunications carriers registered in the state.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules to govern collection of the contributions required by this section, as well as rules allowing the fiscal agent and daily administrator to assess late fees and interest on delinquent payments from telecommunications carriers. The fiscal agent is specifically authorized to enforce the contribution requirements of this section through suit in the district courts of Montana, and the prevailing party in an action is entitled to the recovery of costs and attorney fees incurred in that action.

(3) Any funds received by an eligible telecommunications carrier from the state high-cost fund must be used for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

(4) Any reduction in telecommunications carrier access expenses because of the removal of implicit subsidies inherent in telecommunications carrier access rates must be passed through to Montana end-user customer retail rates.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 430, L. 2001.**

69-3-845. Payments from fund — costs. (1) Payments from the fund must be made from collected contributions by the fiscal agent to qualifying eligible telecommunications carriers, on a quarterly basis, pursuant to rules adopted by the commission.

(2) Only eligible telecommunications carriers that offer the telecommunications services described in 69-3-842(2) to all customers in a designated support area and that advertise the availability of the telecommunications services and the charges for the telecommunications services using media of general distribution may receive support from the fund for the designated support area.

(3) An eligible telecommunications carrier providing telecommunications services through resale of another telecommunications carrier's telecommunications services or facilities may not receive support for those telecommunications services or facilities if the rates charged to an eligible telecommunications carrier by the other telecommunications carrier have been reduced by a contribution from universal service funds under this section.

(4) Costs of administering the fund must be paid from the fund.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 187, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 430, L. 2001.**

69-3-846. Discounts for schools, libraries, and health care providers. The commission is authorized to establish intrastate discounts to schools, libraries, and health care providers and to perform administrative functions necessary as a condition of federal universal service support if the discounts are recovered through the federal universal service fund.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 349, L. 1997.**

69-3-847. Wholesale pricing standards. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the commission is requested by a telecommunications carrier to establish wholesale prices for services provided by a telecommunications carrier, the commission may not establish a wholesale price using a default proxy discount value to be applied to the applicable retail price. The commission shall establish wholesale prices using company-specific costs.

(2) This section does not apply to the prices, terms, and conditions of a final or interim arbitrated interconnection agreement, arbitration decision, or appeal from an agreement or decision if the request for arbitration was filed on or before March 1, 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 349, L. 1997.**

69-3-848. Pricing of individual network elements. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), if the commission is requested by a telecommunications carrier to establish the prices of the individual network elements used to provide telecommunications services, the commission shall set those prices at a just and reasonable level sufficient to recover the actual cost of providing those elements, including:

(a) a reasonable share of the joint and common costs so that the telecommunications carrier has a reasonable opportunity to recover these costs;

(b) depreciation costs that are based upon forward-looking asset lives consistent with asset lives of other telecommunications carriers and that reflect an amortization of any underdepreciated investment;

(c) a reasonable share of the costs associated with fill factors, recognizing spare capacity required to fulfill eligible telecommunications carrier responsibilities; and

(d) a fair return on investments.

(2) The actual cost of providing the elements included in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) must be determined without reference to a rate-of-return or other rate-based proceeding.

(3) If a telecommunications carrier uses average prices for services to end users without regard to the customer's location, the commission shall similarly establish an average cost and wholesale price for each individual network element sold to other telecommunications carriers. The commission may depart from average pricing for network elements only to the extent that the retail prices to end users of a telecommunications carrier have departed from average pricing.

(4) This section does not apply to the prices, terms, and conditions of a final or interim arbitrated interconnection agreement, arbitration decision, or appeal from an agreement or decision if the request for arbitration was filed on or before March 1, 1997.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-849. Prohibited subsidies. The commission may not subsidize the price of any telecommunications service, including wholesale prices or the prices of individual network elements, by reducing the prices to reflect an allocation or credit of revenue from the operations of an affiliated company of the carrier of telecommunications services, including a publishing affiliate.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-850 through 69-3-855 reserved.

69-3-856. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-857. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-858. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-859. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, Sp. L. August 2002.

69-3-860. Repealed. Sec. 40, Ch. 426, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-861. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 349, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 426, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 17, Sp. L. August 2002.

69-3-862. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-863 through 69-3-869 reserved.

69-3-870. Performance assurance state special revenue account — statutory appropriation. (1) There is a performance assurance state special revenue account in the state special revenue fund. The account must be used for the deposit of payments to the state made by a telecommunications carrier pursuant to the terms of a performance assurance plan.

(2) Money in the performance assurance state special revenue account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, and may be expended by the commission in carrying out its responsibilities to administer, audit, and oversee the performance assurance plan, pursuant to the terms of the plan.

(3) For purposes of this section, a "performance assurance plan" means a commission-approved, self-executing remedy plan to ensure that a telecommunications carrier provides adequate wholesale service to competitors after the carrier gains entry into the interlocal access and transport area long-distance market in its region pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 271.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 2003.

Part 9
Rate Regulation of Small Telecommunications Providers

69-3-901. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commission" means the Montana public service commission.

(2) "Rate" means a charge by a small telecommunications provider to a subscriber for the initiation or continued provision of regulated telecommunications service. The term includes but is not limited to charges for installations, local service, toll service, directory assistance, and late payment.

(3) "Rate increase" means an increase in the rates for regulated telecommunications services provided by a small telecommunications provider and the creation of new rates.

(4) "Regulated telecommunications service" is as defined in 69-3-803.

(5) "Small telecommunications provider" means a person, partnership, corporation, or other entity providing regulated telecommunications service to less than 12,000 subscribers in Montana. Rural telephone cooperatives organized under Title 35, chapter 18, are not small telecommunications providers.

(6) "Subscriber" means a person, partnership, corporation, or other entity acquiring regulated telecommunications service from a small telecommunications provider. There is one subscriber for each billed line of a small telecommunications provider.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1999.

69-3-902. Rate regulation of small telecommunications provider. Except as provided in this part, small telecommunications providers are not subject to commission rate regulation provided in parts 3 and 8 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 1987.

69-3-903. Notice of rate increase or decrease. (1) At least 60 days before the effective date of any rate increase or decrease proposed by a small telecommunications provider, the small telecommunications provider shall mail notice of the proposed rate increase or decrease to each affected subscriber, the commission, and the Montana consumer counsel.

(2) Notice to the commission and consumer counsel must include:

(a) a summary of the justification for the proposed rate increase;

(b) a list of the number of affected subscribers in each category of rates proposed to be increased or decreased; and

(c) if requested by the commission, a list of the names of the affected subscribers.

(3) The notice to affected subscribers may be included with regular subscriber billings and must include:

(a) a schedule of the proposed rates;

(b) the effective date of the proposed rates; and

(c) a description of the petition procedure in 69-3-906 for seeking commission review and determination of the proposed rates. If the small telecommunications provider publishes the petition procedure in a telephone directory, a reference to the location of the procedure in the directory is adequate notice.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1999.

69-3-904. Commission review and determination of rate increases or decreases. (1) When a small telecommunications provider proposes a rate increase or decrease, the commission shall review and determine the rates pursuant to the applicable procedures in this chapter if:

(a) the affected subscribers have successfully petitioned for commission review as described in 69-3-906;

(b) the small telecommunications provider requests the commission to review and determine the rates; or

(c) by the 60th day following notice of the proposed increase or decrease, the consumer counsel petitions the commission to review and determine the rates.

(2) An order of the commission issued under this section establishes the effective rate for the regulated telecommunications services covered by the order. Rates established by commission order may not be increased for a period of 6 months, except as ordered by the commission.

(3) The order of the commission is subject to review.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 154, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 166, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 16, Ch. 166, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

69-3-905. Investigations by commission. Nothing in this part limits the authority of the commission under 69-3-324 to investigate at any time and on its own motion the existing rates of a small telecommunications provider.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 254, L. 1987.

69-3-906. Petition for review of proposed rate increase or decrease. Subscribers affected by a proposed rate increase or decrease for regulated telecommunications services by a small telecommunications provider may petition the commission to review and determine the rates. The petition must identify the proposed rate increase or decrease and must be in writing and signed by a subscriber or the authorized person if the subscriber is a business account.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 154, L. 1999.

69-3-907. Proposed increase or decrease effective unless requisite petitions received by commission. (1) If by the 60th day following notice to subscribers of a proposed rate increase or decrease the commission has not received petitions containing signatures from at least 10% of the affected subscribers in any rate category or a petition for review from the consumer counsel, the commission shall certify this fact to the small telecommunications provider and the proposed rate increase or decrease becomes effective as published in the notice of proposed increase or decrease.

(2) If by the 60th day following notice to subscribers of a proposed rate increase or decrease the commission has received petitions containing signatures from 10% or more of the affected subscribers in any rate category or a petition for review from the consumer counsel, the commission shall notify the small telecommunications provider of this fact and shall indicate that the proposed rate increase or decrease in that rate category will not take effect as noticed. The commission shall then review and determine the rates in that category pursuant to 69-3-904.

(3) In the case of a proposed increase or decrease in rates for access services provided to interexchange carriers, a valid petition for commission review and determination of rates consists of a signature of an authorized representative of any interexchange carrier that would be affected by the access rates that are proposed to be increased or decreased.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 254, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1999.

69-3-908 and 69-3-909 reserved.

69-3-910. Regulatory flexibility upon petition by small telecommunications provider. (1) Upon application by a small telecommunications provider, the commission shall forebear from applying any regulation or any provision of this chapter to a small telecommunications provider in all or some of the small telecommunications provider's geographic markets, as stated in the application, if the commission determines that:

(a) enforcement of a regulation or provision is not necessary to ensure:

(i) that the charges, practices, or classifications are just and reasonable; or

(ii) that regulations by, for, or in connection with the small telecommunications provider are just and reasonable;

(b) enforcement of a regulation or provision is not necessary for the protection of consumers; or

(c) forbearance from regulation is consistent with the public interest.

(2) (a) A small telecommunications provider providing regulated telecommunications services may submit an application to the commission requesting that the commission exercise the authority granted in this section with respect to that small telecommunications provider or any service offered by that small telecommunications provider.

(b) A petition must be considered granted within 90 days if the commission does not deny the petition upon making specific findings under subsection (1).

(c) The commission may extend the initial 90-day period if the commission finds that the extension is necessary in order to make the findings required in subsection (1).

(3) The commission may not forbear from applying the requirements of 69-3-831 through 69-3-840.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 154, L. 1999.

Part 10
Telephone Low-Income Assistance Program

69-3-1001. Creation of program — amount of assistance. (1) There is a telephone low-income assistance program to provide an eligible subscriber with a discount in the monthly charge for local exchange service in the telephone network.

(2) The commission shall set the discount in the charge for local exchange service that is at least $3.50 a month for each eligible subscriber but not more than the amount that is the difference between the otherwise applicable current rate for local exchange service and the rate as it was on April 22, 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

69-3-1002. Eligibility — rules. (1) A residential subscriber with single telephone line service at the subscriber's principal residence is eligible for low-income telephone assistance if the subscriber is certified by the department of public health and human services as a recipient of medicaid benefits.

(2) The department shall periodically certify and verify the eligibility of a subscriber to receive low-income telephone assistance.

(3) The department may adopt rules to establish procedures for the certification and verification of eligible subscribers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 519, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

69-3-1003. Reimbursement for discounts. (1) The public service commission shall authorize an additional monthly charge for each residential access line to fully reimburse providers of local telecommunications services for discounts given eligible subscribers.

(2) The additional monthly charge for local exchange service applies to residential subscribers of providers of local telecommunications services that participate in the low-income telephone assistance program.

(3) Participation of each provider in the low-income telephone assistance program must be administered separately by the public service commission.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 391, L. 1987.

69-3-1004. Administration — rules. (1) The public service commission shall monitor the effectiveness of the low-income telephone assistance program and issue annual reports as provided in 69-3-1005.

(2) The commission may adopt rules necessary to administer and implement the low-income telephone assistance program and to receive matching federal low-income telephone assistance.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

69-3-1005. Annual reports. The commission shall, if necessary, provide the federal communications commission with annual reports containing the following information:

(1) a description of qualification and verification procedures and other assistance measures;

(2) the costs of the low-income telephone assistance program;

(3) the number of households receiving low-income telephone assistance;

(4) the number of eligible subscribers receiving low-income telephone assistance, including subscribers who switched from other telephone services to low-income telephone service and new subscribers of low-income telephone service; and

(5) all other information requested by the federal communications commission concerning the effect of the low-income telephone assistance program on eligible subscribership levels.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 391, L. 1987.

69-3-1006. Federal requirements. The public service commission, the department of public health and human services, and participating providers of local telecommunications services shall comply with federal requirements for the receipt of matching federal low-income telephone assistance.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 391, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 520, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

69-3-1007. Applicability — voluntary participation or withdrawal. (1) Sections 69-3-1001 through 69-3-1006 apply to providers of regulated local telecommunications services with more than 50,000 subscribers.

(2) Regulated providers of local telecommunications services with fewer than 50,000 subscribers may petition the public service commission to participate in or withdraw from the low-income telephone assistance program. The public service commission shall grant a petition to participate in or withdraw from the low-income telephone assistance program unless federal requirements for obtaining matching federal low-income telephone assistance require otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 391, L. 1987.

Part 11
Intrastate Consumer Protection

69-3-1101. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to provide aggrieved customers and the commission a course of action against operator service providers that charge customers exorbitant rates for intrastate calls from a pay telephone or certain other telephones in commercial establishments and public facilities and to ensure that customers are fully aware of which charges on their monthly bill are owed to an operator service provider and of how a customer can reach the operator service provider for the purpose of contesting the amount charged.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

69-3-1102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Aggregator surcharge” means a charge to a customer by an entity that, in the ordinary course of its operations, makes telephones available to the public or to transient users of its premises for intrastate telephone calls using an operator service provider.

(2) “Customer” means a person who makes an intrastate telephone call through an operator service provider or the person accepting a collect telephone call made through an operator service provider.

(3) “Exorbitant rate” means a rate for an intrastate telephone call completed by an operator service provider that is greater than the allowable rate established by the commission. The allowable rate is inclusive of the call rate and any aggregator surcharge or other calling fee collected from a customer by the operator service provider.

(4) “Operator service provider” means any person, company, or entity that provides automated or live assistance to a customer to arrange for billing or completion, or both, of an intrastate telephone call through a method other than:

(a) automatic completion, with billing to the telephone from which the call originated; or

(b) completion through an access code used by the customer, with billing to an account previously established with a telecommunications carrier by the customer.

(5) “Telecommunications carrier” means the same as provided in 69-3-1302.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

69-3-1103. Administrative rules. The commission may adopt rules that it determines are necessary to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

69-3-1104. Disclosure requirements. An operator service provider shall:

(1) identify itself, audibly and distinctly, to the customer at the beginning of each telephone call and before the customer incurs any charges. Each operator service provider shall also identify itself to the billed party when verifying third-party billed calls.

(2) disclose, audibly and distinctly to the customer, at no charge and before connecting any intrastate call, how to obtain the total cost of the call, including any aggregator surcharge, or the maximum possible total cost of the call, including any aggregator surcharge, before providing further advice to the customer on how to proceed to make the call. The voice disclosure required in this section must instruct each customer that the customer may obtain applicable rate and surcharge amounts by dialing not more than two digits or by remaining on the line.

(3) upon request, fully and immediately disclose to the customer, at no charge, the operator service provider's method of collecting its charges, a description of the operator service provider's method of resolving customer complaints, a toll-free telephone number that can be used to report complaints to or contest charges of the operator service provider, and all other requested information pertinent to the customer's use of the operator service provider's services. The provisions of this subsection apply to the called party on collect calls.

(4) permit the customer to terminate the telephone call at no charge before the call is connected to the called party.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

69-3-1105. Operator service provider liability — penalty — costs and fees entitlement — jurisdiction. (1) An operator service provider that charges a customer more than the allowable rate is liable:

(a) to the customer for three times the cost of the call charged to the customer or $500, whichever is greater; and

(b) to the state for the penalty prescribed in 69-3-206, for other commission enforcement actions pursuant to 69-3-110, and for a violation of applicable rules authorized by 69-3-1103.

(2) In a suit or enforcement action brought against an operator service provider, the prevailing party is entitled to recover costs and attorney fees in a sum that the court finds reasonable.

(3) A customer has the right to seek remedy in a Montana court.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

69-3-1106. Billing disclosure requirements. A telecommunications carrier that enters into a contract with an operator service provider for the purpose of providing billing services for operator service providers shall include a disclosure in each customer's bill that:

(1) plainly and clearly identifies the operator service provider charges as distinct from those of the telecommunications carrier; and

(2) includes accurate information about the operator service provider so that the customer may contact the operator service provider by telephone for the purpose of contesting the charge or bringing an action against the operator service provider, or both. Upon request of the customer, the local service provider shall provide mailing address information about the operator service provider.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 155, L. 1999.

Part 12
Integrated Least-Cost Resource Planning and Acquisition Act

Part Cross-References

Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, ch. 20.

69-3-1201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Integrated Least-Cost Resource Planning and Acquisition Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1993.

69-3-1202. Policy — planning. (1) (a) It is the policy of the state to supervise, regulate, and control public utilities. To the extent that it is consistent with the policy and in order to benefit society, the state requires efficient utility operations, efficient use of utility services, and efficient rates.

(b) It is further the policy of the state to encourage utilities to acquire resources using a competitive solicitation process and in a manner that will help ensure a clean, healthful, safe, and economically productive environment.

(2) (a) The legislature finds that the commission may include in rates any costs that are associated with acquiring resources referred to in subsection (1) and that are consistent with this policy if the resources are actually used and useful for the convenience of the public.

(b) To advance this policy, the commission shall require long-range plans every 3 years from utilities that provide electric and natural gas service in a form and manner determined by the commission. The commission shall receive comments on the plans.

(3) This part does not constrain or limit the commission's existing statutory duties or responsibilities.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-1203. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abandonment costs" means the costs incurred for resources acquired and abandoned pursuant to a plan.

(2) "Consumer counsel" means the consumer counsel provided for in 5-15-201.

(3) "Demand-side management programs" means energy efficiency, energy conservation, load management, and demand response or any combination of these measures implemented by an electric utility.

(4) "Energy conservation" means the decrease in electricity requirements of specific customers during any selected time period, resulting in a reduction in end-use services.

(5) "Energy efficiency" means the decrease in electricity requirements of specific customers during any selected period with end-use services of those customers held constant.

(6) "Externalities" mean the impacts on society that are not directly borne by the producer in production and delivery activities, which due to imperfections in or the absence of markets are not accounted for in the producer's production and pricing decisions.

(7) "Plan" means an integrated least-cost resource plan submitted by a utility in accordance with this part and the rules adopted under this part.

(8) "Planning costs" means the costs of evaluating the future demand for services and of evaluating alternative methods of satisfying future demand.

(9) "Planning period" means the future period for which a utility develops its plan, and the period over which net present value of revenue requirements for resources is calculated. For purposes of this part, the planning period is a minimum of 20 years and begins from the date the utility files its plan with the commission.

(10) "Portfolio development costs" means the costs of preparing a resource in a portfolio for prompt and timely acquisition of the resource.

(11) "Public utility" means a public utility, as defined in 69-3-101, that provides electric or natural gas service. The term does not include municipal utilities.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-1204. Integrated least-cost plan. (1) (a) The commission shall adopt rules requiring a public utility to prepare and file a plan every 3 years for meeting the requirements of its customers in the most cost-effective manner consistent with the public utility's obligation to serve and in accordance with this part.

(b) The rules must prescribe the content and the time for filing a plan.

(2) (a) A plan must contain but is not limited to:

(i) an evaluation of the full range of cost-effective means for the public utility to meet the service requirements of its Montana customers, including conservation or similar improvements in the efficiency by which services are used and including demand-side management programs in accordance with 69-3-1209;

(ii) an annual electric demand and energy forecast developed pursuant to commission rules that includes energy and demand forecasts for each year within the planning period and historical data, as required by commission rule;

(iii) an assessment of planning reserve margins and contingency plans for the acquisition of additional resources developed pursuant to commission rules;

(iv) an assessment of the need for additional resources and the utility's plan for acquiring resources;

(v) the proposed process the utility intends to use to solicit bids for energy and capacity resources to be acquired through a competitive solicitation process in accordance with 69-3-1207; and

(vi) descriptions of at least two alternate scenarios that can be used to represent the costs and benefits from increasing amounts of renewable energy resources and demand-side management programs, based on rules developed by the commission.

(b) The utility shall fully explain, justify, and document the data, assumptions, methodologies, models, determinants, and any other inputs on which it relied to develop information required in subsection (2)(a).

(3) (a) The commission may adopt rules providing guidelines to be used in preparing a plan and identifying the criteria to be used in determining cost-effectiveness.

(b) The criteria may include externalities associated with the acquisition of a resource by a public utility.

(c) The rules must establish the minimum filing requirements for acceptance of a plan by the commission for further review. If a plan does not meet the minimum filing requirements, it must be returned to the public utility with a list of deficiencies. A corrected plan must be submitted within the time established by the commission.

(4) A plan filed with the commission by a utility, as defined in 75-20-104, must be provided to the department of environmental quality and the consumer counsel.

(5) The commission shall:

(a) review the plan;

(b) publish a copy of the plan;

(c) allow for a minimum of 60 days for the public to comment on the plan; and

(d) provide public meetings in accordance with 69-3-1205.

(6) (a) The commission may identify deficiencies in the plan, including:

(i) any concerns of the commission regarding the public utility's compliance with commission rules; and

(ii) ways to remedy the concerns.

(b) The commission may engage independent engineering, financial, and management consultants or advisory services to evaluate a public utility's plan. The consultants must have demonstrated knowledge and experience with resource procurement and resource portfolio management, modeling, risk management, and engineering practices. The commission shall charge a fee to the public utility to pay for the costs of consultants or advisory services. These costs are recoverable in rates.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 173, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-1205. Public comment — public meetings. (1) When developing a plan in accordance with this part and prior to submitting a plan to the commission, a public utility shall hold at least two public meetings in the utility's Montana service territory to ensure a plan best meets the diverse goals of shareholders, ratepayers, and society.

(2) After a plan is submitted, the commission shall conduct two public meetings for the purpose of receiving comment on a plan. The commission or the department of public service regulation may comment on the plan. A comment by the commission or the department may not be construed as preapproval by the commission of rate treatment for any proposed resource.

(3) The department of environmental quality:

(a) shall review a plan submitted to the commission and comment on the need for new resources, the alternatives evaluated to meet the need, the environmental implications of the resource choices, and other related issues that it considers important. The department shall coordinate and deliver all comments from other executive branch agencies.

(b) may use a plan in the development of studies for a specific energy facility for which an application for a certificate of compliance is submitted under Title 75, chapter 20.

(4) The consumer counsel shall review and may comment on a submitted plan.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 174, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

69-3-1206. Rate treatment. (1) The commission may include in a public utility's rates:

(a) the cost of resources acquired in accordance with a plan;

(b) demand-side management programs established and implemented in accordance with 69-3-1209;

(c) the cost-effective expenditures for improving the efficiency with which the public utility provides and its customers use utility services;

(d) the costs of complying with the planning requirements of this part; and

(e) the costs of complying with a competitive solicitation process conducted in accordance with 69-3-1207.

(2) The commission may adopt rules establishing criteria governing the extent of recovery of abandonment costs.

(3) The commission may not approve a bonus or adder in the cost of a new resource acquired after April 28, 2021, to provide additional compensation for costs such as environmental externalities unless the bonus or adder is necessary to compensate for a real and actual cost required by existing regulation or existing law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 449, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 2021.

69-3-1207. Competitive solicitation process — Montana consumer counsel role. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), a public utility that intends to seek approval by the commission pursuant to 69-8-421 for the acquisition, construction, or purchase of an electricity supply resource shall conduct a competitive solicitation process.

(b) A public utility may not prohibit a qualifying small power production facility as defined in 69-3-601 or another utility or supplier that owns an electricity supply resource or intends to construct an electricity supply resource from participating in a competitive solicitation process.

(c) A competitive solicitation process that is open to bids that would result in the ownership of an electricity supply resource by the public utility issuing the solicitation must include the use of a third-party administrator selected by the public utility to open, consider, and evaluate bids submitted pursuant to a solicitation.

(2) A public utility that plans to conduct a competitive solicitation process shall submit the following information to the commission:

(a) a description of the competitive solicitation process that the public utility will use and proof of compliance with subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), if applicable; and

(b) a complete draft of the proposal soliciting electricity supply resources, citing the need for resources.

(3) The commission may accept public comment on the information.

(4) (a) The Montana consumer counsel may request, select, and retain a person or organization to act as an independent monitor for a competitive solicitation process.

(b) The commission shall charge a fee to the public utility to pay for the costs of an independent monitor. These costs are recoverable in rates.

(c) The independent monitor may assist the Montana consumer counsel by:

(i) providing comments on the consistency of the competitive solicitation process with industry standards;

(ii) monitoring and observing the competitive solicitation process, paying particular attention to the public utility's evaluation of electricity supply resources that may result in utility ownership of the resource, to ensure that the utility conducts a fair and proper process in accordance with industry standards;

(iii) notifying the utility and the consumer counsel on a timely basis prior to the utility's selection of the resources of any discrepancies observed in the process and resolving any differences of opinion; and

(iv) preparing a closing report prior to the final selection of the resources regarding the consistency of the process, including selection and notification of electricity supply resources taking part in the solicitation process based on industry standards.

(5) This section does not apply to:

(a) a request for proposals or purchase by a public utility intended solely to meet the short-term operational needs of the utility for a period of less than 12 months; or

(b) an application made to the commission by a public utility to acquire, construct, or purchase an opportunity resource.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "opportunity resource" means an electricity supply resource necessary to meet a need demonstrated in a plan in accordance with 69-3-1204(2)(a)(iv) that is either new or existing and that remains unknown as to its availability for purchase until an opportunity to purchase arises.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 2019.**

69-3-1208. Resource planning — advisory committee. (1) A public utility shall maintain a broad-based advisory committee to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on technical, economic, and policy issues related to a utility's electricity system.

(2) The committee may advise the utility on demand-side management, portfolio planning, and management and procurement completed in accordance with this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 449, L. 2019.**

69-3-1209. Electric utility demand-side management programs. (1) The commission may establish energy savings and peak demand reduction goals for an electric utility, taking into account the utility's cost-effective demand-side management potential and the need for electricity resources.

(2) The commission shall permit electric utilities to implement cost-effective electricity demand-side management programs and conservation in accordance with 69-3-701 through 69-3-712 and this part to reduce the need for additional resources.

(3) Every 3 years, an electric utility shall submit a report to the commission describing the demand-side management programs and conservation implemented by the electric utility in the previous year. The report must document:

(a) program expenditures, including incentive payments;

(b) peak demand and energy savings impacts and the techniques used to estimate those impacts;

(c) avoided costs and the techniques used to estimate those costs;

(d) the estimated cost-effectiveness of the programs;

(e) the net economic benefits of the programs; and

(f) any other information required by the commission.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 449, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 2021.**

Part 13
Change in Customer's Telecommunications Carrier

69-3-1301. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to prohibit telecommunications carriers, including entities not otherwise regulated by the commission, from switching a customer's telecommunications services from one telecommunications carrier to another without the customer's consent and to prohibit charges for a product or service not requested by or provided to the customer from being placed on the customer's telephone bill.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 2003.**

69-3-1302. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Billing agent" means a telecommunications carrier that includes in a bill that it sends to a customer a charge for a product or service offered by a service provider.

(2) "Billing aggregator" means any entity, other than a service provider, that forwards the charge for a product or service offered by a service provider to a billing agent.

(3) "Customer" means a person who has purchased telecommunications services from a telecommunications carrier or who has been billed charges on a telephone bill for the services or products of another entity.

(4) "Electronic signature" has the meaning as provided in 30-18-102.

(5) "Local exchange company" means a telecommunications company that provides telephone lines or wireless service to members of the general public who are its customers.

(6) "Primary interexchange carrier" means the telecommunications carrier from which a customer chooses to purchase long-distance services.

(7) "Service provider" means any entity, other than the billing agent, that offers a product or service to a customer, the charge for which appears on the bill of a billing agent.

(8) (a) "Telecommunications carrier" or "carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services. An entity providing other products and services is considered a telecommunications carrier only to the extent that the entity is engaged in providing telecommunications services.

(b) The term does not mean aggregators of telecommunications services as defined in 47 U.S.C. 226.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 249, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 325, L. 2007.

69-3-1303. Prohibition — exceptions. (1) A telecommunications carrier may not request a change in a customer's primary interexchange carrier or local exchange company unless:

(a) the requesting carrier has obtained the customer's written or electronic signature on a form that contains clear and conspicuous disclosure of the customer's request for a change in telecommunications carrier;

(b) the customer affected by the change initiates the contact with the carrier in order to request the change;

(c) the carrier who has initiated the change has obtained the customer's verbal authorization as verified by an independent third party or by electronic means in accordance with rules prescribed by the commission; or

(d) the change in carrier is the result of a sale or transfer of a subscriber base from one carrier to another and the carrier that has acquired the subscriber base has notified the commission and customers affected by the change in accordance with rules prescribed by the commission.

(2) The documentation required in subsection (1):

(a) must include the written or electronic signature of the customer responsible for paying the charges on the account held by the telecommunications carrier; and

(b) may not be a part of any sweepstakes, contest, or similar promotional program.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1304. Rulemaking authority. The commission may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 1997.

69-3-1305. Unauthorized change in telecommunications carrier — liability — penalty for violation. (1) A telecommunications carrier who initiates an unauthorized change in the customer's telecommunications carrier in violation of 69-3-1303 is liable:

(a) to the customer for all intrastate long-distance charges, interstate long-distance charges, monthly service charges, carrier switching fees, and other relevant charges incurred by the customer during the period of the unauthorized change; and

(b) to the customer's original telecommunications carrier for all charges related to reinstating service to the customer.

(2) A telecommunications carrier or any other entity who purposely or knowingly initiates an unauthorized change of a customer's telecommunications carrier under 69-3-1303 or this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished as provided in 46-18-212.

(3) (a) If, after a hearing held pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the commission finds that any entity has initiated an unauthorized change of a customer's telecommunications carrier, the commission may impose for each change made in violation of 69-3-1303 a civil fine not to exceed $1,000 for each violation, which must be deposited in the general fund.

(b) If, after a hearing held pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the commission finds that an entity has, with a frequency to indicate a general business practice, initiated unauthorized changes of customers' telecommunications carriers, the commission may take any of the following actions:

(i) notify the secretary of state, who shall then suspend or revoke any license, registration, or other filing entitling that entity to transact business in this state;

(ii) prohibit any billing aggregator from billing charges on behalf of the carrier or other entity determined to have engaged in a pattern of violations;

(iii) prohibit a billing agent that bills directly for the carrier or other entity determined to have engaged in a pattern of violations from billing charges on behalf of that carrier or other entity;

(iv) revoke the registration of a service provider or billing aggregator; or

(v) limit the prohibitions under this subsection (3)(b) to a specific period of time. A prohibition under this subsection (3)(b) may be withdrawn upon a showing of good cause.

(4) The commission shall provide adequate time for a billing agent that is prohibited from billing on behalf of a carrier or other entity under this section to terminate a contractual agreement with that carrier or other entity.

(5) The remedies provided by this section are in addition to any other remedies, including injunctive relief, available by law.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 244, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1306 and 69-3-1307 reserved.

69-3-1308. Prohibitions on charges on bill — exceptions. (1) A telecommunications carrier, service provider, or other entity may not initiate charges to be placed on a customer's telecommunications bill unless the service or product has been requested by and provided to the customer. A customer request must be made in the following manner:

(a) by written authorization, in which the telecommunications carrier, service provider, or other entity has obtained a document signed by the customer containing a clear and conspicuous disclosure of the customer's authorization or order of the product or service; or

(b) by verbal authorization, in which the telecommunications carrier, service provider, or other entity has obtained the customer's verbal authorization as verified by an independent third party or by electronic means in accordance with commission rules.

(2) (a) The documentation provided for in subsection (1)(a) must be signed by the customer responsible for paying the charges on the telecommunications bill.

(b) The documentation provided for in subsection (1) may not be a part of a sweepstakes, contest, or similar promotional program.

(3) A customer is not liable for any charges submitted for billing on the local exchange company's telephone bill by another carrier, service provider, or entity for products or services that the customer did not authorize or that were not provided to the customer.

(4) The provisions of subsections (1) through (3) do not apply to a transaction between a customer and that customer's selected providers of local exchange or interexchange service, except upon a finding by the commission that services billed were neither requested nor received.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1309. Liability for unauthorized charges on telephone bill — penalty for violation. (1) If, after a hearing held pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the commission finds that any entity has initiated unauthorized charges to be placed on a customer's telephone bill for services or products not provided or authorized or that a billing aggregator has caused unauthorized charges to be forwarded to a billing agent for placement on a telephone bill, the commission may impose a civil fine not to exceed $1,000 for each violation. The fines must be deposited in the state general fund.

(2) If, after a hearing held pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, the commission finds that a carrier or service provider has, with a frequency to indicate a general business practice, initiated unauthorized charges to be placed on a customer's telephone bill for services or products not provided or authorized or that a billing aggregator has caused unauthorized charges to be forwarded to a billing agent for placement on a telephone bill, the commission may take any of the following actions:

(a) notify the secretary of state, who shall then suspend or revoke any license, registration, or other filing entitling that carrier or service provider to transact business in this state;

(b) prohibit any billing agent that bills directly on behalf of the service provider determined to have engaged in a pattern of violations from placing the service provider's unauthorized charges on a customer's telephone bill;

(c) prohibit a carrier or service provider determined to have engaged in a pattern of violations from initiating unauthorized charges to be placed on a customer's telephone bill;

(d) prohibit a billing aggregator from forwarding that entity's unauthorized charges to a billing agent;

(e) revoke the registration of the service provider or billing aggregator; or

(f) limit the prohibitions under this subsection (2) to a specific period of time. A prohibition under this subsection (2) may be withdrawn upon a showing of good cause.

(3) The commission shall provide adequate time for a billing agent that is prohibited from billing on behalf of a service provider under this section to terminate contractual agreements with that service provider.

(4) The remedies provided by this section are in addition to any other remedies, including injunctive relief, available by law.

(5) A carrier or service provider that purposely or knowingly initiates unauthorized charges to be placed on a customer's telephone bill for services or products not provided to or authorized by the customer or a billing aggregator that causes unauthorized charges to be forwarded to a billing agent for placement on a telephone bill is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished as provided in 46-18-212.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1310. Misrepresentation concerning product or service — violations — complaints. (1) An entity may not misrepresent its association or affiliation with a telephone carrier when soliciting, inducing, or otherwise implementing the customer's agreement to purchase the products or services of the entity and to have the charge for the product or service appear on the customer's telephone bill.

(2) If the commission finds that an entity is operating in violation of any provision of this section, the commission may:

(a) order the carrier or a billing agent that bills directly for that entity to terminate the billing and collection services for that entity. The commission shall provide adequate time for the billing agent to terminate contractual agreements with the entity. This section does not preclude a carrier or billing agent from taking action on its own to terminate billing and collection services.

(b) prohibit the entity's billing aggregator from forwarding any charges from an entity operating in violation of this section to a carrier or billing agent for placement on a customer's telephone bill.

(3) Failure by an entity to respond to commission requests for information related to an investigation of a possible violation of this section is grounds for the commission to:

(a) order the carrier, billing aggregator, or billing agent that bills directly for the entity to cease billing and collection services for the service provider; or

(b) prohibit a billing aggregator from forwarding charges to the billing agent to be placed on a customer's telephone bill.

(4) This section does not obligate a billing agent to provide billing and collection services to a billing aggregator or service provider.

(5) A telephone company has a right of indemnity against anyone who has provided it with false information as to the status of charges billed on behalf of a service provider.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1311. Registration requirements — prohibitions — revocation. (1) A service provider may not offer a product or service to a customer, the charge for which appears on the bill of a billing agent, unless the service provider is properly registered with the commission.

(2) A billing aggregator may not forward to a billing agent charges for a service or product offered by a service provider unless the billing aggregator is properly registered with the commission.

(3) A billing aggregator may not forward charges to a billing agent from a service provider who is required to be registered under this section and who is not properly registered under this section.

(4) A billing agent may not directly bill on behalf of a service provider that is not the billing agent if the service provider is not properly registered, if registration is required under this section.

(5) The commission shall provide a form for registration and establish the procedure for registering with the commission. A registration remains effective until revoked by the commission or surrendered by the service provider or billing aggregator.

(6) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the commission may revoke a registration.

(7) The commission may revoke the registration of a service provider that has:

(a) knowingly or repeatedly billed one or more customers for unauthorized service; or

(b) engaged in any other false or deceptive billing practices.

(8) The commission may revoke the registration of a billing aggregator that has:

(a) knowingly or repeatedly forwarded the charge for a service or product to a billing agent on behalf of a service provider that was required to be registered with the commission and that was not properly registered; or

(b) engaged in any other false or deceptive billing practices.

(9) Immediately following a revocation of registration under this section, the commission shall provide notice of the revocation to all telecommunications carriers and registered billing aggregators doing business in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1312 through 69-3-1314 reserved.

69-3-1315. Submission of list of entities served by billing aggregator required. Each billing aggregator doing business in Montana shall submit to the commission a list of service providers and other entities for which the billing aggregator provides billing services. The commission shall adopt rules that specify information that must be included with the list in order to enforce the provisions of this part. The list must include the name and address of a contact person for each entity.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

69-3-1316. Notice to attorney general. If the commission has reason to believe that any entity has violated any provision of the law for which a criminal penalty is provided or any law regarding fraud or consumer protection, the commission shall notify the attorney general.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 249, L. 2003.

Part 14
Natural Gas Utility Restructuring and Customer Choice Act

69-3-1401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Natural Gas Utility Restructuring and Customer Choice Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1997.

69-3-1402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Customer" means a natural gas customer or consumer of natural gas supply or natural gas transmission facilities, storage facilities, or distribution facilities.

(2) "Distribution facilities" means those facilities that are not transmission facilities:

(a) by and through which natural gas is received from a transmission services provider and transmitted to the customer; and

(b) operated by a distribution services provider.

(3) "Distribution services provider" means a person controlling or operating distribution facilities for distribution of natural gas to the public.

(4) "Natural gas production and gathering assets cost of service" means a return on invested capital and all costs associated with the acquisition, construction, administration, operation, and maintenance of a plant or equipment, minerals, and mineral rights owned or leased by a public utility and used for natural gas production and gathering.

(5) "Natural gas production and gathering resources" means plants or equipment, minerals, and mineral rights used to extract natural gas from the earth and to collect, purify, measure, regulate, compress, and transport natural gas from its place of production to its connection with a transmission facility.

(6) "Natural gas supplier" means a person, including aggregators, market aggregators, brokers, and marketers, licensed by the commission that is offering to sell natural gas to retail customers in the state of Montana.

(7) "Natural gas utility" means a utility regulated by the commission on May 2, 1997, that provides natural gas services to the public.

(8) "Open access" means that a natural gas utility has made its transmission facilities, storage facilities, or distribution facilities available to all natural gas suppliers, transmission services providers, distribution services providers, and customers on a nondiscriminatory and comparable basis.

(9) "Performance-based ratemaking" means those forms of regulation that include but are not limited to the use of revenue indexing, price indexing, ranges of authorized return, gas cost indexing, and innovative use of utility-related assets and activities, such as system sales of excess natural gas supplies, release of upstream pipeline capacity, and performance of billing services for other natural gas suppliers. A performance-based regulation may also include a mechanism for automatic annual adjustments of revenue to prices to reflect changes in any index adopted for the implementation of the performance-based form of regulation.

(10) "Storage facilities" means those facilities that are owned, controlled, or operated by a person offering storage service for natural gas and generally means any underground reservoir suitable for the storage of natural gas and the facilities used to inject and withdraw natural gas into and out of that underground reservoir.

(11) "Transition costs" means:

(a) a natural gas utility's net, verifiable production-related and gathering-related costs, including costs of capital, that become unrecoverable as a result of customer choice and open access. These costs include but are not limited to:

(i) regulatory assets and deferred charges that exist as a result of current regulatory practices and that may be accounted for up to the point in time that the commission issues a final order in a docket addressing transition costs, including all costs, expenses, and fees related to the issuance of transition bonds;

(ii) the above-market costs associated with existing gas supply commitments;

(iii) other natural gas utility investments rendered uneconomic as a result of implementation of customer choice and open access;

(iv) the costs associated with renegotiation or buyout of existing natural gas purchase contracts; and

(v) the costs associated with the issuance of any related transition bonds authorized by the commission pursuant to 69-3-1403.

(b) the costs of refinancing or retiring debt or equity capital of the natural gas utility and associated federal and state tax liabilities or other utility costs for which the use of transition bonds would benefit customers.

(12) "Transmission facilities" means those facilities owned, controlled, and operated by a transmission services provider that are used to transport natural gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a distribution facility, storage facility, or end-use customer.

(13) "Transmission services provider" means a person controlling or operating transmission facilities.

(14) "Universal system benefits charge" means a nonbypassable rate or charge to be imposed on a customer to pay the customer's share of universal system benefits program costs.

(15) "Universal system benefits programs" means public purpose programs for cost-effective local energy conservation, low-income energy bill discounts, low-income weatherization, and emergency low-income energy bill assistance.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 127, L. 2009.**

69-3-1403. Customer choice. (1) A natural gas utility may voluntarily offer its customers choice of natural gas supplier and provide open access to its transmission facilities, storage facilities, or distribution facilities.

(2) If a customer choice offering results in transition costs, the commission may allow those transition costs to be recovered in separate identifiable charges to customers. Upon commission approval, the natural gas utility must have the opportunity but not the obligation to finance the fixed transition costs and related financing costs using transition cost financing as provided for in 69-8-103 and 69-8-503.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1997.

69-3-1404. Functional separation — code of conduct — emergency services — customer protection. (1) Except as provided in 69-3-1413 through 69-3-1416, a natural gas utility that provides customer choice and open access on its system shall:

(a) functionally separate its natural gas production and gathering resources from its natural gas transmission, storage, and distribution services and remove natural gas production and gathering resources from the rate base;

(b) adopt and comply with commission-approved standards of conduct to be included in a tariff to govern its natural gas transmission, storage, and distribution services; and

(c) provide emergency natural gas supply and related services to the extent necessary to maintain the operational integrity of the transmission system as determined by the commission.

(2) The commission shall develop standards that protect consumers and natural gas suppliers from anticompetitive and abusive practices.

(3) This part does not reduce or otherwise change the authority of the commission to review the prudence of natural gas purchases made by a natural gas utility for its customers that do not have a choice or that have not made a choice of natural gas suppliers or have not been assigned a natural gas supplier.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 127, L. 2009.

69-3-1405. Licensing — procedures — commission rulemaking. (1) The commission shall license natural gas suppliers and enforce licensing provisions pursuant to this section.

(2) A natural gas supplier shall file an application with and obtain a license from the commission to sell natural gas to customers in the state of Montana.

(3) A licensee shall:

(a) provide copies of all license applications to the commission and to all distribution services providers; and

(b) update information and file annual reports.

(4) A license application becomes effective 30 days after filing with the commission, unless the commission rejects the application during that period. If the commission rejects a license application, the commission shall specify the reasons in writing and, if practical, shall identify alternative ways to overcome deficiencies.

(5) The commission shall promulgate rules requiring licensing information that identifies the licensee and ensures that the natural gas supply is provided as offered and is adequate in terms of quality, safety, and reliability.

(6) The commission may require proof of a licensees financial integrity and a demonstration of adequate firm deliverability to meet load requirements.

(7) Pursuant to its own investigation or upon the complaint of an affected party, the commission may institute a proceeding to revoke or suspend a license of a natural gas supplier for just cause.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1997.

69-3-1406. Reciprocity. (1) All natural gas suppliers are afforded the comparable opportunity to compete.

(2) A natural gas distribution services provider or its affiliates may not use another natural gas distribution services provider's facilities in the state of Montana to sell natural gas to customers in the state of Montana unless the natural gas distribution services provider or its affiliates offer customer choice and open access to their natural gas distribution facilities.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1997.

69-3-1407. Optional performance-based ratemaking for natural gas utilities — commission rulemaking. (1) The commission may, upon application and after giving notice and conducting a hearing as provided in 69-3-303, authorize any natural gas utility to implement an optional form of rate regulation using a performance-based ratemaking methodology.

(2) The commission may approve a performance-based ratemaking methodology if it finds that the methodology:

(a) preserves adequate service to all classes of customers, including transportation-only customers;

(b) does not unreasonably prejudice or disadvantage any class of natural gas utility users;

(c) provides incentives for improved performance by the natural gas utility in the natural gas utility's public duties;

(d) results in rates that are not excessive; and

(e) is in the public interest.

(3) The commission may, after giving notice and conducting a hearing as provided in 69-3-303, modify or discontinue a natural gas utility's performance-based ratemaking previously authorized under this section if the commission finds that:

(a) natural gas service to one or more classes of customers has deteriorated or will deteriorate;

(b) any class of natural gas utility customer is being unreasonably prejudiced or disadvantaged;

(c) the performance-based ratemaking is not providing or will not provide reasonable incentives for improved performance by a natural gas utility in the performance of its public duties;

(d) rates are excessive compared to a natural gas utility's cost of service;

(e) terms ordered by the commission in connection with the approval of a natural gas utility's implementation of performance-based ratemaking have been violated; and

(f) the performance-based form of regulation is not in the public interest.

(4) The commission shall promulgate rules for monitoring a natural gas utility that has implemented performance-based ratemaking to ensure that the natural gas utility is in compliance with the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 506, L. 1997.

69-3-1408. Universal system benefits programs — establishing nonbypassable rate — exemption. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), a natural gas utility shall implement, upon commission approval and subject to ongoing commission oversight and direction, a universal system benefits program.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), the commission shall establish a universal system benefits charge that natural gas transmission services providers or distribution services providers, or both, in the state of Montana shall charge to all end-use customers, taking into consideration the current level of expenditure by the natural gas utility, cost-effectiveness, and similar costs imposed in other states. The charge may be established and revised through a universal system benefits charge tracking procedure. The method of assessing the charge may not disproportionately burden a large transmission services provider's customers. Within the universal system benefits charge, beginning January 1, 2007, a natural gas utility's minimum annual funding requirement for low-income weatherization and low-income energy bill assistance is established at 0.42% of a natural gas utility's annual revenue for the previous year. A natural gas utility must receive credit for its internal programs or activities that qualify as universal system benefits programs.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), a natural gas utility shall file an annual report of its universal system benefits charges, programs, and program funding levels with the commission in a manner prescribed by the commission.

(4) A natural gas utility that serves 200 or fewer customers is exempt from the requirements of subsections (1) through (3).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 506, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 174, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 2015.

69-3-1409. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 506, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

69-3-1410 through 69-3-1412 reserved.

69-3-1413. Statement of purpose. The purpose of 69-3-1413 through 69-3-1416 is to establish procedures for a natural gas utility that has restructured pursuant to this part to acquire rate-based facilities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2009.

69-3-1414. Acquisition of rate-based facilities. A natural gas utility that provides its customers with a choice of natural gas suppliers pursuant to 69-3-1403 and that does not own natural gas production and gathering resources on April 1, 2009, may acquire those facilities and place them in the rate base as provided in 69-3-1413 through 69-3-1416.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 127, L. 2009.

69-3-1415. Application and approval of natural gas production and gathering resources. (1) A natural gas utility may apply to the commission for approval of a natural gas production and gathering resource that is not yet procured.

(2) (a) Within 45 days of the natural gas utility's submission of an application under subsection (1), the commission shall determine whether or not the application is adequate and in compliance with the commission's minimum filing requirements.

(b) If the commission determines that the application is inadequate, the commission shall, within 10 days of the determination, provide written notice to the natural gas utility of the deficiencies.

(3) The commission shall issue an order within 270 days of receipt of an adequate application for approval of an application to lease or acquire an equity interest in natural gas production and gathering resources.

(4) To facilitate timely consideration of an application, the commission may initiate proceedings to evaluate planning and procurement activities related to a potential resource procurement prior to the natural gas utility's submission of an application for approval.

(5) (a) The commission may approve or deny, in whole or in part, an application for approval of a natural gas production resource, a gathering resource, or both.

(b) The commission may consider all relevant information known up to the time that the administrative record in the proceeding is closed in the evaluation of an application for approval.

(c) A commission order granting approval of an application must find that the application is in whole or in part in the public interest.

(d) The commission order may include a provision for allowable natural gas production and gathering assets cost of service when the utility has filed an application for the lease or acquisition of an equity interest in natural gas production and gathering resources.

(e) The commission order may include other findings that the commission determines necessary.

(f) A commission order that denies approval must describe why the findings required in subsection (5)(c) could not be reached.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this part, if the commission has issued an order containing the findings required under subsection (5)(c), the commission may not subsequently disallow the recovery of costs related to the approved natural gas production and gathering resource based on contrary findings.

(7) Nothing in this section limits the commission's ability to, in any future rate proceeding, inquire into the manner in which the natural gas utility has managed, dispatched, operated, or maintained any resource or managed any natural gas supply purchase agreement as part of its overall resource portfolio. The commission may subsequently disallow rate recovery for the costs that result from the failure of a natural gas utility to reasonably manage, dispatch, operate, maintain, or administer natural gas production and gathering resources in a manner consistent with 69-3-1413 through 69-3-1416 and commission rules.

(8) By March 31, 2010, the commission shall adopt rules prescribing minimum filing requirements for applications filed pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 127, L. 2009.

69-3-1416. Use of natural gas production and gathering resources. (1) Natural gas production and gathering resources acquired by a natural gas utility pursuant to this part:

(a) must be used by the natural gas utility to serve and benefit customers that have not made a choice of natural gas suppliers within the natural gas utility's Montana service territory; and

(b) may not be removed from the rate base unless the commission finds that customers of the natural gas utility will not be adversely affected.

(2) Natural gas production and gathering assets cost of service may not be allocated to a customer being served by an alternative natural gas supplier.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 127, L. 2009.**

Part 15
Material Affiliate Transactions

69-3-1501. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Affiliate" means an entity closely connected or associated with a regulated energy utility.

(2) "Affiliate transaction" means a financial transaction between the utility operations of a regulated energy utility and an affiliate.

(3) "Material affiliate transaction" means an affiliate transaction that has a significant potential impact on the financial stability of a regulated energy utility, including but not limited to:

(a) dividend payments from a regulated energy utility to a corporate parent company if those payments would place the regulated energy utility's credit quality or property in jeopardy;

(b) intercompany loans or other extensions of credit or advances of working capital between a regulated energy utility and an affiliate if those activities would place the regulated energy utility's credit quality or property in jeopardy;

(c) the use of proceeds in issuing securities for which the assets of the regulated energy utility are pledged; or

(d) external borrowing by a regulated energy utility with a term greater than 120 days if the loan would place the regulated energy utility's credit quality or property in jeopardy.

(4) "Regulated energy utility" means a public utility with more than 100 customers that owns distribution facilities for the distribution of electricity or natural gas to the public and that is regulated by the commission pursuant to this title.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2005.**

69-3-1502. Commission approval of material affiliate transactions — rulemaking authority. (1) In addition to the commission's existing regulatory authority under this title and except as provided in 69-3-1503 and subsection (4) of this section, a regulated energy utility may not enter into a material affiliate transaction without the commission's review and approval.

(2) The commission shall approve or deny the material affiliate transaction. Upon a showing of good cause, the commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed material affiliate transaction within 45 days of an official notification by the regulated energy utility to the commission that the utility is intending to enter into a material affiliate transaction.

(3) If a material affiliate transaction involves dividend payments from a regulated energy utility to a corporate parent company, the commission may limit those dividend payments if the payments would place the regulated energy utility's credit quality or property in jeopardy.

(4) A regulated energy utility may request an exemption from any of the provisions in this section, and the commission may grant the exemption on a case-by-case basis upon a showing of good cause and after notice and an opportunity for hearing.

(5) The commission may promulgate rules that implement the provisions of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 220, L. 2005.**

69-3-1503. Exemption. A regulated energy utility that has entered into a stipulation agreement with the commission regarding the separation of its nonregulated utility business is exempt from the provisions of this part as long as the stipulation agreement remains effective under a federal bankruptcy court order.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 220, L. 2005.**

Part 16
Montana Energy Impact Assistance Act

69-3-1601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Energy Impact Assistance Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 2019.**

69-3-1602. Purpose — legislative intent. (1) The legislature finds that it is imperative to:

(a) implement an alternative financing mechanism to address the retirement and replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities; and

(b) authorize the public service commission to review and approve one or more financing orders, if it deems approval appropriate and in the interest of ratepayers.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) it is in the interest of the state and its citizens to encourage and facilitate the use of securitized ratepayer-backed bonds as a method for enabling electric utilities to lower the cost of financing the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities under certain conditions and to empower the public service commission to review a securitization mechanism to determine whether it is consistent with the public interest and worthy of approval; and

(b) the state should authorize the issuance of low-cost securitized ratepayer-backed bonds. The proceeds of these bonds must be used solely to:

(i) lower long-term costs paid by electric utility customers by reducing financing costs of certain retired or replaced electric infrastructure or facilities; and

(ii) make available capital investment for modernized infrastructure and facilities and services, including least-cost electric generating facilities and other supply-side and demand-side resources.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1603. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Ancillary agreement" means any bond, insurance policy, letter of credit, reserve account, surety bond, interest rate lock or swap arrangement, liquidity or credit support arrangement, or other financial arrangement entered into in connection with Montana energy impact assistance bonds that is designed to promote the credit quality and marketability of Montana energy impact assistance bonds or to mitigate the risk of an increase in interest rates.

(2) "Assignee" means any person to which an interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is sold, assigned, transferred, or conveyed, other than as security, and any successor to or subsequent assignee of a person.

(3) "Bondholder" means any holder or owner of Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(4) "Customer" means a person who takes electric service from an electric utility for consumption of electricity in Montana.

(5) "Electric infrastructure or facility" means:

(a) any portion of an electrical generating facility owned by an electric utility used to serve customers in Montana; or

(b) any infrastructure or facility involved in the transmission or delivery of electricity to Montana customers; or

(c) associated cleanup or remediation of an electrical generating facility.

(6) "Electric utility" means any electric utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, including the electric utility's successors or assignees.

(7) "Financing costs" means, if approved by the commission in a financing order, costs to issue, service, repay, or refinance Montana energy impact assistance bonds, whether incurred or paid on issuance of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds or over the life of the bonds.

(8) "Financing order" means an order issued by the commission in accordance with 69-3-1606 that grants, in whole or in part, an application filed pursuant to 69-3-1605 authorizing the issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds in one or more series, the imposition, charging, and collection of Montana energy impact assistance charges, and the creation of Montana energy impact assistance property.

(9) "Financing party" means holders of Montana energy impact assistance bonds and trustees, collateral agents, any party under an ancillary agreement, or any other person acting for the benefit of Montana energy impact assistance bondholders.

(10) "Least-cost generation resource" means an incremental supply-side or demand-side resource that when included in an electric utility's generation portfolio produces the lowest cost among alternative resources, considering both short-term and long-term costs and assessing the likelihood of changes in future fuel prices and future environmental requirements, among other considerations.

(11) "Montana energy impact assistance bonds" means low-cost corporate securities, including but not limited to senior secured bonds, debentures, notes, certificates of participation, certificates of beneficial interest, certificates of ownership, or other evidences of indebtedness or ownership that have a scheduled maturity of no longer than 30 years and a final legal maturity date that is not later than 32 years from the issue date, that are rated AA or Aa2 or better by a major independent credit rating agency at the time of issuance, and that are issued by an electric utility or an assignee pursuant to a financing order.

(12) "Montana energy impact assistance charges" means charges in amounts determined appropriate by the commission and authorized by the commission in a financing order in order to provide a source of revenue solely to repay, finance, or refinance Montana energy impact assistance costs and financing costs that are imposed on and are a part of all customer bills and are collected in full by the electric utility that the financing order applies to, its successors or assignees, or a collection agent through a nonbypassable charge that is separate and apart from the electric utility's base rates.

(13) (a) "Montana energy impact assistance costs" means:

(i) at the option of and upon petition by an electric utility, and as approved by the commission pursuant to 69-3-1606, the pretax costs that the electric utility has incurred or will incur that are caused by, associated with, or remain as a result of the retirement or replacement of electric generating infrastructure or facilities located in Montana; and

(ii) pretax costs that an electric utility has previously incurred related to the closure or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities occurring before July 1, 2019.

(b) Costs do not include any monetary penalty, fine, or forfeiture assessed against an electric utility by a government agency or court under a federal or state environmental statute, rule, or regulation.

(14) "Montana energy impact assistance property" means:

(a) all rights and interests of an electric utility or successor or assignee of an electric utility under a financing order for the right to impose, bill, collect, and receive Montana energy impact assistance charges as it is authorized to do solely under the financing order and to obtain periodic adjustments to the Montana energy impact assistance charges as provided in the financing order; and

(b) all revenue, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds arising from the rights and interests specified in subsection (14)(a), regardless of whether the revenue, collections, claims, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds are imposed, billed, received, collected, or maintained together with or commingled with other revenue, collections, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds.

(15) "Montana energy impact assistance revenue" means revenue, receipts, collections, payments, money, claims, or other proceeds arising from Montana energy impact assistance property.

(16) "Nonbypassable" means that the payment of a Montana energy impact assistance charge required to repay bonds and related costs may not be avoided by any retail customer located within an electric utility service area.

(17) "Pretax costs" means costs approved by the commission, including but not limited to:

(a) unrecovered capitalized costs of retired or replaced electric infrastructure or facilities;

(b) costs of decommissioning and restoring the site of the electric infrastructure or facility;

(c) other applicable capital and operating costs, accrued carrying charges, deferred expenses, reductions for applicable insurance and salvage proceeds; and

(d) the costs of retiring any existing indebtedness, fees, costs, and expenses to modify existing debt agreements or for waivers or consents related to existing debt agreements.

(18) "Successor" means, with respect to any legal entity, another legal entity that succeeds by operation of law to the rights and obligations of the first legal entity pursuant to any bankruptcy, reorganization, restructuring, other insolvency proceeding, merger, acquisition, consolidation, or sale or transfer of assets, whether any of these occur due to restructuring of the electric power industry or otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1604. Commission rulemaking. (1) The commission shall adopt rules that guide the Montana energy impact assistance bond and financing order processes in accordance with this part.

(2) The rules must establish:

(a) guidelines that are consistent with the objectives in 69-3-1602 for:

(i) meeting Montana's electricity supply resource needs; and

(ii) managing the portfolio of electricity supply resources.

(b) minimum filing requirements for applications filed pursuant to this part; and

(c) penalties for failure to comply with 69-3-1616.

(3) The commission may adopt any other rules necessary to:

(a) govern its proceedings and procedures for the filing, investigation, and hearing of applications submitted in accordance with this part; and

(b) implement the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1605. Financing orders — application requirements. (1) An electric utility may file an application with the commission for approval to issue Montana energy impact assistance bonds in one or more series, impose, charge, and collect Montana energy impact assistance charges, and create Montana energy impact assistance property related to the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities in Montana.

(2) (a) Within 120 days of an electric utility's submission of an application, the commission shall determine whether the application is adequate and in compliance with the commission's minimum filing requirements established in rules adopted pursuant to 69-3-1604. If the commission determines that the application is inadequate, it shall explain the deficiencies.

(b) The commission shall take final action to approve, deny, or modify any application for a financing order as described in subsection (1) in a final order issued within 270 days of receiving an application.

(3) In addition to any other information required by the commission, an application for a financing order must include:

(a) an estimated schedule for the retirement or replacement;

(b) a specification of the effects of the proposed Montana energy impact assistance bond financing on the retirement or replacement;

(c) a proposed methodology for allocating the revenue requirement for the Montana energy impact assistance charge among customer classes;

(d) a description of the nonbypassable Montana energy impact assistance charge required to be paid by customers within the electric utility's service area for recovery of Montana energy impact assistance costs;

(e) an estimate of the net present value of electric utility customer savings expected to result if the financing order is issued as determined by a net present value comparison between the costs to customers that are expected to result from the financing of the undepreciated balances of electric infrastructure or facilities with Montana energy impact assistance bonds and the costs that would result from the application of traditional electric utility financing mechanisms to the same undepreciated balances; and

(f) one or more alternative financing scenarios in addition to the preferred scenario contained in the application.

(4) The commission shall publish a notice of the proposed change on its website and conforming to the requirements of 2-4-601 in one or more newspapers published and of general circulation within the service area of the electric utility. The notice must announce a public hearing on the application, and the commission shall hold a public hearing.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1606. Issuance of financing orders. (1) After notice and hearing in accordance with 69-3-1605(4), the commission may issue a financing order if the commission finds:

(a) the Montana energy impact assistance costs described in the application related to the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities are reasonable;

(b) the proposed issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds and the imposition and collection of Montana energy impact assistance charges:

(i) are just and reasonable;

(ii) are consistent with the public interest;

(iii) constitute a prudent and reasonable mechanism for the financing of Montana energy impact assistance costs described in the application; and

(iv) will provide substantial, tangible, and quantifiable benefits to customers that are greater than the benefits that would have been achieved absent the issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds; and

(c) the proposed structuring, marketing, and pricing of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds will:

(i) significantly lower overall costs to customers or significantly mitigate rate impacts to customers relative to traditional methods of financing; and

(ii) achieve the maximum net present value of customer savings, as determined by the commission in a financing order, consistent with market conditions at the time of sale and the terms of the financing order.

(2) (a) The financing order must:

(i) determine the maximum amount of Montana energy impact assistance costs that may be financed from proceeds of Montana energy impact assistance bonds authorized to be issued by the financing order;

(ii) describe the proposed customer billing mechanism for Montana energy impact assistance charges and include a finding that the mechanism is just and reasonable;

(iii) describe the financing costs that may be recovered through Montana energy impact assistance charges and the period over which the costs may be recovered, which must end no earlier than the date of final legal maturity of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds;

(iv) describe the Montana energy impact assistance property that is created and that may be used to pay, and secure the payment of, the Montana energy impact assistance bonds and financing costs authorized in the financing order;

(v) authorize the electric utility to finance Montana energy impact assistance costs through the issuance of one or more series of Montana energy impact assistance bonds. An electric utility is not required to secure a separate financing order for each issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds or for each scheduled phase of the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities approved in the financing order;

(vi) include a formula-based adjustment mechanism for making expeditious periodic adjustments in the Montana energy impact assistance charges that customers are required to pay pursuant to the financing order and for making any adjustments that are necessary to correct for any overcollection or undercollection of the Montana energy impact assistance charges in past periods or to otherwise guarantee the timely payment of Montana energy impact assistance bonds and financing costs and other required amounts and charges payable in connection with Montana energy impact assistance bonds;

(vii) include any additional findings or conclusions determined to be appropriate by the commission and in the best interest of consumers;

(viii) specify the degree of flexibility afforded to the electric utility in establishing the terms and conditions of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds, including but not limited to repayment schedules, expected interest rates, and other financing costs;

(ix) specify the timing of actions required by the order so that:

(A) the Montana energy impact assistance bonds are issued as soon as feasible following the issuance of the financing order, independent of the schedule of closing and decommissioning of the electric infrastructure or facility; and

(B) the applicant utility files to reduce its rates as required in subsection (5) simultaneously with the inception of the Montana energy impact assistance charges and independently of the schedule of closing and decommissioning of the electric infrastructure or facility; and

(x) specify a future ratemaking process to reconcile any difference between the projected pretax costs included in the amount financed by Montana energy impact assistance bonds and the final actual pretax costs incurred by the utility in retiring or replacing the electric infrastructure or facility.

(b) In a financing order, the commission may include any conditions that are necessary to promote the public interest and may grant relief that is different from that which was requested in the application, as long as the relief is within the scope of the matters addressed in the commission's notice of the application.

(3) For the purposes of a financing order, financing costs include:

(a) principal, interest, and redemption premiums that are payable on Montana energy impact assistance bonds;

(b) any payment required under an ancillary agreement and any amount required to fund or replenish a reserve account or other accounts established under the terms of any indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing document pertaining to the bonds;

(c) any other demonstrable costs related to issuing, supporting, repaying, refunding, and servicing the bonds, including but not limited to servicing fees, accounting and auditing fees, trustee fees, legal fees, consulting fees, financial advisor fees, administrative fees, placement and underwriting fees, capitalized interest, rating agency fees, stock exchange listing and compliance fees, security registration fees, filing fees, information technology programming costs, and any other demonstrable costs necessary to otherwise ensure and guarantee the timely payment of the bonds or other amounts or charges payable in connection with the bonds;

(d) except as provided in 69-3-308, any taxes and license fees imposed on the revenue generated from the collection of a Montana energy impact assistance charge;

(e) except as provided in 69-3-308, any state and local taxes, including franchise, sales and use, and other taxes or similar charges, including but not limited to regulatory assessment fees, whether paid, payable, or accrued; and

(f) any costs incurred by the commission to hire and compensate additional temporary staff needed to perform its responsibilities under this part and in accordance with 69-3-1612(4) engage specialized counsel and expert consultants experienced in securitized electric utility ratepayer-backed bond financing similar to Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(4) A financing order issued to an electric utility must permit and may require the creation of an electric utility's Montana energy impact assistance property pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(iv) be conditioned on, and simultaneous with, the sale or other transfer of the Montana energy impact assistance property to an assignee and the pledge of the Montana energy impact assistance property to secure Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(5) A financing order must require the applicant utility, simultaneously with the inception of the collection of Montana energy impact assistance charges, to reduce its rates through a reduction in base rates.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1607. Effect of financing order. (1) A financing order remains in effect until the Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued as authorized by the financing order have been paid in full and all financing costs related to the bonds have been paid in full.

(2) A financing order remains in effect and unabated notwithstanding the bankruptcy, reorganization, or insolvency of an electric utility to which the financing order applies or any affiliate of the electric utility or successor entity or assignee.

(3) A financing order is irrevocable, and the commission may not reduce, impair, postpone, or terminate Montana energy impact assistance charges approved in a financing order or impair Montana energy impact assistance property or the collection or recovery of Montana energy impact assistance revenue.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), on its own motion or at the request of an electric utility or any other person, the commission may commence a proceeding and issue a subsequent financing order that provides for refinancing, retiring, or refunding Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued pursuant to the original financing order if:

(a) the commission makes all of the findings specified in 69-3-1606(1) with respect to the subsequent financing order; and

(b) the modification provided for in the subsequent financing order does not impair in any way the covenants and terms of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds to be refinanced, retired, or refunded.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1608. Montana energy impact assistance bonds. (1) The proceeds of Montana energy impact assistance bonds must be used to recover, finance, or refinance commission-approved Montana energy impact assistance costs and financing costs and other costs that are secured by or payable from Montana energy impact assistance property.

(2) If certificates of participation or ownership are issued, references to principal, interest, or premium refer to comparable amounts under those certificates.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1609 and 69-3-1610 reserved.

69-3-1611. Effect on commission jurisdiction. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the commission issues a financing order to an electric utility, the commission may not, in exercising its powers and carrying out its duties pursuant to Title 69:

(a) consider the Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued pursuant to the financing order to be debt of the electric utility other than for income tax purposes unless it is necessary to consider the Montana energy impact assistance bonds to be debt to achieve consistency with prevailing utility debt rating methodologies;

(b) consider the Montana energy impact assistance charges paid under the financing order to be revenue of the electric utility;

(c) except as otherwise provided for in this part or for the purposes of establishing the electric utility's base rates, consider the Montana energy impact assistance costs or financing costs specified in the financing order to be the regulated costs or assets of the electric utility; or

(d) determine any prudent action taken by an electric utility that is consistent with the financing order to be unjust or unreasonable.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1):

(a) affects the authority of the commission to apply or modify any billing mechanism designed to recover Montana energy impact assistance charges;

(b) prevents or precludes the commission from investigating the compliance of an electric utility with the terms and conditions of a financing order and requiring compliance with the financing order; or

(c) prevents or precludes the commission from imposing regulatory sanctions against an electric utility for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a financing order or the requirements of this part.

(3) The commission may not refuse to allow the recovery of any costs associated with the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities by an electric utility solely because the electric utility has elected to finance those activities through a financing mechanism other than Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(4) The commission shall authorize mitigating remedies to offset an electric utility's book losses, as determined necessary by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1612. Electric utility customer protection. (1) Because the commission's approval of a financing order is irrevocable, typically addresses very large amounts of financing undertaken, and is not reviewable by future commissions, in addition to its other powers and duties, the commission shall perform comprehensive due diligence in its evaluation of an application for a financing order and shall oversee the process used to structure, market, and price Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(2) In addition to any other authority, the commission:

(a) may attach conditions to the approval of a financing order as the commission finds appropriate to maximize the financial benefits or minimize the financial risks of the transaction to customers and to directly impacted Montana workers and communities;

(b) may specify details of the process used to structure, market, and price Montana energy impact assistance bonds, including the selection of the underwriter or underwriters;

(c) shall review and determine the reasonableness of all proposed upfront and ongoing financing costs; and

(d) shall ensure that the structuring, marketing, and pricing of Montana energy impact assistance bonds maximizes net present value customer savings, consistent with market conditions and the terms of the financing order.

(3) (a) Within 120 days after the issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds, the applicant electric utility shall file with the commission information regarding the actual upfront

and ongoing financing costs of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds. The commission shall review the prudence of the electric utility's action to determine whether the costs resulted in the lowest overall costs that were reasonably consistent with both market conditions at the time of the issuance and the terms of the financing order.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), if the commission determines that the electric utility's actions were not prudent or were inconsistent with the financing order, the commission may apply any remedies that are available.

(c) The commission may not apply any remedy that has the effect, directly or indirectly, of impairing the security for the Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(4) (a) In performing its responsibilities in accordance with this part, the commission may engage outside consultants and counsel experienced in securitized electric utility ratepayer-backed bond financing similar to Montana energy impact assistance bonds, and the expenses associated with the engagement may be included as financing costs and included in the Montana energy impact assistance charge. The costs are not an obligation of the state and are assigned solely to the transaction.

(b) Expenses incurred by the commission to hire and compensate additional temporary staff needed to perform its responsibilities under this part must be included as financing costs and included in the Montana energy impact assistance charge.

(5) If a utility's application for a financing order is denied or withdrawn for any reason and Montana energy impact assistance bonds are not issued, the commission's costs of retaining expert consultants, as authorized by subsection (4), must be paid by the applicant utility and are considered by the commission as a prudent deferred expense for recovery in the utility's future rates.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1613. Judicial review of financing orders. (1) A financing order is a final order of the commission.

(2) A party aggrieved by the issuance of a financing order may petition for suspension and review of the financing order in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County. In the case of any petition for suspension and review, the court shall proceed to hear and determine the action as expeditiously as practicable and give the action precedence over other matters not accorded similar precedence by law.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1614 and 69-3-1615 reserved.

69-3-1616. Electric utilities — duties — nonbypassable charges. (1) The electric bills of an electric utility that obtains a financing order and causes Montana energy impact assistance bonds to be issued must:

(a) explicitly reflect that a portion of the charges on the bill represents Montana energy impact assistance charges approved in a financing order and, if Montana energy impact assistance property has been transferred to an assignee, must include a statement that the assignee is the owner of the rights to Montana energy impact assistance charges and that the electric utility or other entity, if applicable, is acting as a collection agent or servicer for the assignee;

(b) include the Montana energy impact assistance charge on each customer's bill as a separate line item titled "energy impact assistance charge" and may include both the rate and the amount of the charge on each bill; and

(c) explain to customers in an annual filing with the commission the rate impact that financing of the retirement or replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities has on customer rates.

(2) Montana energy impact assistance charges are nonbypassable and payment must be made by all existing and future customers receiving service from the electric utility or its successors or assignees under commission-approved rate schedules or under special contracts.

(3) The failure of an electric utility to comply with this section does not invalidate, impair, or affect any financing order, Montana energy impact assistance property, Montana energy impact assistance charge, or Montana energy impact assistance bonds, but does subject the electric utility to penalties under applicable commission rules.

(4) An electric utility that obtains a financing order and causes Montana energy impact assistance bonds to be issued must demonstrate in an annual filing with the commission that Montana energy impact assistance revenues are applied solely to the repayment of Montana energy impact assistance bonds and other financing costs.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 442, L. 2019.**

69-3-1617. Montana energy impact assistance property. (1) Montana energy impact assistance property described in a financing order is an existing present property right or interest in a property right even though the imposition and collection of Montana energy impact assistance charges depends on the electric utility collecting Montana energy impact assistance charges and on future electricity consumption. The property right or interest exists regardless of whether the revenues or proceeds arising from the Montana energy impact assistance property have been billed, have accrued, or have been collected.

(2) Montana energy impact assistance property described in a financing order exists until all Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued pursuant to the financing order are paid in full and all financing costs and other costs of the Montana energy impact assistance bonds have been recovered in full.

(3) All or any portion of Montana energy impact assistance property described in a financing order issued to an electric utility may be transferred, sold, conveyed, or assigned to a successor or assignee that is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the electric utility and is created for the limited purpose of acquiring, owning, or administering Montana energy impact assistance property or issuing Montana energy impact assistance bonds as authorized by the financing order. All or any portion of Montana energy impact assistance property may be pledged to secure Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued pursuant to a financing order, amounts payable to financing parties and to counterparties under any ancillary agreements, and other financing costs. Each transfer, sale, conveyance, assignment, or pledge by an electric utility or an affiliate of an electric utility is a transaction in the ordinary course of business.

(4) If an electric utility defaults on any required payment of charges arising from Montana energy impact assistance property described in a financing order, a court, upon application by an interested party and without limiting any other remedies available to the applying party, shall order the sequestration and payment of the revenues arising from the Montana energy impact assistance property to the financing parties. Any financing order remains in full force and effect notwithstanding any reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to the electric utility or its successors or assignees.

(5) The interest of a transferee, purchaser, acquirer, assignee, or pledgee in Montana energy impact assistance property specified in a financing order issued to an electric utility, and in the revenue and collections arising from that property, is not subject to setoff, counterclaim, surcharge, or defense by the electric utility or any other person or in connection with the reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency of the electric utility or any other entity.

(6) A successor to an electric utility, whether pursuant to any reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency proceeding or whether pursuant to any merger or acquisition, sale, other business combination, or transfer by operation of law, as a result of electric utility restructuring or otherwise, must perform and satisfy all obligations of, and has the same duties and rights under a financing order as the electric utility to which the financing order applies and shall perform the duties and exercise the rights in the same manner and to the same extent as the electric utility, including collecting and paying to any person entitled to receive revenues, collections, payments, or proceeds of Montana energy impact assistance property described in the financing order.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 442, L. 2019.**

69-3-1618. Montana energy impact assistance bonds — legal investments — not public debt — pledge of the state. (1) Banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, executors, administrators, guardians, trustees, and other fiduciaries may legally invest any money within their control in Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(2) Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued as authorized by a financing order are not debt of or a pledge of the faith and credit or taxing power of the state, any agency of the state, or any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state. Holders of

Montana energy impact assistance bonds may not have taxes levied by the state or by any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state for the payment of the principal or interest on Montana energy impact assistance bonds. The issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds does not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or a political subdivision of the state to levy any tax or make any appropriation for payment of principal or interest on the Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(3) The Montana energy impact assistance bonds issued under this part are exempt from the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, but copies of all prospectus and disclosure documents must be deposited for public inspection with the state securities commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1619. Assignee or financing party not subject to commission regulation. An assignee or financing party that is not already regulated by the commission does not become subject to commission regulation solely as a result of engaging in any transaction authorized by or described in this part.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1620. Effect of other laws. (1) If any provision of this part conflicts with any other law regarding the attachment, assignment, perfection, effect of perfection, or priority of any security interest in or transfer of Montana energy impact assistance property, the provisions of this part govern.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) precludes a utility for which the commission has initially issued a financing order from applying to the commission for:

(a) a subsequent financing order amending the financing order as authorized by 69-3-1607(4); or

(b) approval of the issuance of Montana energy impact assistance bonds to refund all or a portion of an outstanding series of Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1621. Security interests in Montana energy impact assistance property. (1) The creation, perfection, and enforcement of any security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property to secure the repayment of the principal of and interest on Montana energy impact assistance bonds, amounts payable under any ancillary agreement, and other financing costs are governed by this section.

(2) The following apply to a security interest:

(a) the description or indication of Montana energy impact assistance property in a transfer or security agreement and a financing statement is sufficient only if the description or indication refers to this part and the financing order creating the Montana energy impact assistance property;

(b) a security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is a continuously perfected security interest and has priority over any other lien, created by operation of law or otherwise, which may subsequently attach to the Montana energy impact assistance property unless the holder of the security interest has agreed in writing otherwise in accordance with Title 30, chapter 9A, part 3;

(c) the priority of a security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is not affected by the commingling of Montana energy impact assistance property or Montana energy impact assistance revenue with other money. An assignee, bondholder, or financing party has a perfected security interest in the amount of all Montana energy impact assistance property or Montana energy impact assistance revenue that is pledged for the payment of Montana energy impact assistance bonds even if the Montana energy impact assistance property or Montana energy impact assistance revenue is deposited in a cash or deposit account of the electric utility in which the Montana energy impact assistance revenue is commingled with other money, and any other security interest that applies to the other money does not apply to the Montana energy impact assistance revenue.

(d) Neither a subsequent order of the commission amending a financing order as authorized by 69-3-1607, nor application of an adjustment mechanism as authorized by 69-3-1606(2)(a)(vi), affects the validity, perfection, or priority of a security interest in or transfer of Montana energy impact assistance property.

(2) (a) A security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is created, valid, and binding as soon as:

(i) the financing order that describes the Montana energy impact assistance property is issued;

(ii) a security agreement is executed and delivered; and

(iii) value is received for the Montana energy impact assistance bonds.

(b) Once a security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is created, the security interest attaches without any physical delivery of collateral or any other act. The lien of the security interest is valid, binding, and perfected under Title 30, chapter 9A, part 3, against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the person granting the security interest, regardless of whether the parties have notice of the lien, upon the filing of a financing statement with the secretary of state.

(3) A valid and enforceable security interest in Montana energy impact assistance property is perfected only when it has attached and when a financing order has been filed with the secretary of state in accordance with procedures that the secretary of state may establish. The financing order must name the pledgor of the Montana energy impact assistance property as debtor and identify the property.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1622. Sales of Montana energy impact assistance property. (1) (a) A sale, assignment, or transfer of Montana energy impact assistance property is an absolute transfer and true sale of, and not a pledge of or secured transaction relating to, the seller's right, title, and interest in, to, and under the Montana energy impact assistance property if the documents governing the transaction expressly state that the transaction is a sale or other absolute transfer. A transfer of an interest in Montana energy impact assistance property may be created when:

(i) the financing order creating and describing the Montana energy impact assistance property is effective;

(ii) the documents evidencing the transfer of the Montana energy impact assistance property are executed and delivered to the assignee; and

(iii) value is received.

(b) A transfer of an interest in Montana energy impact assistance property must be filed with the secretary of state and perfected under Title 30, chapter 9A, part 3, against all third persons, including any judicial lien or other lien creditors or any claims of the seller or creditors of the seller, other than creditors holding a prior security interest, ownership interest, or assignment in the Montana energy impact assistance property previously perfected in accordance with 69-3-1621 or this subsection (1).

(2) The characterization of a sale, assignment, or transfer as an absolute transfer and true sale, and the corresponding characterization of the property interest of the assignee is not affected or impaired by:

(a) commingling of Montana energy impact assistance revenue with other money;

(b) the retention by the seller of:

(i) a partial or residual interest, including an equity interest, in the Montana energy impact assistance property, whether direct or indirect, or whether subordinate or otherwise; or

(ii) the right to recover costs associated with taxes, franchise fees, or license fees imposed on the collection of Montana energy impact assistance revenue;

(c) any recourse that the purchaser may have against the seller;

(d) any indemnification rights, obligations, or repurchase rights made or provided by the seller;

(e) an obligation of the seller to collect Montana energy impact assistance revenues on behalf of an assignee;

(f) the treatment of the sale, assignment, or transfer for tax, financial reporting, or other purposes;

(g) any subsequent financing order amending a financing order as authorized by 69-3-1607; or

(h) any application of an adjustment mechanism as authorized by 69-3-1606(2)(a)(vi).

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 442, L. 2019.

69-3-1623. Use of amounts received by electric utility as consideration for its transfer of Montana energy impact assistance property. (1) Subject to commission approval as required by subsection (2), an electric utility shall expend or invest amounts the electric utility receives as consideration for its transfer of Montana energy impact assistance property to reduce its Montana energy impact costs and may invest or expand the remaining funds as follows:

(a) to build and own generation infrastructure and facilities that are least-cost generation resources, taking into consideration regulatory risk, current and future fuel cost and risk, and fuel delivery infrastructure costs, the addition of which is not inconsistent with the electric utility's resource procurement or integrated least-cost resource plan;

(b) to build, own, or purchase electricity storage capacity to the extent that the investment is either required by law or rule, is the least-cost, or is needed to increase the amount of least-cost generation resources that the electric utility is able to add to its generation portfolio;

(c) to invest in network modernization to the extent that the modernization is necessary to increase the amount of least-cost generation resources able to be added to the electric utility's system; and

(d) to replace any damaged or destroyed electric infrastructure or facilities involved in the transmission or delivery of electricity to Montana customers.

(2) In considering any application for approval of the use of Montana energy impact assistance bond proceeds, the commission shall:

(a) use its regular process for consideration of applications; and

(b) fully consider new energy technologies and future environmental regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 442, L. 2019.**

Parts 17 through 19 reserved

Part 20
Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development (Repealed)

69-3-2001. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1001, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-3-2002. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1002, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2002 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-3-2003. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1003, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2003 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 361, L. 2013.

69-3-2004. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1004, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2004 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 19, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 2013.

69-3-2005. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1005, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2005 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 277, L. 2009.

69-3-2006. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1006, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2006 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 2013.

69-3-2007. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1007, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2007 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 246, L. 2007.

69-3-2008. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 457, L. 2005; Sec. 69-8-1008, MCA 2005; redes. 69-3-2008 by Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-3-2009. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 2013.**

69-3-2010. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2017.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 2013.**

CHAPTER 4
UTILITY LINES AND FACILITIES

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Chapter Cross-References

Assessment of public utilities, 15-8-406, 15-23-101.
Assessment of railroads and other franchises, 15-8-407.
Report of property by utilities to Department of Revenue, 15-23-301.
Montana Telecommunications Act, Title 69, ch. 3, part 8.
Eminent domain — utility lines as public use, 70-30-102.
Vacation of plats — utility easements, 76-3-305.
Permissible easements for utilities, 76-6-203.
Reduction of slash along right-of-way of utility lines, 76-13-407.

Part 1
General Provisions

69-4-101. Use of public right-of-way for utility lines and facilities. A telegraph, telephone, electric light, or electric power line corporation or public body or any other person owning or operating such is hereby authorized to install its respective plants and appliances necessary for service and to supply and distribute electricity for lighting, heating, power, and other purposes and to that end, to construct such telegraph, telephone, electric light, or electric power lines, from point to point, along and upon any of the public roads, streets, and highways in the state, by the erection of necessary fixtures, including posts, piers, and abutments necessary for the wires. The same shall be so constructed as not to incommode or endanger the public in the use of said roads, streets, or highways, and nothing herein shall be so construed as to restrict the powers of city or town councils.

History: En. Sec. 1000, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1905; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4400, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6645, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6645, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 70-301.

Cross-References

Local government provisions not to modify this section, 7-3-4302.
Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.
Eminent domain — utility lines as public use, 70-30-102.

69-4-102. Underground power lines in new service areas. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "new service area" means any subdivision or group of newly constructed or newly installed dwellings (including mobile homes) or commercial buildings which, when occupied, will generate at least five contracts for the supply of electricity; and

(b) "lines used for the distribution of electricity" means all the distribution lines in the new service area through which electricity passes before it is utilized by the consumer and the consumer's dwelling or place of business.

(2) A firm, agency, or person exercising the rights conferred by 69-4-101 shall install underground all lines used for the distribution of electricity in a new service area when technically and economically feasible.

(3) The commission may make rules to implement this section.

History: En. 70-304 by Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-304.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Utility lines and facilities — definitions, 69-4-303, 69-4-401, 69-4-501.

69-4-103. Authorization to remove vegetation or other materials from utility right-of-way — notice — prohibition. (1) A utility, as defined in 69-5-102, may remove or alter any vegetation or other material within a utility right-of-way or easement if the utility:

(a) determines that the removal or alteration is reasonably necessary for the safe repair, use, operation, or maintenance of the utility's electricity or gas transmission or distribution facilities; and

(b) complies with the notice provisions of subsection (2).

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a utility shall provide an affected property owner with written notice at least 15 days prior to the removal or alteration of vegetation or other materials when the action is part of a preventative maintenance program for the utility's easements and rights-of-way. The written notice must include contact information for the utility where the affected property owner can receive information regarding the utility's right to remove or alter any vegetation or material within a utility right-of-way or easement.

(b) A utility is not required to give notice to an affected property owner when the removal or alteration of the vegetation or other materials is undertaken to alleviate an imminent threat to the safe and reliable operation of the utility's electricity or gas transmission or distribution facilities.

(3) An affected property owner may not deny access to or interfere with the activities of a utility within a utility's right-of-way or easement to remove vegetation as provided in this section.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to expand a utility's right-of-way or easement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 2009.

Part 2
Construction Standards for Utility Lines and Facilities

69-4-201. Application of national electrical safety code. (1) The national electrical safety code standards govern all construction involving wires for power, heat, light, telephone, telegraph, or signal transmission or reception. Except as provided in 69-4-203, electrical construction of overhead and underground electrical supply and communication lines in the state must be in conformity with the rules set forth in the national electrical safety code approved by the American national standards institute as published by the institute of electrical and electronic engineers. The national electrical safety code provides construction standards and must be enforced by the commission. Proof of compliance with the requirements of an applicable national electrical safety code standard establishes due care in the defense of a negligence claim alleging a violation of that standard.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules to implement and enforce this part. The commission shall adopt by rule standards for electrical safety. The standards must be based on standards published in the most recent edition of the national electrical safety code.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2701, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2701, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-125; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Electricians and electrical safety, Title 37, ch. 68.

Building construction standards — electrical installations, Title 50, ch. 60, part 6.

69-4-202. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1951; Sec. 24-142, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 194, L. 1939; Sec. 24-143, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 194, L. 1939; Sec. 24-144, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 24-142, 24-143, 24-144; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-4-203. Scope of law. Section 69-4-201 does not apply to:

(1) interstate railroad electrification construction except where the wires of the railroad cross or are crossed by wires belonging to others; or

(2) any electrical construction of any person using the construction for power wires if:

(a) the construction and wires and the power plant furnishing electricity to the wires are wholly owned by this person and the electricity conducted is produced and used solely by this person on the person's own premises and not sold or delivered to any other person off the person's premises;

(b) the wires or construction are not over or across any highway or public place or the property of others; and

(c) these wires have a potential of less than 450 volts between any phases.

History: En. Secs. 16, 18, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-140(part), 24-141; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1993, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-4-204. Regulation by local government. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of cities and towns in the state in conflict with the national electrical safety code are repealed. No ordinance in conflict with any provisions of the national electrical safety code may be enacted in any city or town in the state, and any such ordinance is void.

History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2711, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2711, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-135; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 1979.**

69-4-205. Violations. Every corporation or joint-stock company or individual which violates 69-4-201 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2709, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2709, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-133; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
Penalty for misdemeanor, 46-18-212.

69-4-206 through 69-4-210 reserved.

69-4-211. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2677, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2677, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-101.**

69-4-212. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2678, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2678, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 24-102.**

69-4-213. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2679, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2679, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-103.**

69-4-214. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2680, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2680, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-104.**

69-4-215. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2681, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2681, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-105.**

69-4-216. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2682, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2682, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-106.**

69-4-217. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2683, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2683, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 137, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 24-107.**

69-4-218. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2684, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2684, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-108.**

69-4-219. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2685, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2685, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-109.**

69-4-220. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2686, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2686, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-110.**

69-4-221. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2687, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2687, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-111.**

69-4-222. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2688, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2688, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-112.**

69-4-223. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2689, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2689, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-113.**

69-4-224. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2690, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2690, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-114.

69-4-225. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2691, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2691, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-115.

69-4-226. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2692, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2692, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-116.

69-4-227. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2693, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2693, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-117.

69-4-228. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2694, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-118.

69-4-229. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2695, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2695, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-119.

69-4-230. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2696, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2696, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-120.

69-4-231. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2697, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2697, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-121.

69-4-232. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2698, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2698, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-122.

69-4-233. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2699, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2699, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-123.

69-4-234. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2700, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2700, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-124.

69-4-235. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2702, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2702, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 137, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 45, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 24-126.

69-4-236. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2703, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-127.

69-4-237. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2704, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2704, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-128.

69-4-238. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2705, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2705, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-129.

69-4-239. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2706, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2706, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-130.

69-4-240. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2707, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2707, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-131.

69-4-241. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 171, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 2708, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 2708, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-132.

Part 3
Underground Conversion of Utilities

Part Cross-References

Where wires may run — special improvement districts, 7-12-4102.
Power to require placement of utilities underground, 7-12-4132.
Revegetation of rights-of-way and disturbed areas, 7-22-2152.
Highway construction — relocation of utility easements, 60-4-103.
Permissible easements for utilities, 76-6-203.

69-4-301. Short title. This part shall be known and cited as the "Underground Conversion of Utilities Law".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-601.

69-4-302. Statement of findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that in many areas of the state, landowners, cities, towns, counties, rural electric cooperatives, and public utilities desire to convert existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground locations by means of special improvement district proceedings.

(2) The legislature hereby declares that a public purpose will be served by providing a procedure to accomplish such conversion and that it is in the public interest to provide for such conversion by proceedings taken pursuant to this part, whether such areas be within the limits of a city or town or within a county.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-602.

Cross-References

Special improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12, parts 21 and 41.

69-4-303. Definitions. As used in this part, the following words and phrases and any variations thereof shall have the following meaning:

(1) "Communication service" means the transmission of intelligence by electrical means, including but not limited to telephone, telegraph, messenger-call, clock, police, fire alarm, and traffic control circuits or the transmission of standard television or radio signals.

(2) "Convert" or "conversion" means the removal of all or any part of any existing overhead electric or communications facilities and the replacement thereof with underground electric or communication facilities constructed at the same or different locations.

(3) "Electric or communication facilities" means any works or improvements used or useful in providing electric or communication service, including but not limited to poles, supports, tunnels, manholes, vaults, conduits, pipes, wires, conductors, guys, stubs, platforms, crossarms, braces, transformers, insulators, cutouts, switches, capacitors, meters, communication circuits, appliances, attachments, and appurtenances.

(4) "Electrical service" means the distribution of electricity for heat, light, or power.

(5) "Governing body" means the board of county commissioners or city council, as may be appropriate, depending on whether the special improvement district is located in a county or within a city or town.

(6) "Ordinance" means resolution where the governing body acts by resolution and vice versa.

(7) "Overhead electric or communication facilities" means electric or communication facilities located, in whole or in part, above the surface of the ground.

(8) "Public utility" means any public or private person, corporation, or cooperative that provides electric or communication service to the public by means of electric or communication facilities and shall include any special improvement district that provides electric or communication service to the public by means of electric or communication facilities.

(9) "Underground electric or communication facilities" means electric or communication facilities located, in whole or in part, beneath the surface of the ground.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-603(part).

Cross-References

Alternative forms of local government, Title 7, ch. 3.
Utility lines and facilities — definitions, 69-4-401, 69-4-501.

69-4-304. Exclusion for high-voltage transmission lines. Electric facilities do not include any facilities used or intended to be used for the transmission of electrical energy at nominal voltages in excess of 25,000 volts.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-603(part); amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

69-4-305. Effect on authority of public service commission. Nothing contained in this part shall vest any jurisdiction over any public utility in the governing body. The public service commission shall retain all jurisdiction now or hereafter conferred upon it by law.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-633; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-4-306 through 69-4-310 reserved.

69-4-311. Authorization to create special improvement districts. (1) The governing body of a county is authorized and empowered to create special improvement districts under Title 7, chapter 12, part 21, and this part, within the unincorporated portion of the county. The governing body of a city or town is authorized and empowered to create special improvement districts under Title 7, chapter 12, parts 41 and 42, and this part, within its territorial limits. The special improvement districts must provide for the conversion of existing overhead electrical and communication facilities to underground locations and the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any other electric or communication facilities that may be incidental to the conversion.

(2) A special improvement district must include an area having a frontage of not less than 1,000 feet upon a public street, road, highway, or utilities easement along which overhead electric or communication facilities are located.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-604; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Special improvement districts, Title 7, ch. 12, parts 21 and 41.

69-4-312. Procedure to initiate creation of district — resolution for feasibility study. (1) A governing body, on its own initiative or upon a petition signed by at least 60% of the property owners owning at least 60% of the assessable land of a proposed district requesting the creation of a special improvement district, as provided for in this part, may pass a resolution at a regular or special meeting, declaring that it finds that the special improvement district is in the public interest. The governing body shall make a finding that the formation of the special improvement district, for the purposes set out in this part, will promote the public convenience, necessity, and welfare.

(2) The resolution must state that the costs and expenses will be levied and assessed upon the property benefited and further request that each public utility serving the area by overhead electric or communication facilities shall, within 120 days after the receipt of the resolution, make a study of the cost of conversion of its facilities in the area to underground service. The report of the study must be provided to the governing body and made available for inspection in the office of the governing body and each public utility. The governing body may not pass a resolution of intention to create a special improvement district until it has received the report. The resolution of the governing body must require that each public utility be provided with the name and address of the owner of each parcel or lot within the proposed improvement district, if known, and if not known, the description of the property and other matters as may be required by the public utilities in order to perform the work involved in the cost study. The resolution must further state the area in square feet of each lot or parcel within the proposed conversion service area.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-606; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

69-4-313. Cost and feasibility report. (1) The public utility report shall set forth an estimate of the total underground conversion costs and shall also indicate the costs of underground conversion of facilities of the public utility located within the boundaries of the various parcels or lots then receiving service. The report shall also contain the public utility's recommendations concerning the feasibility of the project for the district proposed, insofar as the physical characteristics of the district are concerned. The report shall make recommendations by the public utility concerning inclusion or exclusion of areas within the district or immediately adjacent to the district.

(2) The governing body shall give careful consideration to the public utility's recommendations concerning feasibility, recognizing their expertise in this area, and may amend the boundaries of the proposed improvement district; provided, that the costs and feasibility report of the public utility contains a cost figure on the district as amended, or it may request a new cost and feasibility report from the public utility concerned on the basis of the

amended district. Should a delay result in a significant increase of the estimated conversion costs, new hearings shall be held on the creation of the district. In the event an increase of 10% or less results from delay, only the hearing on the assessments need be held again.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-607.

69-4-314. Determination of conversion costs. In determining the conversion costs included in the cost and feasibility report required by 69-4-313, the public utility is entitled to amounts sufficient to repay it for the following, as computed and reflected by the uniform system of accounts approved by the Montana public service commission, federal communications commission, or federal power commission or if the public utility is not subject to regulation by any of the above governmental agencies, by the public utility's system of accounts then in use and in accordance with standard accounting procedures of the public utility:

(1) the original costs less depreciation taken of the existing overhead electric and communication facilities to be removed;

(2) the estimated costs of removing the overhead electric and communication facilities less the salvage value of the facilities removed;

(3) if the estimated cost of constructing new underground facilities exceeds the estimated cost of constructing new aerial facilities, then the cost difference between the two;

(4) the cost of obtaining new easements when technical considerations make it reasonably necessary to utilize easements for the underground facilities different from those used for above ground facilities or where the preexisting easements are insufficient for the underground facilities.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 429, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 70-626.

69-4-315. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-608.

69-4-316. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-609.

69-4-317. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-610; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 526, L. 1983.

69-4-318. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: (1)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 429, L. 1971; Sec. 70-611, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 429, L. 1971; Sec. 70-612, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-611, 70-612(part).

69-4-319. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-612(part).

69-4-320. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-612(part).

69-4-321. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-613.

69-4-322. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-614.

69-4-323. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-605.

69-4-324. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-615.

69-4-325. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-616; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 526, L. 1983.

69-4-326. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-617.

69-4-327. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-618.

69-4-328. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.

History: (1)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 429, L. 1971; Sec. 70-619, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 429, L. 1971; Sec. 70-620, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 70-619, 70-620.

69-4-329. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-623.**

69-4-330. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-621.**

69-4-331. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-622.**

69-4-332. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.
History: **En. Secs. 24, 25, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-624, 70-625(part); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 500, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 129, Ch. 370, L. 1987.**

69-4-333. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-625(part).**

69-4-334 through 69-4-350 reserved.

69-4-351. Maintenance and construction of converted facilities. The public utility shall have the duty to maintain, repair, and replace all underground facilities installed pursuant to this part. There shall be no competitive bidding as to the construction of the converted facilities since existing facilities are owned, maintained, and operated by the public utility and the continuity of service of the utility is essential, both of which make construction work by third persons impracticable. Therefore, the public utility concerned shall be responsible for the accomplishment of all construction work and may contract out such of the construction work as it deems desirable.
History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-627(part).**

69-4-352. Title to converted facilities. Title to the converted facilities shall be at all times solely and exclusively in the public utility involved, as the public is only purchasing the intangible benefits which come from converted facilities; that is, the removal of the overhead facilities and replacement by underground facilities.
History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-627(part).**

69-4-353. Conversion of facilities on public property — notice to landowners. (1) Upon completion of the conversion of the overhead electric or communication facilities on public lands and right-of-way to underground, the public utility shall file a verified statement of the costs of the conversion with the governing body.

(2) The governing body shall mail to each landowner and purchaser of property under contract for deed a notice stating that:

(a) service from the underground facilities is available;

(b) the landowner has 60 days after the date of the mailing of the notice to convert all overhead electric or communication facilities providing service to any structure or improvement located on the landowner's lot or parcel to underground service facilities; and

(c) after the 60-day period following the date of the mailing of the notice, the governing body will order the public utility to disconnect and remove all overhead electric and communication facilities providing service to any structure or improvement within the area.
History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-628; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 526, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1994, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References
Notice to purchaser of property under contract for deed, 70-20-115.

69-4-354. Conversion of facilities on private property. (1) Any conversion of electric or communication service facilities, including service connections, located on a privately owned lot or parcel shall be made, at the expense of the landowner, by the public utility owning the facility. The conversion shall be made in accordance with applicable safety rules, codes, regulations, tariffs, or ordinances. The public utility shall not be required to convert service lines on property, other than public lands and right-of-way, until the landowner furnishes to the public utility a permit or easement authorizing the public utility and its employees, agents, and contractors to enter upon real property of the landowner for the purpose of performing conversion work thereon.

(2) Upon completion of the conversion of overhead electric or communication service facilities on privately owned lots and parcels within a district, the public utility shall file with

the governing body a verified statement of the costs of the conversion of such service facilities of each landowner in the district. Promptly thereafter, the governing body shall mail to each landowner a copy of such verified statement, which shall be due and payable within 30 days or as otherwise provided by the public utility.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-629.

Cross-References

Easements, Title 70, ch. 17, part 1.

69-4-355. Procedure upon failure to effect conversion on private property. If the owner of any structure or improvement served from the overhead electric or communication service facilities within an underground assessment district does not grant the utility a permit or easement referred to in 69-4-354 or if an owner fails to convert to underground service facilities within 60 days after the mailing to the owner of the notice provided by 69-4-353, the governing body shall order the public utility to complete the conversion and to disconnect and remove all overhead facilities, including service facilities, providing service to the structure or improvement.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-630; amd. Sec. 1995, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-4-356. Payment of public utility. (1) Upon completion of the conversion contemplated by this part, the public utility shall present the governing body with its verified bill for conversion costs as computed pursuant to 69-4-314, but based upon the actual cost of constructing the underground facility rather than the estimated cost of the facility. In the event the conversion costs are less than the estimated conversion costs, each assessed owner within the improvement district shall receive the benefit, prorated in such form and at such time or times as the governing body may determine. The bill of the public utility shall be paid within 30 days by the governing body from the improvement district funds or such other source as is properly designated by the governing body.

(2) In determining the actual cost of constructing the underground facility, the public utility shall use its standard accounting procedures, such as the uniform system of accounts as defined by the federal communications commission, federal power commission, or Montana public service commission and as is in use at the time of the conversion by the public utility involved.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-631.

69-4-357. Prohibition on reinstallation of overhead facilities. Once removed, no overhead electric or communication facilities shall be installed in a special improvement district for conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities, except as authorized by this part.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-632.

69-4-358. Postponement of conversion until certain actions occur. If a special improvement district is established pursuant to this part, the public utility involved shall not be required to commence conversion until the ordinance, the assessment roll, and the issuance of bonds have become final and until no civil action has been filed or if civil action has been filed, until the decision of the court upon the action has become final and is not subject to further appeal.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 429, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-635.

Part 4
Relocation of Overhead Utility Lines

Part Cross-References

Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.
Eminent domain — public uses enumerated, 70-30-102.

69-4-401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural improvement" includes, without limitation, sprinkler irrigation systems.

(2) "Overhead utility line" means a facility for the transmission or distribution of electricity or telephone messages along wires or cables suspended above the ground between single or double poles and their respective anchors.

History: En. 24-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 24-201.

Cross-References

Utility lines and facilities — definitions, 69-4-303, 69-4-501.

69-4-402. Petition for relocation of overhead line. An owner of agricultural land across which an overhead utility line has been constructed may petition the district court for an order for relocation of the line for the purpose of installing an agricultural improvement. The petition shall set forth the nature of the proposed agricultural improvement, the increase in productivity of the land anticipated to result from the improvement, and a feasible alternative route, across other land to be provided by the petitioner at no cost to the owner of the overhead utility line.

History: En. 24-202 by Sec. 2, Ch. 123, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 24-202.

Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.

69-4-403. Hearing and order. The district court shall, upon notice to the owner of the overhead utility line, hear evidence bearing upon the matters presented in the petition. If the evidence establishes a substantial improvement in agricultural productivity and the feasibility of the relocated route, the court shall grant or modify and grant, as modified, the petition and order the owner of the line to relocate the line.

History: En. 24-203 by Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 24-203.

69-4-404. Costs of relocation. The costs of relocating an overhead utility line as ordered under 69-4-403 must be paid by the owner of the land.

History: En. 24-204 by Sec. 4, Ch. 123, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 24-204; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1993.

Part 5
Excavations Near Underground Facilities

69-4-501. Definitions. The following definitions apply to this part:

(1) "Agricultural locate request" means a request for a locate and mark that is requested based on the perimeter boundary of an agricultural field:

(a) by a property owner or excavator prior to agricultural activity; or

(b) by a property owner or excavator prior to conducting soil probing or testing.

(2) (a) "Business day" means any day beginning at midnight and ending 24 hours later, other than Saturday, Sunday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

(b) When a holiday listed in subsection (2)(a) occurs on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is not considered a business day. When a holiday listed in subsection (2)(a) occurs on a Sunday, the following Monday is not considered a business day.

(3) "Civil penalty" means a penalty levied by the department in accordance with 69-4-524 and 69-4-525.

(4) "Council" means the underground facility protection advisory council provided for in 69-4-520.

(5) "Damage" or "damages" means any impact upon or removal of support from an underground facility as a result of excavation or demolition that, according to the operating practices of the underground facility owner, would necessitate the repair of the facility.

(6) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in 2-15-1701.

(7) "Designated service area" means a geographic area defined using state and county boundaries or further defined by the members of a notification center in operation on July 1, 2017. There may not be more than two designated service areas in Montana.

(8) "Emergency excavation" means an excavation in response to an emergency locate request that is necessary to:

(a) alleviate a condition that constitutes a clear and present danger to life or property; or

(b) repair a customer outage involving a previously installed utility-owned facility.

(9) "Emergency locate request" means a request for a locate and mark that is requested for:

(a) a condition that constitutes a clear and present danger to life or property; or

(b) a customer outage for which repairs on a previously installed utility-owned facility are required.

(10) "Engineering locate request" means a request for a locate and mark to identify underground facilities for planning and design purposes.

(11) "Event" means damages to an underground facility, if:

(a) the underground facility is not a jurisdictional pipeline; and

(b) the underground facility owner determines the damages are not an incident.

(12) (a) "Excavation" means an operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means or use of any tools, equipment, or explosives. The term includes but is not limited to grading, trenching, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, and cable or pipe plowing and driving.

(b) Excavation does not include:

(i) surface road grading maintenance or road or ditch maintenance that does not change the original road or ditch grade or flow line;

(ii) plowing, cultivating, planting, harvesting, or similar agricultural activities in areas cultivated:

(A) within the last 10 years, unless the activities disturb the soil to a depth of 18 inches or more; or

(B) within the last 14 months, to a depth greater than 18 inches, unless the activities disturb the soil to a depth of more than 24 inches;

(iii) gardening by homeowners or occupants in a previously established garden area unless the gardening disturbs the soil to a depth of 12 inches or more; or

(iv) landscaping by homeowners or occupants unless using mechanized equipment or disturbing soil to a depth of 12 inches or more.

(13) "Excavator" means a person conducting the excavation activities defined in subsection (12).

(14) "Identified but unlocatable underground facility" means an underground facility that has been identified but cannot be located with reasonable accuracy.

(15) "Incident" means:

(a) notwithstanding 69-4-529(6), unless the underground facility is owned by the excavator, a violation of the provisions of 69-4-502 or 69-4-503 by an excavator that, at a single location on a single day, results in damage to an underground facility; or

(b) a violation of the provisions of 69-4-503(3) by an underground facility owner that, at a single location on a single day, results in damage to an underground facility.

(16) "Jurisdictional pipeline" means a pipeline subject to regulation by the U.S. department of transportation pipeline and hazardous materials safety administration in accordance with 49 CFR 190-199, the Montana public service commission, or both.

(17) "Locatable underground facility" means an underground facility that can be field-located and field-marked with reasonable accuracy.

(18) "Locate" means the use of specialized equipment to identify the location of underground facilities or the actual location of underground facilities identified by the use of specialized equipment.

(19) "Mark" means the use of stakes, paint, or other clearly identifiable material to show the field location or absence of underground facilities, in accordance with the current color code standard of the American public works association. Marking must include identification letters indicating the specific type of underground facility and the width of the facility if it is greater than 6 inches.

(20) "Notification center" means an entity whose membership is open to and is contracting with underground facility owners with underground facilities within a notification center's designated service area.

(21) "Notify", "notice", or "notification" means the completed delivery of information to a person. The delivery of information includes but is not limited to the use of electronic data transfer.

(22) "Outgoing locate request" means an electronic or other document transmitted from a notification center to all member underground facility owners affected by a request for a locate.

(23) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, joint venture, corporation, association, municipality, governmental unit, department, or agency and includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative of the listed entities.

(24) "Positive response" means notification through an electronic system provided by a notification center that is available to underground facility owners and excavators and is used for communicating and documenting the status of a request for a locate.

(25) "Property owner" means a person owning real property in Montana, its agents, and employees. The term does not include the owner of an easement.

(26) "Reasonably accurate" means location within 18 inches of the outside lateral dimensions of both sides of an underground facility.

(27) "Request for a locate" means the process by which an excavator communicates with a notification center a request for underground facilities to be located and marked in an area where an excavation is planned. A request for a locate that is not an agricultural locate request and is not within city limits or within an area of an authority as defined in 75-6-304 may not exceed 2 miles long by 1,000 feet wide. A request for a locate that is not an agricultural locate request and is within city limits or within an area of an authority as defined in 75-6-304 may not exceed 2,000 feet long by 300 feet wide.

(28) "Third party" means a person who is not an excavator or an underground facility owner.

(29) (a) "Underground facility" means a facility buried or placed below ground for use in connection with the storage or conveyance of water, sewage, electronic, telephonic or telegraphic communications, cablevision, fiber optics, electrical energy, oil, gas, or other substances. The term includes but is not limited to pipes, sewers, conduits, cables, valves, lines, wires, manholes, and attachments to the listed items.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) shallow underground water systems designed to irrigate lawns, gardens, or other landscaping;

(ii) privately owned water and sewer lines from private property extending into public rights-of-way to interconnect with public water and sewer; or

(iii) an underground facility used solely to furnish services or commodities to real property, if no part of the underground facility is located in a public street, alley, or right-of-way dedicated to the public use.

(30) "Underground facility owner" means a person owning, controlling, or having the responsibility to maintain an underground facility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 544, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Utility lines and facilities — definitions, 69-4-303, 69-4-401.

69-4-502. Information to be sought before excavation — notification — exceptions. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2), an excavator may not make or begin an excavation without first obtaining information concerning the possible location of an underground facility from each underground facility owner having the right to bury underground facilities that is a member of a notification center pursuant to subsection (3).

(b) Information concerning the possible location of underground facilities in accordance with subsection (1)(a) is obtained when:

(i) underground facilities are located and marked in accordance with 69-4-503; or

(ii) underground facility owners notified by a notification center respond through the notification center that their underground facilities are located and marked, or that locating or marking is not necessary, and the excavator receives a positive response that locates and marks are either complete or unneeded.

(2) (a) A registered land surveyor or a person under the supervision of a registered land surveyor may hand dig for shallow survey monuments at a depth of 12 inches or less below the road surface of a highway or at the intersection of the center lines of public streets.

(b) The registered land surveyor, prior to hand digging, shall obtain proper approval from the appropriate governing authority regarding safety and pavement repair and, when appropriate, shall reference the monument upon exposure.

(c) The governing authority is not liable for any damages caused or suffered by the registered land surveyor or any person under the supervision of the registered land surveyor.

(d) The registered land surveyor is liable for damages incurred regarding facility destruction.

(e) An underground facility owner is not liable for any damages suffered by the registered land surveyor or any person under the control of the registered land surveyor.

(3) An underground facility owner must be a member of a notification center.

(4) (a) Beginning October 1, 2017, an underground facility owner shall pay an annual fee pursuant to 69-4-522(2)(c) to the department.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2017, to facilitate the collection of annual fees and to assist with the proper assessment of civil penalties, a notification center that serves underground facilities located in Montana shall annually, on a date determined by the department, provide the department with:

(i) a list of all its underground facility owners who are members;

(ii) a list of the outgoing locate requests for each underground facility owner and the requests for a locate and mark from each excavator over the past 12-month period; and

(iii) a list of all incident reports received over the past 12-month period.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4802, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4803, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4802, 32-4803(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

Cross-References

County Clerk and Recorder, Title 7, ch. 4, part 26.

Professional land surveyors, Title 37, ch. 67.

69-4-503. Notification — locating and marking. (1) Before beginning an excavation, the excavator shall notify, through a notification center, all owners of underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation. Except as provided in subsection (9), notifications are limited to excavation work intended to commence within 10 days and completed within 30 days of the notification.

(2) An excavator shall provide adequate information to the owners of underground facilities in order to locate and mark the location of underground facilities.

(a) Adequate information must allow the person completing the locate to determine the area where the proposed excavation will occur. The information may include but is not limited to marking the path of the proposed excavation with white paint, marking the path of the proposed excavation with white flagging, or other clear marking that allows a person to determine the path of the proposed excavation.

(b) If the person completing the locate is unable to determine the path of the proposed excavation based on markings or other communications with the excavator, the excavator shall meet with the person completing the locate at the site where the excavation is proposed.

(3) After an excavator has notified the appropriate notification center of a proposed excavation, an owner of an underground facility shall:

(a) except as provided in subsection (3)(b) and in accordance with subsection (5), locate and mark the location within 2 business days;

(b) locate and mark the location within 5 business days or within 5 business days of a date agreed to after a meeting between the person conducting the locate and the excavator at the site where the excavation is proposed, if the locate is required for an engineering locate request; or

(c) respond as soon as practicable if the excavator notifies the notification center that an emergency exists.

(4) (a) After an underground facility owner locates and marks the location of underground facilities, the excavator shall determine if weather, time, or other factors may have affected location marks, warranting relocation of the facilities.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (9), if excavation has not occurred within 30 days of the location and marking being completed, the excavator shall request that the underground facility be located and marked again before excavating.

(c) (i) If an excavation has not occurred at a site within 30 days of the locate and mark being completed on two occasions and an excavator makes a third request for locate, the excavator is responsible for costs associated with the subsequent location and marking of the underground facility.

(ii) If an excavator disputes the costs required in subsection (4)(c)(i), the excavator has the burden of proof or must demonstrate circumstances beyond the excavator's control delayed the excavation.

(5) Upon receipt of the notice provided for in this section, the underground facility owner shall provide the excavator with reasonably accurate information as to the owner's locatable underground facilities by surface locating and marking the location of the facilities. If there are identified but unlocatable underground facilities, the underground facility owner shall provide the excavator with the best available information as to their locations. If an underground facility owner has knowledge of prior existing oil and gas development, an underground facility owner shall advise the excavator of the activity, and an excavator shall proceed in accordance with subsection (8). An excavator who proceeds in accordance with subsection (8) is not responsible for damages to an underground facility that cannot be located by the underground facility owner. After a locate is complete, the excavator is responsible for preserving the markings.

(6) If an excavator discovers an underground facility that has not been located and marked, the excavator shall stop excavating in the vicinity of the facility and notify the underground facility owner or the notification center.

(7) An underground facility owner may attempt to identify the location of a private underground facility connected to the owner's facility, but the underground facility owner is not liable for the accuracy of the locate.

(8) The act of obtaining information as required by this part does not excuse an excavator making any excavation from doing so in a careful and prudent manner or excuse the excavator from liability for any damage or injury resulting from the excavator's negligence.

(9) If an excavator makes an agricultural locate request for soil probing or testing, new underground facilities have not been buried or placed in the area encompassed by the locate, and the request duplicates a locate and mark completed in the last 12 months, the excavation work limitations in subsection (1) do not apply. The excavator shall provide the duplicate locate and mark information to the notification center prior to excavation, and a new locate and mark may be required.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4803(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-504. Information to be part of architects' and engineers' plans. (1) Architects and engineers designing projects requiring excavation in or adjacent to any public street, alley, or right-of-way dedicated to public use or utility easement shall obtain information from underground facility owners and then make the information a part of the plan by which the contractors operate. The underground facility owners shall make available all records showing the locations of underground facilities and shall provide engineering locate requests pursuant to 69-4-503.

(2) This section does not excuse a person from the obligation imposed by 69-4-502 when excavating.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4808; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Architecture, Title 37, ch. 65.
Engineers, Title 37, ch. 67.

69-4-505. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4804, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4805, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4806, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4804, 32-4805, 32-4806; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 544, L. 2005.

69-4-506. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4807.

69-4-507. Public authority — liability. A public authority, as defined in 18-1-201, that has jurisdiction over a right-of-way is not liable for improper or unauthorized installations made by persons or entities other than the public authority or those acting at its discretion.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 286, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Governmental liability and insurance covering liability, Title 2, ch. 9.

69-4-508. Emergency location and excavation. (1) When an emergency excavation is required, the excavator shall notify the notification center. An underground facility owner shall respond as soon as is practical after notification.

(2) Making an emergency locate request or an emergency excavation that is not an emergency locate request or an emergency excavation as those terms are defined constitutes a false alarm pursuant to 45-7-204 and is subject to the penalties under 45-7-204.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 179, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-509 and 69-4-510 reserved.

69-4-511. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1987.

69-4-512. Judicial review. (1) An excavator subject to repair costs may have repair costs reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) An excavator or underground facility owner subject to a civil penalty in accordance with 69-4-524 or 69-4-525 may have the civil penalty reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in 2-4-702.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 544, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-513. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 544, L. 2005.

69-4-514. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 544, L. 2005.

69-4-515 through 69-4-519 reserved.

69-4-520. Underground facility protection advisory council. (1) There is an underground facility protection advisory council consisting of 11 members.

(2) Members must be appointed by the governor as follows:

(a) one member representing owners or operators of an underground facility that is a jurisdictional pipeline in Montana that is not a public utility as defined in 69-3-101;

(b) one member representing a public utility, as defined in 69-3-101, that owns an underground facility that is a jurisdictional pipeline in Montana;

(c) one member representing a public utility, as defined in 69-3-101, that owns an underground facility that is an electric distribution or transmission line in Montana;

(d) one member representing a rural electric cooperative operating in Montana;

(e) one member representing a telecommunications provider with more than 50,000 subscriber lines in Montana;

(f) one member representing a telecommunications provider with less than 50,000 subscriber lines in Montana;

(g) one member representing a municipal sewer or water system or a municipal water supply system established by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to Title 7, chapter 13, parts 42, 43, and 44;

(h) one member representing a local government utility that is a county or consolidated city and county water or sewer district as defined in Title 7, chapter 13, parts 22 and 23;

(i) one member representing an authority as defined in 75-6-304; and

(j) two members representing excavators.

(3) The council's membership may not include more than one representative from the same partnership, firm, joint venture, corporation, association, municipality, governmental unit, department, or agency, including corporate subsidiaries or affiliates.

(4) The council is allocated to the department of labor and industry for administrative purposes only as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(5) The appointed members serve staggered terms of 3 years. The initial appointments are as follows: two members for 1-year terms, four members for 2-year terms, and five members for 3-year terms.

(6) Members of the council are not entitled to compensation for their services.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-521. Duties of council. (1) The council shall meet at least annually to advise the department in its administration of this part.

(2) To promote efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety, the council shall work cooperatively with:

(a) the department;

(b) underground facility owners and their representatives;

(c) excavators;

(d) property owners; and

(e) interested members of the public.

(3) The council shall:

(a) advise the department in its duty to collect civil penalties in accordance with 69-4-524 and 69-4-525;

(b) provide recommendations to the department in determining grants awarded in accordance with 69-4-528;

(c) assist the department in the mediation and resolution of disputed civil penalties in accordance with 69-4-526; and

(d) advise the department on other significant matters concerning the administration and enforcement of this part, including rulemaking.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-522. Duties of department — rulemaking. (1) The department shall:

(a) assess civil penalties pursuant to 69-4-524 and 69-4-525;

(b) maintain incident reports;

(c) collect fees from underground facility owners in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to 69-4-502(4)(a) and subsection (2)(c) of this section;

(d) collect fines for failures to file incident reports in accordance with 69-4-529;

(e) award grants in accordance with 69-4-528; and

(f) conduct mediation and contested cases regarding disputed civil penalties in accordance with 69-4-526.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to implement this part. Rules must provide for the:

(a) assessment and collection of civil penalties provided for in 69-4-524 and 69-4-525;

(b) reporting and collection of incident reports pursuant to 69-4-529;

(c) collection of annual fees of up to $0.10 per outgoing locate request issued to each individual underground facility owner by a notification center. The fee must be based on the number of outgoing locate requests that an underground facility owner received in the previous 12-month period.

(d) procedures, including but not limited to application and filing requirements for mediation and the review of disputed penalties; and

(e) procedures for grant funding authorized in 69-4-528. The rules for grant funding must include but are not limited to:

(i) eligibility requirements for notification centers applying for grants;

(ii) criteria for awarding grants; and

(iii) reporting procedures for grant recipients.

(3) Rules must be adopted pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(4) The department may take into account and rely on findings made by a notification center or other nonprofit entities to assist in making determinations necessary for the assessment of a civil penalty.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-523. Tort liability for underground facility damage. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an excavator who damages an underground facility is liable for the entire cost of the repair of the underground facility.

(b) If an underground facility is damaged because an underground facility owner failed to complete a locate in accordance with 69-4-503 or provided an inaccurate locate or marks, the underground facility owner who failed to complete the locate or provided an inaccurate locate or marks is responsible for the entire cost of the repair of the underground facility.

(c) Liability in accordance with this subsection (1) is not a bar to other appropriate civil remedies for damages.

(2) Paying a civil penalty in accordance with this part is not:

(a) an admission of liability; or

(b) a bar to other appropriate civil remedies.

(3) If a person damages an underground facility and there is a release of gas or a hazardous liquid, the person shall call 9-1-1 immediately and request emergency services.

(4) If an excavator damages an underground facility, the excavator shall:

(a) immediately make a 9-1-1 call and request emergency services, if the underground facility is a jurisdictional pipeline and there is a release of gas or a hazardous liquid; and

(b) as soon as practicable, contact the owner of the underground facility. If the excavator is unable to reach the underground facility owner, the excavator shall contact the proper notification center.

(5) This section may not be construed to require the involvement of the department in civil remedies for damages.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-524. Underground facilities damage — excavator civil penalties. (1) Except as provided in 69-4-529(3), within 14 days of receiving an incident report in accordance with 69-4-529, the department shall issue a civil penalty in accordance with this section.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), if an excavator damages an underground facility that is not a jurisdictional pipeline, the civil penalty is the greater of $50 or twice the amount of the last civil penalty issued to the excavator, not to exceed $10,000.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), if an excavator damages an underground facility that is a jurisdictional pipeline, the civil penalty is the greater of $100 or three times the last civil penalty issued to the excavator, not to exceed $25,000.

(4) If the excavator is also the property owner, the penalties are half the amount established in subsections (2) and (3).

(5) (a) For the purposes of this section and subject to subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c), the last civil penalty is the dollar amount of the civil penalty that would have been issued to the excavator under this part based on incidents occurring in the lesser of:

(i) the last 100 requests for a locate made by the excavator; or

(ii) a rolling 12-month period based on the incident date.

(b) If an incident is subject to subsection (2), the civil penalty must be calculated as if all previous incidents were subject to subsection (2).

(c) If an incident is subject to subsection (3), the civil penalty must be calculated as if all previous incidents were subject to subsection (3).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 326, L. 2017.

69-4-525. Underground facilities damage — underground facility owner civil penalties. (1) Except as provided in 69-4-529(3), within 14 days of receiving an incident report in accordance with subsection (2), the department shall issue a civil penalty in accordance with this section.

(2) If an incident is reported because a locate and mark was not properly completed or if the locate and marks provided were not reasonably accurate for locatable underground facilities, the underground facility owner shall be assessed a civil penalty in accordance with subsections (3) and (4).

(3) Except as provided in subsection (5), if the incident involves an underground facility that is not a jurisdictional pipeline, the civil penalty is the greater of $50 or twice the last civil penalty issued to the underground facility owner, not to exceed $10,000.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), if the incident involves an underground facility that is a jurisdictional pipeline, the civil penalty is the greater of $100 or three times the last civil penalty issued to the underground facility owner, not to exceed $25,000.

(5) If an underground facility owner is not a member of a notification center pursuant to 69-4-502(3), the penalties included in subsections (3) and (4) double.

(6) (a) For the purposes of this section and subject to subsections (6)(b) and (6)(c), the last civil penalty is the dollar amount of the civil penalty that would have been issued to the underground facility owner under this part based on incidents occurring in the lesser of:

(i) the last 100 outgoing locate requests made to the underground facility owner; or

(ii) a rolling 12-month period based on the incident date.

(b) If an incident is subject to subsection (3), the civil penalty must be calculated as if all previous incidents were subject to subsection (3).

(c) If an incident is subject to subsection (4), the civil penalty must be calculated as if all previous incidents were subject to subsection (4).

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

69-4-526. Civil penalty — mediation — contested case hearing — procedures. (1) An excavator or underground facility owner who receives a civil penalty in accordance with 69-4-524 or 69-4-525 may request a review of the penalty in accordance with this section.

(2) (a) If an excavator or underground facility owner disputes a civil penalty, prior to a contested case the department, in consultation with the advisory council, shall conduct mediation of the disputed penalty in accordance with rules established by the department.

(b) The request must be filed within 20 days after the department issues a civil penalty.

(3) (a) If mediation in accordance with subsection (2) does not resolve the dispute, the request must proceed through the contested case process before the department pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) The request must be filed within 20 days after the mediation report is mailed by the department.

(c) The department shall issue a final decision within 90 days from the close of the contested case.

(4) The department shall issue determinations in writing and provide a copy to all parties named in the dispute.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

69-4-527. Underground facility protection account — statutory appropriation. (1) There is an underground facility protection account in the state special revenue fund. The account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department.

(2) There must be deposited in the account all revenue from:

(a) civil penalties collected pursuant to 69-4-524 and 69-4-525;

(b) fines collected pursuant to 69-4-529 or 69-4-530;

(c) fees collected pursuant to 69-4-502(4); and

(d) any gifts, grants, donations, or bequests to the department.

(3) Funds are allocated as follows:

(a) fees collected pursuant to 69-4-502(4) and paid by underground facility owners and any gifts, grants, donations, or bequests must be deposited in an account for the administration of this part by the department in accordance with this part; and

(b) all revenue from civil penalties collected pursuant to 69-4-524 and 69-4-525 and fines collected pursuant to 69-4-529 or 69-4-530 must be deposited in an account for distribution in the form of grants to notification centers to be used in accordance with 69-4-528.

(4) The accounts established in subsection (3) retain interest earned from the investment of money in the accounts.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

69-4-528. Notification center grants. (1) The department, in consultation with the council, shall award grants annually to notification centers using the account established pursuant to 69-4-527(3)(b). Beginning January 1, 2018, grants must be awarded to notification centers in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the department in accordance with 69-4-522.

(2) Grants must be awarded to notification centers to fund training and educational programs and materials for excavators, underground facility owners, and the general public.

(3) Nothing in this section prevents a notification center from:

(a) transferring grant money received to another entity for nonprofit underground facility education programs; or

(b) collaborating with another notification center on a joint grant application.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

69-4-529. Incident reports — notification of damage — fines. (1) (a) Within 30 days of an incident, an underground facility owner who owns an underground facility that is damaged shall:

(i) report the incident to the appropriate notification center; and

(ii) notify the excavator involved in the incident that the incident has been reported in accordance with subsection (1)(a)(i).

(b) A notification center that receives a report in accordance with subsection (1)(a) shall notify the department.

(2) When the information is available, the incident report must include:

(a) the name, address, and telephone number of the excavator responsible for the incident or the underground facility owner responsible for the damage;

(b) a description of the damage to the underground facility;

(c) a description of the incident, including whether it resulted in real or personal property damage, personal injury, or death;

(d) the name, address, and telephone number of any third party involved in the incident; and

(e) a description of any damage incurred by the excavator, including personal injury or death.

(3) After an incident is reported in accordance with subsection (1) and if the underground facility that is damaged is not a jurisdictional pipeline, if an underground facility owner determines that a civil penalty is not required, the underground facility owner shall provide notice of the determination to the department within 30 days of the date that the incident report was filed.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the incident report must be available for public inquiry.

(b) The department may not make public any personal information protected by an individual privacy interest.

(5) If an underground facility owner fails to file an incident report in accordance with this section, the department shall assess a $100 fine.

(6) If an underground facility owner determines that damage to an underground facility that is not a jurisdictional pipeline is an event and not an incident, reporting and notification in accordance with subsection (1) is not required.

(7) An underground facility owner who receives a fine may contest the fine by requesting, within 20 days of the fine being levied, a hearing from the department.

(8) Beginning July 1, 2017, the department shall maintain a database of incident reports. Incident reports must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

69-4-530. Collection of penalties, fines, and fees. (1) If the department is unable to collect civil penalties, fees, or fines assessed pursuant to this part, the department may transfer the debt to the department of revenue pursuant to Title 17, chapter 4, part 1.

(2) (a) The assistance costs charged the department by the department of revenue pursuant to 17-4-103(3) may be added to the debt for which collection is being sought.

(b) All money collected by the department of revenue is subject to the provisions of 17-4-106.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 326, L. 2017.**

Part 6
Movement of Structures

69-4-601. Movement of structures and interference with wires — notice required. No person, firm, or corporation moving, hauling, or transporting any house, building, derrick, or other structure shall cut, move, raise, or in any manner interfere with an electric light or electric power wire or poles or with telephone or telegraph wires, cables, messenger wires, guy wires, or poles without giving notice to the owner or agent of said wires or poles, as hereinafter provided.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2711.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-136.**

69-4-602. Notice of move — cost estimate. (1) The person, firm, or corporation moving a house, building, derrick, or other structure shall give the person, firm, or corporation owning or controlling the wires, cables, or poles affected by the movement of a structure, at both the person's, firm's, or corporation's principal office and nearest office within the state, not less than 10 days' written notice of the proposed time and place of moving a structure.

(2) The owner of the wires, cables, or poles shall give the mover a written estimate of the total cost of all work related to cutting or raising the wires or cables or moving the poles, including travel time, at least 3 days prior to the move or within 10 days after receipt of the written notice of the move, whichever time comes sooner.

(3) The estimate of the total cost required under this section must be developed in accordance with the cost schedule filed as provided in subsection (4).

(4) A public utility, cable television company, or unregulated telecommunications provider with wires, cables, or poles in Montana shall file with the commission, by April 1 of each year, an application for approval of a cost schedule for labor and equipment for all work related to cutting or raising wires or cables or moving poles. The cost schedule is effective on a temporary basis, subject to a rebate and a surcharge as provided in 69-3-304, 30 days after the filing of a cost schedule and pending a final order of the commission, unless the commission first determines that the cost schedule is above cost.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2711.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 24-137; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2003.**

69-4-603. Procedure to accomplish move — payment of cost. (1) In order to accomplish moving a house, building, derrick, or other structure through an area in which wires, cables, or poles impede the movement, the person, firm, or corporation who owns or controls the wires, cables, or poles and who has received the notice required by 69-4-602 shall furnish competent workers to raise or cut the wires or cables or move the poles as necessary to facilitate moving the house, building, derrick, or other structure.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the necessary and actual costs of raising or cutting wires or cables or moving poles to facilitate the movement of a house, building, derrick, other structure, or prefabricated structure that is intended to be moved from the place of fabrication, storage facility, or dealer's lot, determined in accordance with the schedule filed under 69-4-602, must be paid by the mover.

(b) The necessary and actual costs of raising or cutting wires or cables or moving poles to facilitate the movement of a structure, determined in accordance with the schedule filed under 69-4-602, must be shared equally by the mover and the owner of the wires, cables, or poles if the structure is owned by a person for occupancy or use by that person.

(3) A mover may not raise, cut, or in any way interfere with wires, cables, or poles unless the person, firm, or corporation who owns or controls the wires, cables, or poles refuses, after having been notified as required by 69-4-602, to raise or cut the wires or cables or move the poles.

(4) The mover shall make a prepayment of a portion of the total cost estimated under 69-4-602 in advance of the move as follows:

(a) if the structure is moved through or out of the service territory of the owner of the wires, cables, or poles, 100% of the mover's share pursuant to subsection (2); or

(b) if the structure is delivered to a place within the service territory of the owner of the wires, cables, or poles, 50% of the mover's share pursuant to subsection (2).

(5) The owner of the wires, cables, or poles may waive the prepayment requirement or accept a bond or other financial instrument in lieu of payment.

(6) The mover shall pay the mover's share of all actual costs under subsection (2) in excess of any prepayment made under subsection (4) within 30 days of the move.

(7) If the prepayment made under subsection (4) exceeds the mover's share of actual costs under subsection (2), the owner of the wires, cables, or poles shall refund the difference to the mover within 30 days of the move.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 55, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2711.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1951; R.C.M. 1947, 24-138; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 442, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 551, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

69-4-604. Unlawful interference with lines. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation engaged as principal or employee in moving any house, building, derrick, or other structure, as provided in this part, to move, touch, cut, molest, or in any way interfere with any electric light, electric power, telephone, or telegraph wires, cables, messenger wires, or guy wires or any poles bearing any such wires, except in compliance with the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 55, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 2711.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 174, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 137, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 24-139.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor — penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

Parts 7 through 9 reserved

Part 10

Requirements for Use of Advanced Metering Devices

69-4-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Advanced metering gateway device" means any electric utility meter component or device ancillary to the electric utility meter that is located at an end-user's residence or business and is equipped and programmed to communicate with electrical appliances, electrical equipment, or electrical devices within the end-user's residence or business or that is capable of estimating and recording electrical energy usage by types of appliances, electrical equipment, or electrical devices.

(2) "Advanced metering device" or "advanced meter" means a meter or metering device that is owned or leased by a utility or the utility's agent and that:

(a) measures, records, or sends a customer's utility usage or other data by use of radio waves or internet technology; and

(b) allows for two-way communication between the meter and the utility or its agent.

(3) "Utility" means a public utility regulated by the public service commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 546, L. 2021.

69-4-1002. Meter security — data disclosure. (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a customer's energy use data is private and confidential and may not be disclosed by a utility, except as specifically required in subsection (3) or (4) or otherwise provided by law.

(2) Energy use data from an advanced metering device must be sufficiently secured so that the data cannot be intercepted by a person other than a utility.

(3) A utility may disclose aggregated energy use data that is anonymous.

(4) A utility shall make energy use data collected from an advanced metering device available to a customer or to a customer's designee upon request of the customer.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 2019.

69-4-1003. Advanced metering devices — notice required. (1) A utility shall:

(a) notify a customer in writing at least 60 days prior to installation of an advanced metering device at the customer's address; and

(b) provide a sample copy of the notice to the public service commission and a list of customers who have been provided notice.

(2) The notice provided in accordance with subsection (1) must:

(a) be sent by first-class mail to a customer's address and be separate from any billing mailing;

(b) clearly state the utility's intent to install an advanced metering device; and

(c) if determined to be a requirement by the public service commission, include the process and financial obligations for a customer to opt out of installation of an advanced metering device.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 2019.

69-4-1004. Opt-out program— public service commission responsibilities — rulemaking. (1) On or before July 1, 2022, the public service commission shall determine whether an opt-out program for advanced meters or advanced metering gateway devices, or both, should be established.

(2) In determining whether to establish an opt-out program, the commission shall consider:
(a) an individual customer's privacy interest;
(b) costs and practicality of allowing customers to opt out;
(c) availability of other technology; and
(d) other concerns related to advanced metering devices and advanced metering gateway devices.

(3) If the commission determines an opt-out program should be established, the commission shall adopt rules providing options and requirements for individual customers to opt out of advanced metering device or advanced metering gateway device installation.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 546, L. 2021.**

69-4-1005. Advanced metering gateway device opt-in provisions — rulemaking. (1) A utility may allow customers to opt-in to the installation of all advanced metering gateway devices located at an end user's residence or business.

(2) A utility may charge customers who opt in to advanced metering gateway device installation additional fees or charges related to the installation.

(3) If the commission determines an opt in program should be established, the commission shall adopt rules providing options, requirements, and a process for determination of fees or charges for individual customers to opt in to advanced metering gateway device installation.

(4) Utilities seeking to allow an advanced metering gateway device opt-in program shall file a report detailing the program requirements and process for determining fees or charges with the commission along with a $25 filing fee.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 546, L. 2021.**

Part 11
Liability for Bypassing or Tampering With Meter

Part Cross-References

Theft of services, 45-6-305.

Obtaining communication services with intent to defraud, 45-6-306.

69-4-1101. Purpose — remedies cumulative. It is the purpose of this part to impose a substantial civil penalty upon those persons who, at the cost of their fellow citizens, obtain utility services at less than their true value through bypassing or tampering as defined in 69-4-1102. This part does not supersede or replace other remedies provided for in law or equity.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 1985.**

69-4-1102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bypassing" means any act, using any means, the purpose of which is to obtain utility service without having such service pass through the authorized meter provided for measuring or registering such service.

(2) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or other legal or business entity or the executor, administrator, trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

(3) "Tampering" means damaging, altering, adjusting, or in any manner interfering with or obstructing the operation or function of any authorized metering device provided for measuring or registering utility service.

(4) "Utility" means any public utility, municipally owned utility, or cooperative utility that provides electricity, gas, water, sewage disposal, or combination thereof, for sale to consumers.

(5) "Utility service" means the provision of electricity, gas, water, or sewer service.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 678, L. 1985.**

Cross-References

Rural Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act, Title 35, ch. 18.

69-4-1103. Liability for bypass or tampering. (1) A person who bypasses or tampers, either for the person's own benefit or the benefit of another, is liable to the affected utility as provided in 69-4-1104 for services actually provided by the utility. Collection under subsection (2) precludes collection under this subsection.

(2) A person who receives utility services, knowing that the measurement of the services is being affected by bypassing or tampering, is liable to the affected utility as provided in 69-4-1104 for services actually provided by the utility. Collection under subsection (1) precludes collection under this subsection.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 678, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1996, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-4-1104. Action for recovery of reasonable value — penalty. A utility may institute a civil action against a person described in 69-4-1103 to recover the reasonable value of the services actually provided to the person. Upon a finding that such person is liable to the utility, the court may enter judgment against the person for up to three times the reasonable value of the utility's services actually provided and may award to the prevailing party its costs, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred in the action and the costs, including expert witness fees, of presenting such expert testimony as is reasonably necessary.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 678, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

CHAPTER 5
POWER AND ENERGY COMPANIES

Part 1 — Territorial Integrity for Electric Suppliers

69-5-101. Short title.
69-5-102. Definitions.
69-5-103. Repealed.
69-5-104. Supply service prohibited — continuation of electric service facilities to existing consumers.
69-5-105. Service to new consumers.
69-5-106. Electric service facilities to large customers.
69-5-107. Customer-owned facilities.
69-5-108. Agreements between electric facilities providers.
69-5-109. Special provisions for annexed areas.
69-5-110. Jurisdiction of district courts over disputes.
69-5-111. Judicial remedies.
69-5-112. Commission jurisdiction over agreements.
69-5-113. Service to new subdivisions.
69-5-114. Review by independent consultant.
69-5-115 through 69-5-120 reserved.
69-5-121. Definitions.
69-5-122. Residential utility line extension — refund.
69-5-123. Review and selection of contractor.

Part 2 — Right of First Refusal

69-5-201. Definitions.
69-5-202. Right of first refusal.

Chapter Cross-References

Energy source restrictions — prohibitions, 7-1-117.
Assessment of public utilities, 15-8-406, 15-23-101.
Assessment of railroads and other franchises, 15-8-407.
Exemption from corporate taxes, 15-31-102.
Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.

Part 1
Territorial Integrity for Electric Suppliers

69-5-101. Short title. This part is known and may be cited as the "Territorial Integrity Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-501; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-5-102. Definitions. When used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agreement" means a written agreement between two or more electric facilities providers that identifies the geographical area to be served exclusively by each electric facilities provider that is a party to the agreement and any terms and conditions pertinent to the agreement.

(2) "Cost" means the gross cost of constructing new electric service facilities to the premises, using new materials and similar design standards required to meet the load, from a point where there is existing electrical capacity to serve.

(3) "Distribution facilities" means those facilities by and through which electricity is received from a transmission services provider and distributed to the customer that are controlled or operated by a distribution utility.

(4) "Distribution service" means the function of delivering electricity to the public by a distribution utility.

(5) "Distribution utility" means a utility owning distribution facilities for distribution of electricity to the public.

(6) "Electric facilities provider" means any utility that provides electric service facilities to the public.

(7) "Electric service facilities" means any distribution or transmission system or related facility necessary to provide electricity to the premises, including lines.

(8) "Electricity supplier" means any person, corporation, or governmental entity that:

(a) sells electricity to customers at retail rates in the state; and

(b) is not a public utility or a cooperative.

(9) "Electricity supply service" means the provision of electricity supply and related services through power purchase agreements, the acquisition and operation of electrical generation facilities, demand side management, and energy efficiency programs.

(10) "Large customer" means any premises, except subdivisions, with the estimated connected load for full operation at an individual service for the premises of 500 kilowatts or larger.

(11) "Line" means any material that is used to convey electrical energy and that is normally energized between 2,400 volts phase to ground and 14,400 volts phase to ground.

(12) "Premises" means a building, residence, structure, irrigation pump, or facility to which electric service facilities are provided or are to be installed. However, two or more buildings, structures, irrigation pumps, or facilities that are located on one tract or contiguous tracts of land and that are used by one electric consumer for farming, business, commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental, or trailer court purposes must together constitute one premises, except that any building, structure, irrigation pump, or facility, other than a trailer court, may not, together with any other building, structure, irrigation pump, or facility, constitute one premises if the electric service to it is separately metered and the charges for that service are calculated independently of charges for service to any other building, structure, irrigation pump, or facility.

(13) "Regulated utility" means any electric utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, on May 2, 1997, including the public utility's successors or assignees.

(14) "Service territory" means premises receiving distribution service from a utility on January 1, 2011, and premises added pursuant to Title 69, chapter 5.

(15) "Subdivision" has the meaning provided for in 76-3-103. The definition includes subdivisions that may be developed in one or more phases of development at different periods of time.

(16) "Utility" means a public utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, or a utility qualifying as an electric cooperative pursuant to Title 35, chapter 18, or their successors or assignees.

(17) "Vector" means a straight line between two points.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 7, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-502; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Rural electric and telephone cooperatives defined, 35-18-102.

69-5-103. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-503(part).

69-5-104. Supply service prohibited — continuation of electric service facilities to existing consumers. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a utility may not provide electricity supply service to premises in another utility's service territory. An electricity supplier may provide electricity supply service in the service territory of a public utility as provided in 69-8-411.

(2) Each electric facilities provider has the right to provide electric service facilities to all premises being served by it or to which any of its facilities are attached on May 2, 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-503(1); amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 19, L. 2011; (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 2011.

69-5-105. Service to new consumers. (1) Except as provided in 69-5-106 and 69-5-113, the electric facilities provider that has a line nearest the premises and that has the capacity to serve the premises, as measured in accordance with subsection (2), shall provide electric service facilities to the premises initially requiring service after May 2, 1997.

(2) All measurements under this part must be made on the shortest vector that can be drawn from the line nearest the premises to the nearest permanent portion of the premises.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-503(2); amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2007.

69-5-106. Electric service facilities to large customers. A regulated utility electric facilities provider has the right to furnish electric service facilities to the premises of a large customer if the regulated utility electric facilities provider can extend its electric service facilities to the premises of a large customer at less cost than other electric facilities providers. The estimated connected load must be determined from the plans and specifications prepared for construction of the premises or, if an estimate is not available, must be determined by mutual agreement of the electric facilities provider and the large customer.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-503(3); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 2007.

69-5-107. Customer-owned facilities. This part may not limit a customer's right to construct, own, or operate electric service facilities for the customer's own use, and construction, ownership, or use may not cause the customer to be considered a utility. A customer may not duplicate existing electric service facilities.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-503(4); amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-5-108. Agreements between electric facilities providers. Utilities may enter into agreements that identify the geographical area to be exclusively served by each electric facilities provider that is party to the agreement, overriding the provisions of 69-5-105 and 69-5-107. If an agreement is approved by the commission pursuant to this part, the agreement is valid and binding on all electric facilities providers and all customers, except those provided for in 69-5-106.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-504; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-5-109. Special provisions for annexed areas. (1) Electric facilities providers providing electric service facilities in or near areas that are incorporated municipalities having a population in excess of 3,500 persons and having annexed areas since 1985 or having existing municipal planning zones on May 2, 1997, shall enter into agreements dividing the annexed and planning zone areas into exclusive service territories and shall submit the agreements to the commission for approval, pursuant to this part.

(2) The agreements do not apply to electric service facilities with loads of 400 kilowatts or greater. Agreements must be based on the location of facilities in place on May 2, 1997.

(3) If electric facilities providers have failed to negotiate agreements within 1 year from May 2, 1997, the commission shall divide the annexed and planning zone areas into exclusive service territories, using the considerations pursuant to 69-5-112.

(4) Until agreements are final, electric service facilities to new customers will be provided pursuant to 69-5-105.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-505; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Annexation, Title 7, ch. 2, parts 42 through 47.

69-5-110. Jurisdiction of district courts over disputes. The district courts of the county or counties within which the premises, vectors, or lines involved in any dispute are located have jurisdiction under this part over all electric facilities providers subject to this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-506; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 2007.

69-5-111. Judicial remedies. (1) Whenever an electric facilities provider is failing or omitting or about to fail or omit to do anything required of it by this part or is doing or is about to do anything or to permit anything to be done contrary to or in violation of this part, the electric facilities provider affected may file a complaint in the district court setting forth the acts or omissions complained of and requesting an injunction.

(2) If an affidavit showing that grounds exist that an electric facilities provider is in violation of this part is filed with the complaint, a temporary restraining order must be issued without notice. A copy of the temporary restraining order, complaint, and affidavit must be served upon the defendant, together with an order to show cause why the temporary restraining order should not be made permanent, within 5 days after issuance of the temporary restraining order. The hearing on the order to show cause must be held at a date specified in the order and may not be more than 10 days after service of the order and must take precedence over all matters pending before the district court. A judgment making the injunction permanent or dissolving the temporary restraining order that was issued and dismissing the complaint must be made before 10 days after the hearing on the order to show cause.

(3) Any party aggrieved by the order may appeal to the supreme court of Montana by filing a notice of appeal in the district court within 20 days from entry of the order. The appeal must be perfected within 20 days after filing the notice of appeal and must take precedence over all matters pending before the supreme court of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 7, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 70-507; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Affidavits, Title 26, ch. 1, part 10.

Preliminary injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19, parts 2 through 4.

69-5-112. Commission jurisdiction over agreements. (1) All agreements between electric facilities providers must be submitted to the commission for approval. Each agreement must clearly identify the geographical area to be served by each electric facilities provider. The submission must include:

(a) a map and a written description of the area; and

(b) the terms and conditions pertaining to the implementation of the agreement.

(2) Whenever an agreement involves the exchange or transfer of customers within service territories, the following must also be included with the agreement submission:

(a) the number and class of customers to be transferred;

(b) assurance that the affected customers have been contacted and have received a written explanation of the difference in rates; and

(c) information with respect to the degree of acceptance by affected customers, such as the number in favor of and those opposed to the transfer.

(3) In approving agreements, the commission shall consider but is not limited to consideration of:

(a) the reasonable likelihood that the agreement, in and of itself, will not cause a decrease in the reliability of electric service to the existing or future ratepayers of any electric facilities provider party of the agreement; and

(b) the reasonable likelihood that the agreement will eliminate existing or potentially uneconomic duplication of electric service facilities.

(4) An agreement approved by the commission is valid and enforceable, and except as provided in 69-5-106, an electric facilities provider may not offer, construct, or extend electric service facilities into an exclusive territory.

(5) The commission shall state its findings and conclusions for approving or disapproving an agreement and shall render a decision within 90 days of receipt of the agreement. The electric facilities providers submitting the agreement to the commission shall act according to the agreement until a decision is rendered.

(6) Upon approval of the agreement, any modification, changes, or corrections to this agreement must be approved by the commission.

(7) The commission may promulgate rules to administer this part consistent with the requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Adoption and Publication of Rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

General powers and rulemaking authority of Commission, 69-3-103.

69-5-113. Service to new subdivisions. (1) Except as provided in 69-5-108, if two or more electric facilities providers have lines in general proximity to a new subdivision, electric service to the new subdivision must be apportioned by drawing a series of vectors through the subdivision equidistant from the lines of each electric facilities provider with that part of the subdivision closest to an electric facilities provider's line receiving service from that electric facilities provider.

(2) Nothing in this section prohibits electric facilities providers from agreeing among themselves on how to provide service to a new subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 231, L. 2007.

69-5-114. Review by independent consultant. (1) If electric facilities providers that have provided cost estimates to a new large customer are unable to reach agreement as to which electric facilities provider can provide electric service facilities at the least cost, an independent consultant engineer agreeable to both electric facilities providers or, in the event of failure of the electric facilities providers to agree on a consultant engineer, an independent consultant engineer selected by the district court having jurisdiction, as provided in 69-5-110, shall determine which electric facilities provider can extend its line to the new large customer at the least cost. The cost of those engineering services must be paid equally by the electric facilities providers involved.

(2) If electric facilities providers proposing to provide service to a subdivision do not agree on the location of a vector, as provided in 69-5-113(1), an independent consultant engineer agreeable to both electric facilities providers or, in the event of failure of the electric facilities providers to agree on a consultant engineer, an independent consultant engineer selected by the district court having jurisdiction, as provided in 69-5-110, shall determine the location of a vector. The cost of those engineering services must be paid equally by the electric facilities providers involved.

(3) If electric facilities providers having lines near the premises of a new consumer do not agree if a line has capacity to serve the premises, an independent consultant engineer agreeable to both electric facilities providers or, in the event of failure of the electric facilities providers to agree on a consultant engineer, an independent consultant engineer selected by the district court having jurisdiction, as provided in 69-5-110, shall determine if a line has capacity to serve the premises. The cost of those engineering services must be paid equally by the electric facilities providers involved.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 231, L. 2007.

69-5-115 through 69-5-120 reserved.

69-5-121. Definitions. As used in 69-5-122, 69-5-123, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Added structure" means any outbuildings, improvements, irrigation pumps, facilities, or other structures located on a small customer's property.

(2) "Commercial structure" means a building used for commercial purposes.

(3) "Contractor" means a person who submits a proposal to construct or enters into a contract to construct an extension and who is licensed, insured, a member of the national electrical contractors association, and experienced in comparable construction.

(4) "Electric utility" means:

(a) a public utility regulated by the public service commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, that provides electrical service for heat, light, or power to a small customer; or

(b) a utility qualifying as a rural electric cooperative pursuant to Title 35, chapter 18, that provides electrical service for heat, light, or power to a small customer.

(5) "Extension" means any works or improvements necessary to connect a residential, commercial, or added structure of a small customer to an electric utility's distribution or transmission system.

(6) "Residential structure" means a single-family house, trailer, manufactured home, or mobile home, excluding any outbuildings, improvements, irrigation pumps, facilities, or other structures located on the property.

(7) "Small customer" means a retail customer that has an individual load with an average monthly demand of less than 5,000 kilowatts.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 2021.**

69-5-122. Residential utility line extension — refund. (1) A small customer of an electric utility as defined in 69-5-121(4)(a) who pays for a portion of the construction of an extension to a residential structure or who advances money to an electric utility as defined in 69-5-121(4)(a) for a subsequent connection to that extension must receive a refund as provided in subsection (2) if an additional customer connects to the extension.

(2) Each additional customer, prior to the initiation of electric service, shall advance to an electric utility as defined in 69-5-121(4)(a) an equal proportionate share of the total amount paid for the extension to a residential structure. The electric utility shall refund the advance on a pro rata basis to the small customer who paid for the initial extension or to the small customer who paid for a subsequent connection to that extension. A refund may not be issued after 10 years from the date the initial extension is established.

(3) A small customer who expends funds for an extension to a residential structure may not receive a refund that is greater than the amount necessary to return the small customer to the small customer's proportionate share of the cost of the original extension.

(4) A small customer may receive a refund pursuant to this section only if:

(a) the small customer paid for the initial extension or subsequent connection to the extension pursuant to subsection (1);

(b) at the time the refund is issued, the small customer owns the residential structure to which the extension or subsequent connection to the extension was made; and

(c) the small customer did not hire a contractor to complete the extension pursuant to 69-5-123.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 440, L. 2017.**

69-5-123. Review and selection of contractor. (1) (a) After an electric utility provides a cost estimate to a small customer for an extension on the small customer's property to a residential, commercial, or added structure, the small customer may request a contractor to provide an alternative cost estimate.

(b) If the small customer requesting an alternative cost estimate is served by an electric utility as defined in 69-5-121(4)(a), the small customer shall pay a $25 fee to the public service commission and file a copy of the cost estimate and alternative cost estimate with the commission.

(2) (a) Subject to subsection (2)(b), after receiving an alternative cost estimate, the small customer may hire the contractor to complete the extension on the small customer's property to the residential, commercial, or added structure.

(b) At least 20 days prior to the contractor beginning work on the extension, the small customer shall notify the electric utility that will be providing service to the small customer. The notification must be in writing.

(3) (a) Subject to subsections (3)(b) through (3)(d), if a contractor is selected, the extension must be built on the small customer's property to meet the same standards proposed by the electric utility that will be providing service to the small customer.

(b) Throughout construction and as the electric utility considers appropriate, the electric utility shall inspect the extension and be onsite. The contractor shall notify the electric utility of construction progress as needed for inspection.

(c) If a contractor is selected, the contract for an extension must require the payment of the standard prevailing wage rate in effect and applicable to the work being performed.

(d) Either the contractor selected in accordance with subsection (3)(a) or the person selected by the electric utility completing inspections onsite in accordance with subsection (3)(b) must be a journeyman lineman or professional engineer.

(4) (a) When the extension is completed by the contractor, the electric utility that will be providing service to the small customer shall complete a final inspection. After the final

inspection and following the correction of deficiencies, if any, the electric utility shall provide the small customer a written statement that construction is complete.

(b) After the written statement is issued in accordance with subsection (4)(a), the electric utility shall connect the extension to the electric utility's system.

(5) Construction and completion of an extension by a contractor does not:

(a) affect the location of a vector, a capacity decision, or any other agreement made in accordance with 69-5-101 through 69-5-114;

(b) allow the contractor to connect an extension to an electric utility without the electric utility's written statement and final inspection in accordance with subsection (4); or

(c) affect the rights and duties of a rural electric cooperative organized in accordance with Title 35, chapter 18, to adopt policies or to implement the provisions of this section.

(6) (a) If a contractor is hired in accordance with this section, the cost of engineering, construction, and other services must be paid by the small customer who sought the alternative cost estimate and hired the contractor.

(b) The small customer is also responsible for costs incurred by an electric utility while onsite during construction and inspections in accordance with subsections (3) and (4).

(7) If a contractor is hired in accordance with this section, when construction is complete the customer and the electric utility may negotiate ownership and maintenance of the extension.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 3, L. 2019.

Part 2
Right of First Refusal

69-5-201. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Electric transmission line" means a line used to convey electrical energy connected to transmission facilities that is energized at 115 kilovolts or more phase to phase.

(b) The term does not include an electric transmission line used solely to connect an energy generation facility to transmission facilities owned by an incumbent electric utility.

(2) "Federally registered planning authority" means a regional transmission organization responsible for moving electricity, planning for the movement of electricity, or both over large interstate areas registered with the federal energy regulatory commission.

(3) "Incumbent electric utility" means a public utility regulated by the public service commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, or a utility qualifying as an electric cooperative pursuant to Title 35, chapter 18, or their successors or assignees, that owned, controlled, or operated transmission facilities on or before January 1, 2017.

(4) "Transmission facilities" means facilities that are used to provide transmission services and are owned, controlled, or operated by an incumbent electric utility.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 2017.

69-5-202. Right of first refusal. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an incumbent electric utility has the right to construct, own, and maintain an electric transmission line on or after January 1, 2017:

(i) located in an area included in the midwest reliability organization;

(ii) approved for construction by a federally registered planning authority; and

(iii) planned to interconnect with an incumbent electric utility's transmission facilities.

(b) An incumbent electric utility may waive its right to construct, own, and maintain an electric transmission line by providing notice to the federally registered planning authority.

(2) If an incumbent electric utility intends to construct, own, and maintain an electric transmission line in accordance with subsection (1)(a), the incumbent electric utility shall provide notice to the federally registered planning authority of its intent within 120 days after the federally registered planning authority's approval of the project.

(3) If an electric transmission line constructed, owned, and maintained in accordance with subsection (1)(a) is connected between two separate incumbent electric utilities, the electric transmission line must be shared equally between the incumbent utilities, unless the incumbent utilities agree to different terms and conditions.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit, alter, or modify the authority of the commission to make findings relative to 69-3-109 and 69-3-201 as they relate to transmission facilities or to regulate utilities subject to Title 69, chapter 3.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 6
COMMUNICATION UTILITIES

Part 1 — General Provisions

69-6-101. Repealed.
69-6-102. Repealed.
69-6-103. Repealed.
69-6-104. Control of telephone communications to and from a person holding hostages — nonliability of telephone company officials.

Chapter Cross-References

Violation of privacy in communications, 45-8-213.

Part 1
General Provisions

69-6-101. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1001, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4401, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6646, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6646, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-302.**

69-6-102. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1002, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4402, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6647, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6647, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 70-303.**

69-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 38, Ch. 349, L. 1997.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1907; Sec. 4340, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6579, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6579, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-624, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1907; Sec. 4341, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6580, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6580, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-625, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 182, L. 1907; Sec. 4342, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6581, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6581, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-626, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-624, 72-625, 72-626.**

69-6-104. Control of telephone communications to and from a person holding hostages — nonliability of telephone company officials. A supervisory law enforcement official who has jurisdiction in a geographical area where hostages are being held and who has probable cause to believe that the holder of the hostages is committing a crime may order a previously designated telephone security employee or other telephone company official to arrange to cut, reroute, or divert telephone lines in order to prevent the holder of the hostages from communicating with any person other than a law enforcement officer or an individual authorized by a law enforcement officer. The serving telephone company within the geographical area of a law enforcement agency shall designate a telephone company security employee or other telephone company official and an alternate to provide all required assistance to law enforcement officials to carry out the purposes of this section. A telephone security employee or other telephone company official acting in good faith under an order given pursuant to this section does not commit the offense of violating privacy in communications and is not liable in any civil action brought as a result of such good faith actions.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 356, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Aggravated kidnapping, 45-5-303.
Privacy in communications, 45-8-213.

CHAPTER 7
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Part 1 — Regulation of Rates by Municipality

69-7-101. Municipal utilities — regulation by municipality.
69-7-102. Repealed.
69-7-103 through 69-7-110 reserved.
69-7-111. Municipal rate hearing required — notice.
69-7-112. Conduct of municipal rate hearing.
69-7-113. Appeals.
69-7-114 through 69-7-120 reserved.
69-7-121. Repealed.

Part 2 — Operation of Utilities
69-7-201. Rules for operation of municipal utility.

Chapter Cross-References

Grant of franchise to public utility by city, 7-3-4222, 7-3-4223.
Officer or employee of city not to be interested in contract with public utility, 7-3-4256.
Cities under commission-manager plan — power to own and regulate public utilities, 7-3-4313.
Ordinances and franchises concerning public utilities not emergency measures, 7-3-4325, 7-3-4326.
Renewal of grant for construction of public utility, 7-3-4450.
Destruction of public records relating to utilities, 7-5-4124.
Metropolitan sanitary district ratemaking, 7-13-144.
General provisions related to county utility services, Title 7, ch. 13, part 21.
County water and sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, parts 22 and 23.
Municipal utility services — general provisions, Title 7, ch. 13, part 41.
Public sewer systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 42.
Municipal sewage and water systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 43.
Authorization of cities and towns to furnish water and sewer services, 7-13-4311, 7-13-4312.
Illegal use of water or sewer system, 7-13-4313.
Local government water supply and regulation, Title 7, ch. 13, part 44.
Prohibited contributions to candidates from corporations, 13-35-227.
Assessment of public utilities, 15-8-406, 15-23-101.
Assessment of railroads and other franchises, 15-8-407.
Report of property by utilities to Department of Revenue, 15-23-301.
Retail telecommunications excise tax, Title 15, ch. 53.
Permissible easements for utilities, 76-6-203.

Part 1
Regulation of Rates by Municipality

69-7-101. Municipal utilities — regulation by municipality. A municipality has the power and authority to regulate, establish, and change, as it considers proper, rates, charges, and classifications imposed for utility services to its inhabitants and other persons served by municipal utility systems. Rates, charges, and classifications must be reasonable and just.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Secs. 4, 8, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Public bond issues, Title 17, ch. 5.

69-7-102. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Secs. 4, 9, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

69-7-103 through 69-7-110 reserved.

69-7-111. Municipal rate hearing required — notice. (1) Except as provided in 75-5-516, 75-6-108, and subsection (6), if the governing body of a municipality considers it advisable to regulate, establish, or change rates, charges, or classifications imposed on its customers, it shall order a hearing to be held before it at a time and place specified.

(2) Notice of the hearing must be published in a newspaper as provided in 7-1-4127.

(3) (a) The notice must be published three times with at least 6 days separating each publication. The first publication may be no more than 28 days prior to the hearing, and the last publication may be no less than 3 days prior to the hearing.

(b) The notice must also be mailed at least 7 days and not more than 30 days prior to the hearing to persons served by the utility. The notice must be mailed within the prescribed time period. This notice must contain an estimate of the amount the customer's average bill will increase.

(4) The published notice must contain:

(a) the date, time, and place of the hearing;

(b) a brief statement of the proposed action; and

(c) the address and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for further information regarding the hearing.

(5) Notice of all hearings shall be mailed first class, postage prepaid, to the Montana consumer counsel.

(6) (a) If the proposed increase in the rates, fees, or charges imposed by the municipality is the result of the establishment of or change in rates, fees, or charges imposed by a regional

authority of which the municipality is a customer and the authority is required to hold a public hearing pursuant to 75-6-326, the governing body of the municipality shall:

(i) mail notice of the public hearing to be held by the authority to all persons served by the municipality at least 15 days before the public hearing; and

(ii) provide notification to all persons served by the municipality at least 10 days prior to the enactment of the ordinance or adoption of the resolution implementing the increase.

(b) The municipality is not required to hold a public hearing in connection with the increase.

(7) If a regional authority is not required to hold a public hearing as provided in 75-6-326(9), the municipality is subject to the hearing requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Secs. 4, 10, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 507, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 187, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Consumer Counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2, Mont. Const.; Title 5, ch. 15, part 2; Title 69, ch. 1, part 2.
Investigatory powers of Consumer Counsel, 69-2-203.

69-7-112. Conduct of municipal rate hearing. (1) At the hearing, all persons, associations, corporations, or companies affected or interested, including the Montana consumer counsel, may be present and represented by counsel. The hearing may be continued from time to time by the governing body of the municipality. At the conclusion of the hearing, all interested parties must be allowed to make arguments that they may consider proper.

(2) Within 30 days after the hearing, the governing body of the municipality shall issue its decision. The decision is final 10 days after being filed with the municipal clerk.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 342, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Office of municipal clerk, Title 7, ch. 4, part 45.

69-7-113. Appeals. (1) A party to a municipal rate hearing may appeal the decision of the municipality to the district court in whose jurisdiction the municipality lies.

(2) A person may appeal the adoption or application of municipal utility rules to the district court in whose jurisdiction the municipality lies.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

69-7-114 through 69-7-120 reserved.

69-7-121. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Part 2
Operation of Utilities

69-7-201. Rules for operation of municipal utility. Each municipal utility shall adopt, with the concurrence of the municipal governing body, rules for the operation of the utility. The rules shall contain, at a minimum, those requirements of good practice which can be normally expected for the operation of a utility. They shall define or provide for use of meter or flat-rate user charges, the classification of users, applications for service, and uses of the service. The rules shall outline the utility's procedure for discontinuance of service and reestablishment of service as well as the extension of service to users within the municipal boundaries and outside the municipal boundaries. The rule shall provide that rate increases for comparable classifications and zones outside the municipal boundaries may not exceed those set within the municipal limits under the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 607, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — inapplicable to local governments, 2-4-102.
General provisions related to municipal utility services, Title 7, ch. 13, part 41.

CHAPTER 8
ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY GENERATION REINTEGRATION

Part 1 — General Provisions

69-8-101. Short title.
69-8-102. Repealed.
69-8-103. Definitions.
69-8-104. Repealed.
69-8-105 through 69-8-109 reserved.
69-8-110. Terminated.

Part 2 — Public Utilities

69-8-201. Public utility — customer electricity supply service options and requirements — exemption.
69-8-202. Repealed.
69-8-203. Repealed.
69-8-204. Repealed.
69-8-205 through 69-8-207 reserved.
69-8-208. Repealed.
69-8-209. Repealed.
69-8-210. Public utilities — cost tracking — environmentally preferred resources.
69-8-211. Repealed.
69-8-212 through 69-8-214 reserved.
69-8-215. Ratepayer and shareholder protection.

Part 3 — Cooperative Utilities

69-8-301. Repealed.
69-8-302. Repealed.
69-8-303. Repealed.
69-8-304. Repealed.
69-8-305 through 69-8-307 reserved.
69-8-308. Repealed.
69-8-309. Repealed.
69-8-310. Repealed.
69-8-311. Cooperative utility — electricity supply service — exemption.

Part 4 — Public Utilities, Cooperative Utilities, and Electricity Suppliers

69-8-401. Maintaining safety and reliability.
69-8-402. Universal system benefits programs.
69-8-403. Commission rulemaking authority.
69-8-404. Repealed.
69-8-405 through 69-8-407 reserved.
69-8-408. Repealed.
69-8-409. Repealed.
69-8-410. Repealed.
69-8-411. Nondiscriminatory access.
69-8-412. Funds established — fund administrators designated — purpose of funds — department rulemaking authority to administer funds.
69-8-413. Department rulemaking authority.
69-8-414. Universal system benefits programs credit review process — penalties.
69-8-415 reserved.
69-8-416. Repealed.
69-8-417. Repealed.
69-8-418 reserved.
69-8-419. Repealed.
69-8-420. Repealed.
69-8-421. Approval of electricity supply resources.
69-8-422 through 69-8-425 reserved.
69-8-426. Use of generation assets.

Part 5 — Transition and Tax Revenue Analysis

69-8-501. Repealed.
69-8-502. Repealed.
69-8-503. Transition costs financing.

Part 6 — Net Metering

69-8-601. Legislative findings.
69-8-602. Utility net metering requirements.
69-8-603. Net energy measurement calculation.
69-8-604. Net metering system — reliability and safety.

69-8-605. Applicability.
69-8-606 through 69-8-609 reserved.
69-8-610. Cost-benefit analysis.
69-8-611. Classification of service — net metering customers.
69-8-612. New classifications of service — grandfather clause.

Part 7 — Consumer Electricity Support Program (Void)

Part 8 — Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

69-8-801. Definitions.
69-8-802. Electric vehicle charging stations — rate approval.
69-8-803. Electric vehicle charging stations — service entity requirements.
69-8-804. Commission authority — rulemaking.

Part 9 reserved

Part 10 — Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development (Renumbered)

Part 1
General Provisions

69-8-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Electric Utility Industry Generation Reintegration Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

69-8-102. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Assignee" means any entity, including a corporation, partnership, board, trust, or financing vehicle, to which a utility assigns, sells, or transfers, other than as security, all or a portion of the utility's interest in or right to transition property. The term also includes an entity, corporation, public authority, partnership, trust, or financing vehicle to which an assignee assigns, sells, or transfers, other than as security, the assignee's interest in or right to transition property.

(2) "Board" means the board of investments created by 2-15-1808.

(3) "Carbon offset provider" means a qualified third-party entity that arranges for projects or actions that either reduce carbon dioxide emissions or increase the absorption of carbon dioxide.

(4) "Cooperative utility" means:

(a) a utility qualifying as an electric cooperative pursuant to Title 35, chapter 18; or

(b) an existing municipal electric utility as of May 2, 1997.

(5) "Cost-effective carbon offsets" means any combination of certified actions that are taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions or that increase the absorption of carbon dioxide, which collectively do not increase the cost of electricity produced annually on a per-megawatt-hour basis by more than 2.5%, including:

(a) actions undertaken by the applicant that reduce carbon dioxide emissions or that increase the absorption of carbon dioxide from a facility or equipment used to generate electricity; or

(b) actions by a carbon offset provider on behalf of the applicant.

(6) "Customer-generator" means a user of a net metering system.

(7) "Distribution facilities" means those facilities by and through which electricity is received from transmission facilities and distributed to a retail customer and that are controlled or operated by a utility.

(8) "Electricity supply costs" means the actual costs incurred in providing electricity supply service through power purchase agreements, demand-side management, and energy efficiency programs, including but not limited to:

(a) capacity costs;

(b) energy costs;

(c) fuel costs;

(d) ancillary service costs;

(e) transmission costs, including congestion and losses;

(f) planning and administrative costs; and

(g) any other costs directly related to the purchase of electricity and the management and provision of power purchase agreements.

(9) "Electricity supply resource" means:

(a) contracts for electric capacity and generation;

(b) plants owned or leased by a utility or equipment used to generate electricity;

(c) customer load management and energy conservation programs; or

(d) other means of providing adequate, reliable service to customers, as determined by the commission.

(10) "Electricity supply service" means the provision of electricity supply and related services through power purchase agreements, the acquisition and operation of electrical generation facilities, demand-side management, and energy efficiency programs.

(11) "Financing order" means an order of the commission adopted in accordance with 69-8-503 that authorizes the imposition and collection of fixed transition amounts and the issuance of transition bonds.

(12) (a) "Fixed transition amounts" means those nonbypassable rates or charges, including but not limited to:

(i) distribution;

(ii) connection;

(iii) disconnection; and

(iv) termination rates and charges that are authorized by the commission in a financing order to permit recovery of transition costs and the costs of recovering, reimbursing, financing, or refinancing the transition costs and of acquiring transition property through a plan approved by the commission in the financing order, including the costs of issuing, servicing, and retiring transition bonds.

(b) If requested by the utility in the utility's application for a financing order, fixed transition amounts must include nonbypassable rates or charges to recover federal and state taxes in which the transition cost recovery period is modified by the transactions approved in the financing order.

(13) "Generation assets cost of service" means a return on invested capital and all costs associated with the acquisition, construction, administration, operation, and maintenance of a plant or equipment owned or leased by a public utility and used for the production of electricity.

(14) "Interested person" means a retail electricity customer, the consumer counsel established in 5-15-201, the commission, or a utility.

(15) "Large customer" means, for universal system benefits programs purposes, a customer with an individual load greater than a monthly average of 1,000 kilowatt demand in the previous calendar year for that individual load.

(16) "Local governing body" means a local board of trustees of a rural electric cooperative.

(17) "Low-income customer" means those energy consumer households and families with incomes at or below industry-recognized levels that qualify those consumers for low-income energy-related assistance.

(18) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the electricity distributed to and the electricity generated by a customer-generator that is fed back to the distribution system during the applicable billing period.

(19) "Net metering system" means a facility for the production of electrical energy that:

(a) uses as its fuel solar, wind, or hydropower;

(b) has a generating capacity of not more than 50 kilowatts;

(c) is located on the customer-generator's premises;

(d) operates in parallel with the utility's distribution facilities; and

(e) is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's requirements for electricity.

(20) "Nonbypassable rates or charges" means rates or charges that are approved by the commission and imposed on a customer to pay the customer's share of transition costs or universal system benefits programs costs even if the customer has physically bypassed either the utility's transmission or distribution facilities.

(21) "Public utility" has the meaning of a public utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, on May 2, 1997, including the public utility's successors or assignees.

(22) "Qualifying load" means, for payments and credits associated with universal system benefits programs, all nonresidential demand-metered accounts of a large customer within the utility's service territory in which the customer qualifies as a large customer.

(23) "Retail customer" means a customer that purchases electricity for residential, commercial, or industrial end-use purposes and does not resell electricity to others.

(24) "Transition bondholder" means a holder of transition bonds, including trustees, collateral agents, and other entities acting for the benefit of that bondholder.

(25) "Transition bonds" means any bond, debenture, note, interim certificate, collateral, trust certificate, or other evidence of indebtedness or ownership issued by the board or other transition bonds issuer that is secured by or payable from fixed transition amounts or transition property. Proceeds from transition bonds must be used to recover, reimburse, finance, or refinance transition costs and to acquire transition property.

(26) "Transition charge" means a nonbypassable rate or charge to be imposed on a customer to pay the customer's share of transition costs.

(27) "Transition cost recovery period" means the period beginning on July 1, 1998, and ending when a utility customer does not have any liability for payment of transition costs.

(28) "Transition costs" means:

(a) a public utility's net verifiable generation-related and electricity supply costs, including costs of capital, that become unrecoverable as a result of the implementation of federal law requiring retail open access or customer choice or of this chapter;

(b) those costs that include but are not limited to:

(i) regulatory assets and deferred charges that exist because of current regulatory practices and can be accounted for up to the effective date of the commission's final order regarding a public utility's transition plan and conservation investments made prior to universal system benefits charge implementation;

(ii) nonutility and utility power purchase contracts executed before May 2, 1997, including qualifying facility contracts;

(iii) existing generation investments and supply commitments or other obligations incurred before May 2, 1997, and costs arising from these investments and commitments;

(iv) the costs associated with renegotiation or buyout of the existing nonutility and utility power purchase contracts, including qualifying facilities and all costs, expenses, and reasonable fees related to issuing transition bonds; and

(v) the costs of refinancing and retiring of debt or equity capital of the public utility and associated federal and state tax liabilities or other utility costs for which the use of transition bonds would benefit customers.

(29) "Transition property" means the property right created by a financing order, including without limitation the right, title, and interest of a utility, assignee, or other issuer of transition bonds to all revenue, collections, claims, payments, money, or proceeds of or arising from or constituting fixed transition amounts that are the subject of a financing order, including those nonbypassable rates and other charges and fixed transition amounts that are authorized by the commission in the financing order to recover transition costs and the costs of recovering, reimbursing, financing, or refinancing the transition costs and acquiring transition property, including the costs of issuing, servicing, and retiring transition bonds. Any right that a utility has in the transition property before the utility's sale or transfer or any other right created under this section or created in the financing order and assignable under this chapter or assignable pursuant to a financing order is only a contract right.

(30) "Transmission facilities" means those facilities that are used to provide transmission services as determined by the federal energy regulatory commission and the commission and that are controlled or operated by a utility.

(31) "Universal system benefits charge" means a nonbypassable rate or charge to be imposed on a customer to pay the customer's share of universal system benefits programs costs.

(32) "Universal system benefits programs" means public purpose programs for:

(a) cost-effective local energy conservation;

(b) low-income customer weatherization;

(c) renewable resource projects and applications, including those that capture unique social and energy system benefits or that provide transmission and distribution system benefits;

(d) research and development programs related to energy conservation and renewables;

(e) market transformation designed to encourage competitive markets for public purpose programs; and

(f) low-income energy assistance.

(33) "Utility" means any public utility or cooperative utility.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 575, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 580, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 584, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

69-8-104. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 584, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-105 through 69-8-109 reserved.

69-8-110. Terminated. Sec. 5, Ch. 582, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 2001.

Part 2
Public Utilities

69-8-201. Public utility — customer electricity supply service options and requirements — exemption. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), a retail customer that has an individual load with an average monthly demand of greater than or equal to 5,000 kilowatts and that is not purchasing electricity supply service from a public utility on October 1, 2007, may not purchase electricity supply service from a public utility.

(b) A retail customer referred to in subsection (1)(a) may request electricity supply service from the public utility, and the public utility shall provide electricity supply service if the retail customer demonstrates that the provision of electricity supply service to the retail customer will not adversely impact the public utility's other customers over the long term as determined by the commission.

(c) If a public utility provides electricity supply service to a retail customer as provided in subsection (1)(b), that service is regulated by the commission and the customer may not, at a later date, purchase electricity supply service from another provider of electricity supply service.

(2) (a) A retail customer that has an individual load with an average monthly demand of less than 5,000 kilowatts that is not purchasing electricity from a public utility on October 1, 2007, may continue to purchase electricity from an electricity supplier. The retail customer may subsequently purchase electricity from a public utility subject to commission rule or order, but the customer may not, at a later date, choose to purchase electricity from another source.

(b) A retail customer that has an individual load with an average monthly demand of less than 5,000 kilowatts and that is currently purchasing electricity from a public utility may not choose to purchase electricity from another source after October 1, 2007.

(3) Nothing in this section affects a retail customer's rights and obligations with respect to net metering, cogeneration, self-generation, or ancillary sales of electricity related to deviations from scheduled energy deliveries from nonutility suppliers, as may be provided for in law, commission rule or order, or a tariff approved by the public service commission or the federal energy regulatory commission.

(4) (a) Except as provided in 69-5-101, 69-5-102, 69-5-104(2), 69-5-105 through 69-5-112, 69-8-402, 69-8-421, and subsection (4)(b) of this section, a public utility currently doing business in Montana as part of a single integrated multistate operation, no portion of which lies within the basin of the Columbia River, is exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

(b) To the extent that a public utility described in subsection (4)(a) becomes the successor in interest of another public utility that has restructured in accordance with this chapter before October 1, 2007, it is subject to the requirements of this chapter with respect to the service area of the acquired public utility.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 575, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 175, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 584, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 25, 2023.

69-8-202. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-203. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-204. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-205 through 69-8-207 reserved.

69-8-208. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-209. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-210. Public utilities — cost tracking — environmentally preferred resources. (1) The commission may approve a cost-tracking adjustment for a public utility regulated under this part consistent with its regulation of public utilities under Title 69, chapter 3.

(2) Notwithstanding any service options that the commission may require, a public utility shall offer its customers the option of purchasing a product composed of or supporting power from certified environmentally preferred resources that include but are not limited to wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass, subject to review and approval by the commission. The commission shall ensure that these resources have been certified as meeting industry-accepted standards.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 509, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 600, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Geothermal research, 90-3-1301.

69-8-211. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 556, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 584, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-212 through 69-8-214 reserved.

69-8-215. Ratepayer and shareholder protection. (1) Rates established pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, part 3, may not allow for the recovery of any portion of a civil judgment in a lawsuit arising out of litigation brought by the shareholders of a predecessor in interest against:

(a) the predecessor in interest;
(b) the officers or directors of the predecessor in interest;
(c) the legal advisers or consultants to the predecessor in interest; or
(d) any successor of the predecessor in interest, including a successor in interest.

(2) (a) Subject to subsection (3), an entity subject to regulation under Title 69, including the entity's subsidiaries and affiliates, may not be made a party to litigation brought by the shareholders of a predecessor in interest against:

(i) the predecessor in interest;
(ii) the officers or directors of the predecessor in interest;
(iii) the legal advisers or consultants to the predecessor in interest; or
(iv) any successor of the predecessor in interest that is not a successor in interest.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3), an entity subject to regulation under Title 69 may not be held liable for a civil judgment entered against:

(i) a predecessor in interest;
(ii) the officers or directors of a predecessor in interest;
(iii) the legal advisers or consultants to a predecessor in interest; or

(iv) any successor of a predecessor in interest that is not a successor in interest.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply:

(a) to a successor of a public utility regulated by the public service commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, on May 2, 1997, whose shareholders received stock as a result of the sale of a public utility; or

(b) if the liabilities resulting from, related to, or arising out of a reorganization, restructuring, or plan of merger were explicitly assumed by written contract to be the liabilities of the successor to the predecessor in interest.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "predecessor in interest" means a public utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, on May 2, 1997, in which an interest was purchased through an arm's-length transaction in which the market value of the public utility property purchased was paid for in cash, debt assumption, or a combination of cash and debt assumption; and

(b) "successor in interest" means the purchaser of all or a portion of a public utility regulated by the commission pursuant to Title 69, chapter 3, on May 2, 1997, through an arm's-length transaction in which the market value of the public utility property purchased was paid for in cash, debt assumption, or a combination of cash and debt assumption.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 2003.

Part 3
Cooperative Utilities

69-8-301. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 584, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-302. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-303. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-304. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-305 through 69-8-307 reserved.

69-8-308. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-309. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-310. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-311. Cooperative utility — electricity supply service — exemption. (1) A local governing body shall establish the price for electricity supply service offered by a cooperative utility.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the universal system benefits program pursuant to 69-8-402, a cooperative utility is exempt from the provisions and requirements of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

Part 4
Public Utilities, Cooperative Utilities, and Electricity Suppliers

69-8-401. Maintaining safety and reliability. Utilities shall maintain standards of safety and reliability of the electric delivery system and existing customer service requirements.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-402. Universal system benefits programs. (1) Universal system benefits programs are established for the state of Montana to ensure continued funding of and new expenditures for energy conservation, renewable resource projects and applications, and low-income energy assistance.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (11), beginning January 1, 1999, 2.4% of each utility's annual retail sales revenue in Montana for the calendar year ending December 31, 1995, is established as the initial funding level for universal system benefits programs. To collect this amount of funds on an annualized basis in 1999, the commission shall establish rates for utilities subject to its jurisdiction and the governing boards of cooperatives shall establish rates for the cooperatives.

(b) The recovery of all universal system benefits programs costs imposed pursuant to this section is authorized through the imposition of a universal system benefits charge assessed at the meter for each local utility system customer as provided in this section.

(c) A utility must receive credit toward annual funding requirements for the utility's internal programs or activities that qualify as universal system benefits programs, including those amortized or nonamortized portions of expenditures for the purchase of power that are for the acquisition or support of renewable energy, conservation-related activities, or low-income energy assistance, and for large customers' programs or activities as provided in subsection (7). The department of revenue shall review claimed credits of the utilities and large customers pursuant to 69-8-414.

(d) A utility at which the sale of power for final end use occurs is the utility that receives credit for the universal system benefits programs expenditure.

(e) A customer's utility shall collect universal system benefits funds less any allowable credits.

(f) For a utility to receive credit for low-income-related expenditures, the activity must have taken place in Montana.

(g) If a utility's or a large customer's credit for internal activities does not satisfy the annual funding provisions of this subsection (2), then the utility or large customer shall make a payment to the universal system benefits fund established in 69-8-412 for any difference.

(3) Cooperative utilities may collectively pool their statewide credits to satisfy their annual funding requirements for universal system benefits programs and low-income energy assistance.

(4) A utility's transition plan must describe how the utility proposes to provide for universal system benefits programs, including the methodologies, such as cost-effectiveness and need determination, used to measure the utility's level of contribution to each program.

(5) (a) A cooperative utility's minimum annual funding requirement for low-income energy and weatherization assistance is established at 17% of the cooperative utility's annual universal system benefits funding level and is inclusive within the overall universal system benefits funding level.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (11), a public utility's minimum annual funding requirement for low-income energy and weatherization assistance is established at 50% of the public utility's annual universal system benefits funding level and is inclusive within the overall universal system benefits funding level.

(c) A utility must receive credit toward the utility's low-income energy assistance annual funding requirement for the utility's internal low-income energy assistance programs or activities. Internal programs and activities may include providing low-income energy and weatherization assistance on Indian reservations.

(d) If a utility's credit for internal activities does not satisfy its annual funding requirement, then the utility shall make a payment for any difference to the universal low-income energy assistance fund established in 69-8-412.

(6) An individual customer may not bear a disproportionate share of the local utility's funding requirements, and a sliding scale must be implemented to provide a more equitable distribution of program costs.

(7) (a) A large customer:

(i) shall pay a universal system benefits programs charge with respect to the large customer's qualifying load equal to the lesser of:

(A) $500,000, less the large customer credits provided for in this subsection (7); or

(B) the product of 0.9 mills per kilowatt hour multiplied by the large customer's total kilowatt hour purchases, less large customer credits with respect to that qualifying load provided for in this subsection (7);

(ii) must receive credit toward that large customer's universal system benefits charge for internal expenditures and activities that qualify as a universal system benefits programs expenditure, and these internal expenditures must include but not be limited to:

(A) expenditures that result in a reduction in the consumption of electrical energy in the large customer's facility; and

(B) those amortized or nonamortized portions of expenditures for the purchase of power at retail or wholesale that are for the acquisition or support of renewable energy or conservation-related activities.

(b) Large customers making these expenditures must receive a credit against the large customer's universal system benefits charge, except that any of those amounts expended in a calendar year that exceed that large customer's universal system benefits charge for the calendar year must be used as a credit against those charges in future years until the total amount of those expenditures has been credited against that large customer's universal system benefits charges.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (11), a public utility shall prepare and submit an annual summary report of the public utility's activities relating to all universal system benefits programs to the commission, the department of revenue, and the energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. A cooperative utility shall prepare and submit annual summary reports of activities to the cooperative utility's respective local governing body, the statewide cooperative utility office, and the energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. The statewide cooperative utility office shall prepare and submit an annual summary report of the activities of individual cooperative utilities, including a summary of the pooling of statewide credits, as provided in subsection (3), to the department of revenue and the energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. The annual report of a public utility or of the statewide cooperative utility office must include but is not limited to:

(i) the types of internal utility and customer programs being used to satisfy the provisions of this chapter;

(ii) the level of funding for those programs relative to the annual funding requirements prescribed in subsection (2);

(iii) any payments made to the statewide funds in the event that internal funding was below the prescribed annual funding requirements; and

(iv) the names of all large customers who either utilized credits to minimize or eliminate their charge pursuant to subsection (7) or received a reimbursement for universal system benefits related to expenditures from the utility during the previous reporting year.

(b) Before September 15 of the year preceding a legislative session, the energy and telecommunications interim committee shall:

(i) review the universal system benefits programs and, if necessary, submit recommendations regarding these programs to the legislature; and

(ii) review annual universal system benefits reports provided by utilities in accordance with subsection (8)(a) and compare those reports with reports provided by large customers to the department of revenue in accordance with subsection (10)(a) and identify large customers, if any, who are not in compliance with reporting requirements in accordance with this subsection (8) and subsection (10).

(9) A utility or large customer filing for a credit shall develop and maintain appropriate documentation to support the utility's or the large customer's claim for the credit.

(10) (a) A large customer claiming credits for a calendar year shall submit an annual summary report of its universal system benefits programs activities and expenditures to the department of revenue and to the large customer's utility. The department shall annually make the reports available to the energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210. A report must be filed with the department even if a large customer is being reimbursed for a prior year's project. The annual report of a large customer must identify each qualifying project or expenditure for which it has claimed a credit and the amount of the credit. Prior approval by the utility is not required, except as provided in subsection (10)(b).

(b) If a large customer claims a credit that the department of revenue disallows in whole or in part, the large customer is financially responsible for the disallowance. A large customer and the large customer's utility may mutually agree that credits claimed by the large customer be first approved by the utility. If the utility approves the large customer credit, the utility may be financially responsible for any subsequent disallowance.

(11) A public utility with fewer than 50 customers is exempt from the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 580, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 252, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 275, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

69-8-403. Commission rulemaking authority. In addition to promulgating rules expressly provided for in this chapter, the commission may promulgate any other rules necessary to carry out the provision of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 575, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 565, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

69-8-404. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-405 through 69-8-407 reserved.

69-8-408. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-409. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

69-8-410. Repealed. Sec. 21, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 505, L. 1997.

69-8-411. Nondiscriminatory access. (1) Nonutility generators and electricity suppliers must have open, fair, and nondiscriminatory access to a public utility's transmission and distribution facilities according to federal energy regulatory commission rules and regulations for purposes of serving those customers identified in 69-8-201(1) and (2).

(2) Except as provided in 69-5-104(1), public utilities shall grant the retail customers identified in 69-8-201(1) and (2) and their electricity suppliers access to transmission and distribution facilities at rates and under terms and conditions comparable to the public utility's own access to those facilities or access by the public utility's affiliates.

(3) Public utilities shall file tariffs for transmission and distribution services regulated by the federal energy regulatory commission and the commission implementing subsections (1) and (2).

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 580, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 2011.

69-8-412. Funds established — fund administrators designated — purpose of funds — department rulemaking authority to administer funds. (1) If, pursuant to 69-8-402(2)(g) or (5)(d), there is any positive difference between credits and the annual funding requirement, the department of revenue shall establish one or both of the following funds:

(a) a fund to provide for universal system benefits programs other than low-income energy assistance. The department of environmental quality shall administer this fund.

(b) a fund to provide universal low-income energy assistance. The department of public health and human services shall administer this fund.

(2) The purpose of these funds is to fund universal system benefits programs.

(3) The department of environmental quality and the department of public health and human services shall expend the money in each representative fund on universal system benefits programs in the utility service territory from which the money was received.

(4) The department of environmental quality and the department of public health and human services may adopt rules that administer and expend the money in each respective fund based on an annual assessment of identified funding needs in the utility service territory from which the money was received. In assessing the funding needs, the departments shall solicit utility and public comment from the utility service territory from which the money was

received. The annual assessment must also take into account existing utility and large customer universal system benefits programs expenditures.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 580, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 252, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 275, L. 2017.

69-8-413. Department rulemaking authority. (1) The department of revenue shall adopt rules on or before September 1, 1999, specifying acceptable universal system benefits programs credits and expenditures and adopting procedures for challenged credits.

(2) Rules adopted pursuant to this part must be adopted in accordance with the Montana Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Title 2, chapter 5, part 1.

(3) Universal system benefits programs credits claimed or expenditures made prior to the adoption of the rules under subsection (1) must be allowed and are not subject to the requirements of 69-8-414.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 580, L. 1999.

69-8-414. Universal system benefits programs credit review process — penalties. (1) (a) All annual reports required pursuant to 69-8-402(8) and (10) must be filed with the department of revenue on March 1 of each year.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), a utility or large customer who fails to file a report in accordance with subsection (1)(a) is subject to an administrative penalty of not less than $1,000 or more than $5,000.

(c) The department may not impose a penalty pursuant to this subsection (1) unless the department:

(i) provides notice to a utility or a large customer of the failure to file a timely report in accordance with 69-8-402(8) or (10); and

(ii) does not receive a report from the utility or a large customer within 20 business days of the notice required pursuant to subsection (1)(c)(i).

(d) Any penalties recovered by the department must be deposited in the universal low-income energy assistance fund established in 69-8-412(1)(b).

(2) Except as provided in 69-8-413, upon a challenge by an interested person, the department of revenue shall ensure that the credit claimed is consistent with this chapter. An interested person may file comments challenging the claim, including supporting documentation, with the department of revenue. A challenge of any claimed credit must be filed within 60 days of the department of revenue's receipt of the credit claimant's annual reports required pursuant to 69-8-402(8) and (10).

(3) Claimed credits are presumed to be correct unless challenged by an interested person. If a challenge is filed by an interested person, the department of revenue shall conduct an initial review of a challenged credit and shall make a determination as to the likelihood that the challenged credit qualifies for universal system benefits programs. If the department of revenue finds that the challenged credit is not likely to qualify for universal system benefits programs, the department of revenue shall formally review the challenge; otherwise, the department of revenue shall dismiss the challenge and provide a statement of the reasons supporting dismissal of the challenge. The department of revenue may request additional information from the credit claimant or interested person. The department of revenue shall complete the initial review within 30 days of the challenge.

(4) If the department of revenue determines that a formal review of a challenged credit is necessary, the department of revenue shall provide public notice of the opportunity to comment to the credit claimant and interested persons. The department of revenue may also schedule an oral hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, the department of revenue shall provide public notice of the hearing to the credit claimant and interested persons.

(5) For a formal credit review challenge, the following procedures apply:

(a) The credit claimant shall provide documentation supporting the credit claimed to the department of revenue and to all interested persons, subject to department of revenue protective orders for confidential or sensitive materials, upon a showing of a privacy interest by the credit claimant.

(b) The department of revenue shall make all materials related to the claim, the challenge, and the submitted comments available to the credit claimant and for public inspection and photocopying, subject to any department of revenue protective orders.

(c) The credit claimant may respond in writing to any comments and other documents filed by an interested person.

(d) The department of revenue may ask for additional detailed information to implement this section.

(6) Upon completing a formal review of a challenged credit, the department of revenue shall make a decision to certify or to deny the credit claimed, providing a statement of the reasons supporting the department of revenue's decision. The formal review of a challenged credit, including the department of revenue's final decision, must be completed within 60 days of the department of revenue's public notice of the opportunity to comment on the challenged credit.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 580, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 2015.

69-8-415 reserved.

69-8-416. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 575, L. 1999; rep. Sec. 30, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (repealer voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002).

69-8-417. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 575, L. 1999; rep. Sec. 30, Ch. 577, L. 2001 (repealer voided by I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002).

69-8-418 reserved.

69-8-419. Repealed. Secs. 16, 20, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

69-8-420. Repealed. Secs. 16, 20, Ch. 449, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2017.

69-8-421. Approval of electricity supply resources. (1) A public utility may apply to the commission for approval of an electricity supply resource that:

(a) is not yet procured; and

(b) is subject to a competitive solicitation process when applicable in accordance with 69-3-1207.

(2) Within 45 days of the public utility's submission of an application for approval, the commission shall determine whether or not the application is adequate and in compliance with the commission's minimum filing requirements. If the commission determines that the application is inadequate, it shall explain the deficiencies.

(3) The commission shall issue an order within 180 days of receipt of an adequate application for approval of a power purchase agreement from an existing generating resource unless it determines that extraordinary circumstances require additional time.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) through (4)(d), the commission shall issue an order within 270 days of receipt of an adequate application for approval of a lease, an acquisition of an equity interest in a new or existing plant or equipment used to generate electricity, or a power purchase agreement for which approval would result in construction of a new electric generating resource. The commission may extend the time limit up to an additional 90 days if it determines that extraordinary circumstances require it.

(b) If an air quality permit pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, is required for a new electrical generation resource or a modification to an existing resource, the commission shall hold the public meetings on the application for approval in accordance with 69-3-1205(2) at least 30 days after the issuance of the final air quality permit.

(c) If a final air quality permit is not issued within the time limit pursuant to subsection (4)(a), the commission shall extend the time limit in order to comply with subsection (4)(b).

(d) The commission may extend the time limit for issuing an order for an additional 60 days following the meetings pursuant to subsection (4)(b).

(5) To facilitate timely consideration of an application, the commission may initiate proceedings to evaluate planning and procurement activities related to a potential resource procurement, if necessary, in accordance with 69-3-1207 prior to the public utility's submission of an application for approval.

(6) (a) The commission may approve or deny, in whole or in part, an application for approval of an electricity supply resource.

(b) The commission may consider all relevant information known up to the time that the administrative record in the proceeding is closed in the evaluation of an application for approval.

(c) A commission order granting approval of an application must include the following findings:

(i) approval, in whole or in part, is in the public interest; and

(ii) procurement of the electricity supply resource is consistent with the requirements and objectives in 69-3-201, 69-3-1201 through 69-3-1209, and commission rules.

(d) The commission order may include a provision for allowable generation assets cost of service when the utility has filed an application for the lease or acquisition of an equity interest in a plant or equipment used to generate electricity.

(e) When issuing an order for the acquisition of an equity interest or lease in a facility or equipment that is constructed after January 1, 2007, and that is used to generate electricity that is primarily fueled by natural or synthetic gas, the commission shall require the applicant to implement cost-effective carbon offsets. Expenditures required for cost-effective carbon offsets pursuant to this subsection (6)(e) are fully recoverable in rates. By March 31, 2008, the commission shall adopt rules for the implementation of this subsection (6)(e).

(f) The commission order may include other findings that the commission determines are necessary.

(g) A commission order that denies approval must describe why the findings required in subsection (6)(c) could not be reached.

(h) The commission order must approve or deny an initial cost finding, in whole or in part. Any additional costs in excess of the commission approved amount must be approved or denied, in whole or in part, in a subsequent proceeding.

(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, if the commission has issued an order containing the findings required under subsection (6)(c), the commission may not subsequently disallow the recovery of costs related to the approved electricity supply resource based on contrary findings.

(8) Until the state or federal government has adopted uniformly applicable statewide standards for the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide, the commission may not approve an application for the acquisition of an equity interest or lease in a facility or equipment used to generate electricity that is primarily fueled by coal and that is constructed after January 1, 2007, unless the facility or equipment captures and sequesters a minimum of 50% of the carbon dioxide produced by the facility. Carbon dioxide captured by a facility or equipment may be sequestered offsite from the facility or equipment.

(9) Nothing limits the commission's ability to subsequently, in any future rate proceeding, inquire into the manner in which the public utility has managed, dispatched, operated, or maintained any resource or managed any power purchase agreement as part of its overall resource portfolio. The commission may subsequently disallow rate recovery for the costs that result from the failure of a public utility to reasonably manage, dispatch, operate, maintain, or administer electricity supply resources in a manner consistent with 69-3-201 and commission rules.

(10) The commission shall adopt rules prescribing minimum filing requirements for applications filed pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 449, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 251, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 251, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 25, 2023.

69-8-422 through 69-8-425 reserved.

69-8-426. Use of generation assets. Generation assets acquired by a public utility pursuant to this chapter:

(1) must be used by the public utility to serve and benefit customers within the public utility's Montana service territory; and

(2) may not be removed from the rate base unless the commission finds that customers of the public utility will not be adversely affected.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 491, L. 2007.

Part 5
Transition and Tax Revenue Analysis

69-8-501. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 584, L. 2001.

69-8-502. Repealed. Sec. 20, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

69-8-503. Transition costs financing. (1) A utility may apply to the commission for a determination that certain transition costs may be recovered through the issuance of transition bonds. If transition bonds are issued, cost savings associated with and resulting from the bonds must benefit customers. After the issuance of a financing order, the utility retains sole discretion regarding whether to sell, assign, or otherwise transfer or pledge transition property or to cause the transition bonds to be issued, including the right to defer or postpone the sale, assignment, transfer, pledge, or issuance. If transition bonds are not issued within 4 years of the issuance of the financing order, the financing order must terminate. The utility may apply for an extension or renewal of a financing order.

(2) (a) The commission may issue financing orders in accordance with this section to facilitate the recovery, reimbursement, financing, or refinancing of transition costs and the acquisition of transition property. A financing order may be adopted only upon the application of a utility and may become effective in accordance with its terms only after the utility files with the commission the utility's written consent to all terms and conditions of the financing order. A financing order may specify how amounts collected from a customer are allocated between fixed transition amounts and other charges.

(b) A financing order must include, without limitation, a procedure for the expeditious approval by the commission of periodic adjustments to nonbypassable rates and charges associated with fixed transition amounts included in the order to ensure recovery of all transition costs and the costs of capital associated with the proposed recovery, reimbursement, financing, or refinancing of transition costs and the acquisition of transition property, including the costs of issuing, servicing, and retiring the transition bonds contemplated by the financing order. The order must set forth the term over which the transition bonds are to be paid, but those terms may not exceed 20 years. These adjustments may not impose fixed transition amounts upon customer classes that were not subject to the fixed transition amounts in the pertinent financing order.

(3) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in this section with respect to transition property that has been made the basis for the issuance of transition bonds and upon the issuance of transition bonds, the financing orders and the fixed transition amounts must be irrevocable.

(b) If transition bonds have been issued, the commission may not by rescinding, altering, or amending the financing order or otherwise:

(i) revalue or revise for ratemaking purposes the transition costs or the costs of recovering, reimbursing, financing, or refinancing the transition costs and acquiring transition property;

(ii) determine that the fixed transition amounts or rates are unjust or unreasonable; or

(iii) in any way reduce or impair the value of transition property either directly or indirectly by taking fixed transition amounts into account when setting other rates for the utility.

(c) The total amount of the transition property may not be subject to reduction, impairment, postponement, or termination.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the state pledges and agrees with the assignees and pledgees of transition property and transition bondholders that the state may not limit or alter the fixed transition amounts, transition property, financing orders, or any right under the bonds until the bonds, together with the interest on the bonds, are fully met and discharged. The board, as agent for the state, is authorized to include this pledge and undertaking for the state in these bonds.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the commission shall approve those adjustments to the fixed transition amounts that may be necessary to ensure timely recovery of all transition costs that are the subject of the pertinent financing order and the costs of capital associated with the recovery, reimbursement, financing, or refinancing of transition costs and acquiring transition property including the costs of issuing, servicing, and retiring the transition bonds contemplated by the financing order. The adjustments may not impose fixed transition amounts upon customer classes that were not subject to the fixed transition amounts in the pertinent financing order.

(4) (a) Financing orders do not constitute a debt or liability of the state or of any political subdivision of the state if issued through the board and do not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state or any of the state's political subdivisions if issued through the board. The financing orders are payable solely from the funds provided under this section. The bonds and offering documents must contain on their face a statement to the following effect:

"This bond may not constitute an indebtedness or a loan of credit of the state of Montana or any political subdivision of the state of Montana within any constitutional or statutory provision. Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the state of Montana is pledged to the payment of the principal or interest on this bond, and neither the state of Montana nor any political subdivision of the state of Montana is obligated, directly, indirectly, or contingently, to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any appropriation for the payment of this bond. This bond is a limited obligation of the issuer, payable solely out of the transition property or the proceeds of that property specifically pledged for its payment and not otherwise."

(b) The issuance of bonds under this section may not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision of the state to levy or to pledge any form of taxation or to make any appropriation for bond payment.

(5) The commission shall establish procedures for the expeditious processing of applications for financing orders, including the approval or disapproval of applications within 120 days after a utility submits a complete application. The commission shall provide in any financing order for a procedure for the expeditious approval by the commission of periodic adjustments to the fixed transition amounts that are the subject of the pertinent financing order pursuant to subsection (2). The commission shall determine on each anniversary of the issuance of the financing order and at additional intervals as may be provided for in the financing order whether the adjustments are required and shall provide for the adjustments, if required, to be approved within 60 days of each anniversary of the issuance of the financing order or of each additional interval provided for in the financing order.

(6) Fixed transition amounts become transition property when and to the extent that a financing order authorizing the fixed transition amounts has become effective in accordance with subsection (2), and the transition property must thereafter continuously exist as property for all purposes with all of the rights and privileges of this chapter for the period and to the extent provided in the financing order or until the transition bonds are paid in full, including all principal, interest, premium, costs, and arrearages on the transition bonds.

(7) Transition bonds may be issued upon commission approval in the pertinent financing order. Transition bonds must specify that they do not provide recourse to the credit or any assets of the utility, other than the transition property as specified in the pertinent financing order.

(8) (a) A utility may sell, assign, or transfer all or portions of the utility's interest in transition property to an assignee. A utility or an assignee may further sell, assign, or transfer the utility's interest in that transition property to one or more assignees in connection with the issuance of transition bonds to the extent approved in the pertinent financing order.

(b) A utility or an assignee may pledge transition property as collateral for transition bonds to the extent approved in the pertinent financing order and may provide for a security interest in the transition property as provided in this section.

(c) Transition property may be sold, assigned, or transferred for the benefit of:

(i) transition bondholders in connection with the exercise of remedies upon a default; or

(ii) any person acquiring the transition property after a sale, assignment, or transfer pursuant to this section.

(9) (a) To the extent that any interest in transition property is sold, assigned, transferred, or pledged as collateral, the commission shall authorize the utility to contract with any assignee so that the utility will, subject to the utility's rights under subsection (18):

(i) continue to operate the utility's system and to provide service to the utility's customers;

(ii) collect amounts in respect of the fixed transition amounts for the benefit and account of the assignee; and

(iii) account for and remit these amounts to or for the account of the assignee.

(b) Contracting with the assignee in accordance with the commission's authorization may not impair or negate the characterization of the sale, assignment, transfer, or pledge as a true sale, an absolute assignment or transfer, or a grant of a security interest, as applicable.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision under this section or under a financing order requiring that the commission take or refrain from taking action with respect to the subject matter of a financing order binds the commission and any successor commission or agency exercising functions similar to the commission, and the commission or any successor commission or agency may not rescind, alter, or amend that requirement in a financing order.

(11) A pledge or any other security interest in transition property is valid, is enforceable against the pledgor and third parties, including judgment lien creditors, subject only to the rights of any third parties holding security interests in the transition property perfected in the manner described in this section, and attaches only when all of the following have taken place:

(a) the commission has issued the financing order authorizing the fixed transition amounts included in the transition property;

(b) value has been given by the pledgees of the transition property; and

(c) the pledgor has signed a security agreement or other financing-related agreement covering the transition property.

(12) (a) A valid and enforceable security interest in transition property is perfected only when it has attached and when a financing statement has been filed with the secretary of state in accordance with procedures that the secretary of state may establish. The financing statement must name the pledgor of the transition property as debtor and identify the transition property.

(b) Any description of the transition property is sufficient if the description refers to the financing order creating the transition property.

(c) The commission may require other filings with respect to the security interest in accordance with procedures the commission may establish, except that these filings may not affect the perfection of the security interest.

(13) A perfected security interest in transition property is a continuously perfected security interest in all revenue and proceeds arising with respect to the transition property, whether or not the revenue or proceeds have accrued. Conflicting security interests must rank according to priority in time of perfection. Transition property constitutes property for all purposes, including for contracts securing transition bonds, whether or not the revenue and proceeds arising with respect to the transition property have accrued.

(14) (a) Subject to the terms of the security agreement covering the transition property and the rights of any third parties holding security interests in the transition property perfected in the manner described in this section, the validity and relative priority of a security interest created under this section is not defeated or adversely affected by:

(i) the commingling of revenue arising with respect to the transition property with other funds of the utility that is the pledgor or transferor of the transition property; or

(ii) any security interest of any third party in a deposit account of that utility perfected under Title 30, chapter 9A, part 3, into which the revenue is deposited.

(b) Subject to the terms of the security agreement, upon compliance with the requirements of this section, a pledgee of the transition property has a perfected security interest in all cash and deposit accounts of the utility in which revenue arising with respect to the transition property has been commingled with other funds, but the perfected security interest must be limited to an amount no greater than the amount of the revenue with respect to the transition property received by the utility within 12 months before any default under the security agreement or the institution of insolvency proceedings by or against the utility, less payments from the revenue to the pledgees during that 12-month period.

(15) (a) If a default occurs under the security agreement covering the transition property, a pledgee of the transition property, subject to the terms of the security agreement, has all rights and remedies of a secured party upon default under Title 30, chapter 9A, part 6, and is entitled to foreclose or otherwise enforce the pledgee's security interest in the transition property, subject to the rights of any third parties holding prior security interests in the transition property perfected in the manner provided in this section.

(b) The commission may require in the financing order creating the transition property that in the event of default by the utility in payment of revenue arising with respect to the transition property, the commission and any successor to the commission, upon the application by a pledgee or assignee of the transition property and without limiting any other remedies available to the pledgees or transferees by reason of the default shall order the sequestration and payment to the pledgee or assignee of the proceeds of the transition property. An order must remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to the public utility or a debtor, pledgor, or transferor of the transition property.

(c) Any sum in excess of amounts necessary to pay principal, premium, if any, interest, costs, and arrearages on the transition bonds and other costs arising under the security agreement must be remitted to the debtor or to the pledgor as provided in the security agreement.

(16) (a) A transfer of transition property by a utility to an assignee or by the assignee to another assignee that the parties have in the governing documentation expressly stated to be a sale or other absolute transfer in a transaction approved or authorized in a financing order must be treated as an absolute transfer of all of the transferors right, title, and interest, as in a true sale, and not as a pledge or other financing of the transition property, other than for federal and state income and franchise tax purposes.

(b) Granting to transition bondholders a preferred right to revenue of the utility or the provision by the utility or an assignee of other credit enhancement with respect to transition bonds may not impair or negate the characterization of any transfer as a true sale, other than for federal and state income and franchise tax purposes.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection (16), for state tax purposes, a transfer must be treated as a pledge or other financing unless the governing documentation of transfer specifically states that the transfer is intended to be treated otherwise. The characterization of the transfer as a true sale or other absolute transfer in the governing documentation of a transfer is not intended to prejudice the characterization of the transfer as a pledge or other financing for federal tax purposes.

(17) A sale, assignment, or other transfer of transition property may be considered perfected as against any third person, including any judicial lien creditor, only when both of the following have taken place:

(a) the financing order authorizing the fixed transition amounts included in the transition property has become effective in accordance with subsection (2); and

(b) an assignment of the transition property, in writing, has been executed and delivered to the transferee.

(18) (a) As between bona fide assignees of the same right for value without notice, the assignee first filing a financing statement with the secretary of state in accordance with procedures that the secretary of state may establish has priority. The financing statement must name the assignor of the transition property as debtor and must identify the transition property. Any description of the transition property is sufficient if the description refers to the financing order creating the transition property. The commission may require the assignor or the assignee to make other filings with respect to the transfer in accordance with procedures that the commission may establish, but these filings may not affect the perfection of the transfer.

(b) Any successor to the utility, whether pursuant to any bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceeding or pursuant to any merger, sale, or transfer, by operation of law or otherwise, shall perform and satisfy all obligations of the utility pursuant to this section in the same manner and to the same extent as the utility, including but not limited to collecting and paying to the assignee or pledgee, as the case may be, revenue arising with respect to the transition property sold, assigned, transferred, or pledged to secure transition bonds.

(19) Transition property or any right, title, or interest of a utility, assignee, or pledgee described in the definition of transition property, whether before or after the issuance of a financing order, does not constitute an account or general intangibles as those terms are defined in 30-9A-102. Any right, title, or interest pertaining to a financing order, including the interest pertaining to a financing order, along with the associated transition property and any revenue, collections, claims, payments, money, or proceeds of or arising from fixed transition amounts pursuant to the financing order, may not be considered proceeds of any right, title, or interest other than in the order and the transition property arising from the order.

(20) The lien under this section is enforceable against the pledgor and all third parties, including judicial lien creditors, subject only to the rights of any third parties holding security interests in the transition property previously perfected in the manner described in this section if value has been given by the purchasers of transition bonds. A perfected lien in transition property is a continuously perfected security interest in all revenue and proceeds arising with respect to the associated transition property, whether or not revenue has been accrued. Transition property constitutes property for the purposes of contracts securing transition bonds, whether or not the related revenue has accrued. The lien created under this section is perfected and ranks before any lien, including any judicial lien, that subsequently attaches to the transition property, to the fixed transition costs, and to the financing order and any rights created by the order or any proceeds of the order. The relative priority of a lien created under this section is not defeated or adversely affected by changes to the financing order or to the fixed transition amounts payable by any customer.

(21) The commission shall establish and maintain a separate system of records to reflect the date and time of receipt of all filings made under this section and may provide that transfers of transition property to an assignee be filed in accordance with the same system.

(22) Any sale, assignment, or other transfer of transition property or any pledge of transition property is exempt from any state or local sales, income, transfers, gains, receipts, or similar taxes.

(23) The transition bonds issued under this chapter are exempt from the provisions of Title 30, chapter 10, but copies of all prospectus and disclosure documents must be deposited for public inspection with the state securities commissioner.

(24) The granting, perfection, and priority of security interests with respect to transition property and the proceeds of transition property are governed by this section rather than by Title 30, chapter 9A.

(25) Upon the payment in full of transition bond principal and interest, the utility shall discontinue charging and collecting the competitive transition charge associated with that portion of the utility's approved transition costs.

(26) The commission may, by order or rule and subject to terms and conditions that it may prescribe, exempt any security or class of securities for which an application is required under this title or any public utility or class of public utility from the provisions of this title if it finds that the application of this title to the security, class of security, public utility, or class of public utility is not required by the public interest.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 505, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 305, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 565, L. 2003.

Part 6
Net Metering

69-8-601. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to promote net metering because it:

(1) encourages private investment in renewable energy resources;

(2) stimulates Montana's economic growth; and

(3) enhances the continued diversification of the energy resources used in Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 1999.

69-8-602. *(Temporary)* **Utility net metering requirements.** A utility shall:

(1) allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions, unless the commission determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment:

(a) that the use of additional metering equipment to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for the interconnection of net metering systems, after taking into account the benefits and costs of purchasing and installing additional metering equipment; and

(b) how the costs of net metering are to be allocated between the customer-generator and the utility; and

(2) charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee that is the same as other customers of the electric utility in the same rate class. The commission shall determine, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment if:

(a) the utility will incur direct costs associated with interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these net metering systems; and

(b) public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the customer-generator, rather than allocating these costs among the utility's entire customer base.

69-8-602. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Utility net metering requirements.** (1) A utility shall allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions.

(2) (a) If the commission determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, that the use of additional metering equipment to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for the interconnection of net metering systems, the commission may establish additional metering equipment requirements.

(b) The commission shall consider the benefits and costs to a public utility and a customer-generator of purchasing and installing additional metering equipment and how the costs of additional net metering equipment are to be allocated between the customer-generator and the public utility.

(3) (a) The commission shall charge the customer-generator an appropriate rate pursuant to 69-3-306.

(b) Notwithstanding 69-8-610 through 69-8-612, if the commission determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, that a public utility is incurring direct costs associated with interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these net metering systems, the commission may impose these costs on the customer-generator, rather than allocating these costs among the public utility's entire customer base.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 323, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 13(2)(a), Ch. 248, L. 2017, provided that the amendments to this section are effective on the date that the public service commission issues an order making a determination that customer-generators are being served under a separate classification of service in accordance with 69-8-611. Section 13(2)(c), Ch. 248, L. 2017, provided: "The public service commission shall provide a copy of the order to the code commissioner within 10 days of issuing the order."

69-8-603. *(Temporary)* **Net energy measurement calculation.** Consistent with the other provisions of this part, the net energy measurement must be calculated in the following manner:

(1) The utility shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during the billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

(2) If the electricity supplied by the electricity supplier exceeds the electricity generated by the customer-generator and fed back to the electricity supplier during the billing period, the customer-generator must be billed for the net electricity supplied by the electricity supplier, in accordance with normal metering practices.

(3) If electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the electricity supplier, the customer-generator must be:

(a) billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period, in accordance with 69-8-602; and

(b) credited for the excess kilowatt hours generated during the billing period, with this kilowatt-hour credit appearing on the bill for the following billing period.

(4) On January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 of each year, as designated by the customer-generator as the beginning date of a 12-month billing period, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during the previous 12 months must be granted to the electricity supplier, without any compensation to the customer-generator.

69-8-603. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Net energy measurement calculation.** Consistent with the other provisions of this part, and except as provided in 69-8-611(3), the net energy measurement must be calculated in the following manner:

(1) The public utility shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during the billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

(2) If the electricity supplied by the public utility exceeds the electricity generated by the customer-generator and fed back to the public utility during the billing period, the customer-generator must be billed for the net electricity supplied by the public utility and billed at the appropriate rate pursuant to 69-3-306, in accordance with 69-8-602 and 69-8-610 through 69-8-612.

(3) Subject to 69-8-602 and 69-8-610 through 69-8-612, if electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the public utility, the customer-generator must be:

(a) billed at the appropriate rate pursuant to 69-3-306 for that billing period; and

(b) credited for the excess kilowatt hours generated during the billing period, with this kilowatt-hour credit appearing on the bill for the following billing period.

(4) On January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 of each year, as designated by the customer-generator as the beginning date of a 12-month billing period, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during the previous 12 months must be granted to the public utility, without any compensation to the customer-generator.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 323, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 491, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 13(2)(a), Ch. 248, L. 2017, provided that the amendments to this section are effective on the date that the public service commission issues an order making a determination that customer-generators are being served under a separate classification of service in accordance with 69-8-611. Section 13(2)(c), Ch. 248, L. 2017, provided: "The public service commission shall provide a copy of the order to the code commissioner within 10 days of issuing the order."

69-8-604. Net metering system — reliability and safety. (1) A net metering system used by a customer-generator must include, at the customer-generator's own expense, all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the national electrical code, national electrical safety code, institute of electrical and electronic engineers, and underwriters laboratories.

(2) The commission, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, may adopt by rule additional safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements for customer-generators that the commission determines are necessary to protect public safety and net metering system reliability.

(3) The commission shall biennially review and update, if necessary, interconnection requirements and rules for customer-generators to ensure that the requirements and rules:

(a) comply with the most up-to-date national electrical and safety codes and standards; and

(b) are being properly implemented by public utilities subject to this part and other utilities under the commission's jurisdiction that administer net metering programs.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 323, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 2017.

69-8-605. Applicability. This part does not apply to corporations organized under Title 35, chapter 18.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 323, L. 1999.

69-8-606 through 69-8-609 reserved.

69-8-610. Cost-benefit analysis. (1) Before April 1, 2018, a public utility shall:

(a) conduct a study of the costs and benefits of customer-generators as defined in 69-8-103; and

(b) submit the study to the commission for the purpose of making determinations in accordance with a public utility's general rate case pursuant to 69-8-611.

(2) The utility may engage independent consultants or advisory services to complete a cost-benefit study. Costs are recoverable in rates.

(3) After May 3, 2017, the commission may establish minimum information required for inclusion in a study conducted by a public utility in accordance with subsection (1)(a).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

69-8-611. Classification of service — net metering customers. (1) After a study is completed in accordance with 69-8-610 and subject to subsections (2) and (4) of this section, if the commission finds that customer-generators should be served under a separate classification of service as part of a public utility's general rate case, it shall establish appropriate classifications and rates based on the commission's findings relative to:

(a) the utility system benefits of the net metering resource; and

(b) the cost to provide service to customer-generators.

(2) The commission may, based on differences between net metering systems, establish subclassifications and rates as part of a public utility's general rate case.

(3) The commission may approve separate rates for customer-generators' production and consumption and require separate metering subject to 69-8-602 if it finds it is in the public interest and as part of a public utility's general rate case.

(4) If a public utility files a general rate case in accordance with Title 69, chapter 3, the general rate case must include the study required in accordance with 69-8-610 and be used by the commission to meet the requirements of the review of classifications of service required in this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

69-8-612. New classifications of service — grandfather clause. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the commission approves new classifications of service for customer-generators in accordance with 69-8-611, the new classifications apply only to customer-generators interconnecting net metering systems on or after the date on which the commission adopts a final order implementing the new classifications.

(2) (a) A customer-generator that interconnects a net metering system prior to commission approval of new classifications of service for customer-generators may accept service under the new classifications of service at any time.

(b) After accepting service under a new classification of service, the customer-generator may not return to its original classification of service.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 248, L. 2017.

Part 7
Consumer Electricity Support Program
(Void)

69-8-701. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-8-702. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

Part 8
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

69-8-801. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Electric vehicle charging station" means a commercial charging station including all required equipment for the provision of power and fueling of electric vehicles.

(2) "Entity" means any party procuring power for the commercial purpose of electric vehicle charging.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 2019.

69-8-802. Electric vehicle charging stations — rate approval. (1) A public utility may provide electric service to an electric vehicle charging station under a rate approved by the commission. A public utility electing to provide such service shall apply to the commission for an approved rate before agreeing to provide the service to a customer.

(2) Any rate for providing electric service to an electric vehicle charging station must be designed by the commission to fully recover from the electric charging station customer the full cost of providing the service without subsidization from other customers or customer classes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 2019.

69-8-803. Electric vehicle charging stations — service entity requirements. (1) A public utility shall allow an electric vehicle charging station that meets the requirements in subsection (2) to be interconnected to its distribution system.

(2) A public utility may sell power to an entity to service electric vehicle charging stations that:

(a) procure power supplied by the public utility for the purpose of electric vehicle charging; and

(b) service electric vehicle charging stations within the public utility's service territory.

(3) Entities operating electric vehicle charging stations are not public utilities.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 441, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 619, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 619, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

69-8-804. Commission authority — rulemaking. The commission may adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 441, L. 2019.

Part 9 reserved

Part 10
Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development (Renumbered)

69-8-1001. Renumbered 69-3-2001. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1002. Renumbered 69-3-2002. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1003. Renumbered 69-3-2003. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1004. Renumbered 69-3-2004. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1005. Renumbered 69-3-2005. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1006. Renumbered 69-3-2006. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1007. Renumbered 69-3-2007. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

69-8-1008. Renumbered 69-3-2008. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2007.

CHAPTER 9
MONTANA POWER AUTHORITY
(Void)

Part 1 — Montana Power Authority Act (Void)

Part 1
Montana Power Authority Act (Void)

69-9-101. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-102. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-103. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-104 through 69-9-106 reserved.

69-9-107. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-108. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-109 and 69-9-110 reserved.

69-9-111. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-112. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-113. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-114. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

69-9-115. Void. I.R. No. 117, Nov. 5, 2002.
History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 577, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 10
RESERVED

CHAPTER 11
REGULATION OF CARRIERS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)
Part 2 — Carriers of Passengers (Repealed)
Part 3 — Carriers of Messages (Repealed)
Part 4 — Carriers of Property (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

69-11-101. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.
History: (1)En. Sec. 2870, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5332, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7846, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2168; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1134; re-en. Sec. 7846, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-701, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 2770, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7811, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2085; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1085; re-en. Sec. 7811, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-401, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-401, 8-701; amd. Sec. 1997, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-102. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.
History: (1)En. Sec. 2872, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7848, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2170; re-en. Sec. 7848, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-703, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2873, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5335, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7849, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2171; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1137; re-en. Sec. 7849, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-704, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-703(part), 8-704.

69-11-103. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.
History: En. Sec. 2874, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5336, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7850, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2172; re-en. Sec. 7850, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-705; amd. Sec. 1998, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-104. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.
History: En. Sec. 2875, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5337, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7851, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2173; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1139; re-en. Sec. 7851, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-706; amd. Sec. 1999, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-105. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.
History: (1)En. Sec. 2876, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7852, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2174; re-en. Sec. 7852, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-707, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2877, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5339, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7853, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2175; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1141; re-en. Sec. 7853, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-708, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2878, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5340, Rev. C. 1907; re-en.

Sec. 7854, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2176; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1142; re-en. Sec. 7854, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-105, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 8-709, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-707, 8-708, 8-709; amd. Sec. 2000, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-106. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2771, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5297, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7812, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2089; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1090; re-en. Sec. 7812, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-402, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2772, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7813, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2090; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1091; re-en. Sec. 7813, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-403, R.C.M. 1947; (3)Ap. p. Sec. 2780, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5299, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7814, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2096; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1092; re-en. Sec. 7814, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-404, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 2810, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5306, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7821, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2114; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1099; re-en. Sec. 7821, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-411, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-402, 8-403, 8-404, 8-411(part); amd. Sec. 2001, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-107. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2790, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5300, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2100; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1093; re-en. Sec. 7815, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-405, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2810, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5306, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7821, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2114; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1099; re-en. Sec. 7821, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-411, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2861, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5331, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7845, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2162; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1133; re-en. Sec. 7845, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-419, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-405, 8-411(part), 8-419; amd. Sec. 2002, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-108. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1907; Sec. 4355, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6592, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6592, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-637, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 1907; Sec. 4356, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6593, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6593, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-638, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 119, L. 1907; Sec. 4357, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6594, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6594, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-639, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-637, 72-638, 72-639; amd. Sec. 2003, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-109. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6575, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6575, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-620, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 53, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6576, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6576, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-621, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-620, 72-621; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 180, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2004, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-110 through 69-11-120 reserved.

69-11-121. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Secs. 4315, 4316, 4317, 4364, 4365, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 6063, 6064, 6065, 6085, 6086, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 8681, 8682, 8683, 8703, 8704, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 3315, 3316, 3317, 3357, 3358; Field. Civ. C. Secs. 1855, 1856, 1857, 1876, 1877; re-en. Secs. 8681, 8682, 8683, 8703, 8704, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 17-315, 17-316, 17-317, 17-605(part), 17-606(part); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2005, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Carriers of Passengers
(Repealed)

69-11-201. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2791, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5301, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7816, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2101; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1094; re-en. Sec. 7816, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-406, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2792, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5302, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7817, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2102; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1095; re-en. Sec. 7817, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-407, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2793, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5303, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7818, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2103; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1096; re-en. Sec. 7818, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-408, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 2794, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5304, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7819, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2104; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1097; re-en. Sec. 7819, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-406, 8-407, 8-408, 8-409; amd. Sec. 2006, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-202. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2872, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7848, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2170; re-en. Sec. 7848, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-703(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 22, L. 1997.

69-11-203. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5346, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7860, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2184; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1147; re-en. Sec. 7860, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-805, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 2895, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5347, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7861, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2185; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1148; re-en. Sec. 7861, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-806, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2896, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5348, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7862, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2186; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1149; re-en. Sec. 7862, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-807, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-805, 8-806, 8-807; amd. Sec. 2007, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-204. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2891, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5343, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7857, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2181; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1144; re-en. Sec. 7857, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-802, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2890, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5342, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7856, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2180; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1143; re-en. Sec. 7856, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-801, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2892, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5344, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7858, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2182; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1145; re-en. Sec. 7858, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-803, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 2893, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5345, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7859, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2183; re-en. Sec. 7859, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-804, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-801, 8-802, 8-803, 8-804; amd. Sec. 2008, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-205. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2897, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5349, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7863, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2187; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1150; re-en. Sec. 7863, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-808.

69-11-206. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2900, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5352, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7866, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2191; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1153; re-en. Sec. 7866, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-811; amd. Sec. 2009, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-207. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6572, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6572, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-616, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6574, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6574, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-619, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-616, 72-619.

69-11-208. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: Ap.p. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6573, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 78, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 6573, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 72-617, R.C.M. 1947; Ap.p. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 6573.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 72-618, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-617(part), 72-618; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2010, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Local government officials not to accept free transportation, 7-3-4256.

Reimbursement for travel expenses, 69-1-111.

69-11-209. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2898, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5350, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7864, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2188; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1151; re-en. Sec. 7864, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-809, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 2899, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5351, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7865, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2190; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1152; re-en. Sec. 7865, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-810, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-809, 8-810; amd. Sec. 2011, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 3
Carriers of Messages
(Repealed)

69-11-301. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2860, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5330, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7844, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2161; re-en. Sec. 7844, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-418; amd. Sec. 2012, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-302. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2930, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5361, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7875, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2207; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1164; re-en. Sec. 7875, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-820, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 2931, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5362, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7876, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2208; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1165; re-en. Sec. 7876, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-821, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-820, 8-821; amd. Sec. 2013, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-303. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2932, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5363, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7877, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2209; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1166; re-en. Sec. 7877, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-822; amd. Sec. 2014, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-304. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2879, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5341, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7855, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2177; re-en. Sec. 7855, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-710; amd. Sec. 2015, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Carriers of Property
(Repealed)

69-11-401. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2800, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5305, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7820, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2114; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1098; re-en. Sec. 7820, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-410.

69-11-402. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2811, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5307, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7822, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2115; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1100; re-en. Sec. 7822, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-412, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2812, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5308, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7823, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2118; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1101; re-en. Sec. 7823, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-413, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-412, 8-413; amd. Sec. 2016, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-403. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2871, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5333, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7847, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2169; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1135; re-en. Sec. 7847, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-702; amd. Sec. 2017, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-404. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2813, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5309, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7824, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2118; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1103; re-en. Sec. 7824, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-414, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2814, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5310, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7825, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2119; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1104; re-en. Sec. 7825, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-415, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2815, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5311, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7826, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2120; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1105; re-en. Sec. 7826, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-414, 8-415, 8-416; amd. Sec. 2018, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-405. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2816, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5312, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7827, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2121; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1106; re-en. Sec. 7827, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-417; amd. Sec. 2019, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-406. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2840, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5321, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7835, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1115; re-en. Sec. 7835, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-601, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2841, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5322, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7836, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2137; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1116; re-en. Sec. 7836, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-602, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2842, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5323, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7837, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2138; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1117; re-en. Sec. 7837, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-603, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-601, 8-602, 8-603; amd. Sec. 2020, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-407. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2843, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5324, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7838, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2139; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1118; re-en. Sec. 7838, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-604.

69-11-408. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2844, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5325, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7839, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2140; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1119; re-en. Sec. 7839, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-605, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2845, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5326, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7840, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2141; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1120; re-en. Sec. 7840, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-606, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-605, 8-606; amd. Sec. 2021, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-409. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2846, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5327, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7841, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2142; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1121; re-en. Sec. 7841, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-607, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2847, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5328, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7842, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2143; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1122; re-en. Sec. 7842, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-608, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-607, 8-608; amd. Sec. 2022, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-410. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2848, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5329, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7843, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2144; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1123; re-en. Sec. 7843, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-609.

69-11-411. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2917, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5360, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7874, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2204; re-en. Sec. 7874, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-819; amd. Sec. 2023, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-412. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3836, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3836, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-158, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M.

1921; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-163, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-158, 72-163(part).

69-11-413 through 69-11-420 reserved.

69-11-421. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: (1) thru (4)En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; Sec. 8-812.1, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. Sec. 2911, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5354, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7868, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2195; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1155; re-en. Sec. 7868, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-813, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part), 8-813; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2024, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-422. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part).

69-11-423. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part).

69-11-424. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part); amd. Sec. 2025, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-425. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part).

69-11-426. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.1(part).

69-11-427. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-812.2 by Sec. 2, Ch. 168, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 8-812.2.

69-11-428. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2912, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5355, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7869, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2196; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1156; re-en. Sec. 7869, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-814; amd. Sec. 2026, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-11-429. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2913, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5356, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7870, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2200; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1160; re-en. Sec. 7870, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-815; amd. Sec. 2027, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 12
MOTOR CARRIERS

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Chapter Cross-References

Operation of municipal busline, 7-14-4403.
Motor carriers' reports of beer transported, 16-3-235.
Fees under this chapter applicable to driveaway and towaway transportation, 61-4-304.
Size — weight — load, Title 61, ch. 10.
Supervision of motor carriers, 69-12-203.

Part 1
General Provisions

69-12-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Between fixed termini" or "over a regular route" means the termini or route between or over which a motor carrier usually or ordinarily operates motor vehicles, even though there may be periodical or irregular departures from the termini or route.

(2) "Certificate" means a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a certificate of compliance issued under this chapter.

(3) "Certificate of compliance" means written authorization to operate issued by the commission for Class A or Class E motor carriers that transport passengers declaring that the motor carrier meets the fitness requirements of this chapter.

(4) "Certificate of public convenience and necessity" means a written authorization to operate issued by the commission for Class A motor carriers that transport property or persons and property and Class D motor carriers declaring that the motor carrier service is required by the public convenience and necessity, as provided in this chapter.

(5) "Charter service" means a service used for the transportation of passengers by a motor carrier with rates not subject to approval by the commission if:

(a) the transportation of passengers is based on a single contract;

(b) the contract is entered into in advance of the transportation and does not result from a spontaneous, curbside agreement;

(c) the contract includes a single fixed charge and fares are not assessed per passenger;

(d) the passenger or group of passengers acquires exclusive use of the motor vehicle through the contract; and

(e) when applied to a group of passengers being transported, the group of passengers travels together to a specified destination.

(6) "Compensation" means the charge imposed on motor carriers for the use of the highways in this state by motor carriers under 69-12-421.

(7) "Corporation" means a corporation, company, association, or joint-stock association.

(8) "Digital network" means any online-enabled application, software, website, or system offered or utilized by a transportation network carrier that enables the prearrangement of rides with transportation network carrier drivers.

(9) "For hire" means for remuneration of any kind, paid or promised, either directly or indirectly, or received or obtained through leasing, brokering, or buy-and-sell arrangements from which a remuneration is obtained or derived for transportation service.

(10) "Garbage" means ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish, organic or inorganic matter that is transported to a licensed transfer station, licensed landfill, licensed municipal solid waste incinerator, or licensed disposal well. The term does not include wastewater and waste tires.

(11) "Household goods" means any of the following:

(a) personal effects and property used or to be used in a dwelling when they are a part of the equipment or supply of the dwelling. The term does not include property moving from a factory or store unless the property is purchased by a householder for use in a dwelling and is transported at the request of the householder.

(b) furniture, fixtures, equipment, and the property of stores, offices, museums, institutions, hospitals, or other establishments when those items are a part of the stock, equipment, or supply of the stores, offices, museums, institutions, hospitals, or other establishments. The term does not include the stock-in-trade of an establishment, whether consignor or consignee, other than used furniture and used fixtures, except when transported as incidental to moving of the establishment or a portion of the establishment from one location to another.

(c) articles, including objects of art, displays, and exhibitions that because of their unusual nature or value, require the specialized handling and equipment usually employed in moving household goods and other similar articles.

(12) "Motor carrier" means a person or corporation, or its lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court, operating motor vehicles upon a public highway in this state for the transportation of passengers, household goods, or garbage for hire on a commercial basis, either as a common carrier or under private contract, agreement, charter, or undertaking. A motor carrier includes a transportation network carrier.

(13) "Motor vehicle" includes vehicles or machines, motor trucks, tractors, or other self-propelled vehicles used for the transportation of property or persons over the public highways of the state.

(14) "Person" means an individual, firm, or partnership.

(15) "Personal vehicle" means a vehicle that is used by a transportation network carrier driver in connection with providing a prearranged ride and is:

(a) owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by the transportation network carrier driver; and

(b) not a taxicab, limousine, or for-hire vehicle.

(16) "Prearranged ride" means transportation provided by a driver to a rider, beginning when a driver accepts a ride requested by a rider through a digital network controlled by a transportation network carrier, continuing while the driver transports a requesting rider, and ending when the last requesting rider departs from the personal vehicle. A prearranged ride does not include transportation provided using a taxicab, limousine, or other for-hire vehicle pursuant to Title 69, chapter 12.

(17) "Public highway" means a public street, road, highway, or way in this state.

(18) "Railroad" means the movement of cars on rails, regardless of the motive power used.

(19) "Recyclable" means any material diverted from the solid waste stream that can be reused in the production of heat or energy or as raw material for new products and for which markets exist.

(20) "Transportation network carrier" means an entity that uses a digital network or software application service to connect passengers to transportation network carrier services provided by transportation network carrier drivers. A transportation network carrier may not be deemed to control, direct, or manage the personal vehicles or transportation network carrier drivers that connect to its digital network, except where agreed to by written contract.

(21) "Transportation network carrier driver" or "driver" means an individual who:

(a) receives connections to potential riders and related services from a transportation network carrier in exchange for payment of a fee to the transportation network carrier; and

(b) uses a personal vehicle to provide a prearranged ride to riders upon connection through a digital network controlled by a transportation network carrier in return for compensation or payment of a fee.

(22) "Transportation network carrier rider" or "rider" means an individual or persons who use a transportation network carrier's digital network to connect with a transportation network carrier driver who provides prearranged rides to the rider in the driver's personal vehicle between points chosen by the rider.

(23) "Transportation network carrier services" means the transportation of a passenger between points chosen by the passenger and prearranged with a transportation network carrier driver through the use of a transportation network carrier digital network or software application.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1971; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 168, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-101(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Corporations, Partnerships, and Associations, Title 35.
Highways and Transportation, Title 60.
Railroad defined, 69-14-102.

69-12-102. Scope of chapter — exemptions. (1) This chapter does not affect:

(a) the operation of school buses that are used in conveying pupils or other students enrolled in classes to and from district or other schools or in transportation movements related to school activities that are sponsored or supervised by school authorities;

(b) the transportation by means of motor vehicles in the regular course of business of employees by a person or corporation engaged exclusively in the construction or maintenance of highways or engaged exclusively in logging or mining operations, insofar as the use of employees in construction and production is concerned;

(c) the transportation of household goods and garbage by motor vehicle in a city, town, or village with a population of less than 500 persons according to the latest United States census or in the commercial areas of a city, town, or village with a population of less than 500 persons, as determined by the commission;

(d) the transportation of newspapers, newspaper supplements, periodicals, or magazines;

(e) motor vehicles used exclusively in carrying junk vehicles from a collection point to a motor vehicle wrecking facility or a motor vehicle graveyard;

(f) ambulances;

(g) the transportation by motor vehicle of not more than 15 passengers between their places of residence or termini near their residences and their places of employment in a single daily round trip if the driver is also going to or from the driver's place of employment;

(h) the operation of:

(i) a transportation system by a municipality or transportation district as provided in Title 7, chapter 14, part 2;

(ii) a municipal bus service pursuant to Title 7, chapter 14, part 44; or

(iii) any public transportation system recognized by the Montana department of transportation as a federal transit administration provider pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5311;

(i) armored motor vehicles used for the transportation of valuable paintings and other items of unusual value requiring special handling and security;

(j) the transportation of household goods or garbage under an agreement between a motor carrier and an office or agency of the United States government;

(k) the transportation of persons provided by private, nonprofit organizations, including those recognized by the Montana department of transportation as federal transit administration providers pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5310. As used in this subsection (1)(k), "private, nonprofit organizations" means organizations recognized as nonprofit under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(l) the transportation of a group of passengers if:

(i) the motor vehicle used for the transportation of the passengers is designed to carry more than 26 passengers; and

(ii) the motor carrier has obtained a USDOT number from the U.S. department of transportation as provided in 49 CFR 390.19; or

(m) the transportation of a group of employees to or from a worksite by a motor carrier under contract with the employer for a period of time of at least 1 year; or

(n) the transportation by motor vehicle of not more than 15 people to or from outdoor recreation sites, including but not limited to trailheads, fishing access sites, boat ramps and docks, ski slopes and trails, state parks, and national forests, or on a circular tour, with or without stops, of points of interest, except that the commission may require proof of insurance. The commission may not entertain third-party objections to the proof of insurance required under this subsection (1)(n). The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection (1)(n).

(2) This chapter does not affect commercial tow trucks designed and exclusively used in towing wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles or while these tow trucks are rendering assistance to wrecked, disabled, or abandoned vehicles.

(3) This chapter does not prevent bona fide leases, brokerage agreements, or buy-and-sell agreements.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1971; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 168, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-101(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 160, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 584, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 88, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 89, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 2021.

Cross-References

School buses and transportation, Title 20, ch. 10, part 1.

Regulation of armored car services, Title 37, ch. 60.

Regulation of logging trucks, 61-9-414.

Regulation of tow trucks, 61-9-416.

Air carrier defined, 67-1-101.

69-12-103. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 358, L. 1995.

History: (1)En. Sec. 23, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.23, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-123, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1973; Sec. 8-116, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-116(b), 8-123; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1991.

69-12-104. Determination of operation between fixed termini or over a regular route. Whether or not a motor vehicle is operated by a motor carrier between fixed termini or over a regular route or otherwise under this chapter is a question of fact to be determined by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1971; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 168, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-101(part).

69-12-105. Nature of accommodative transportation. An accommodative transportation movement by a person not in the transportation business is not a service for hire even though the persons owning the property transported or persons transported share in the cost or pay for the movement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 1971; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 168, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 174, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-101(part).

69-12-106. Acts indicative of status as motor carrier. Any person or corporation maintaining a public motor vehicle stand or by sign, symbol, or device or vehicle or clothing or by advertisement holding forth transportation for compensation or soliciting the transportation of persons or property for compensation among the public or soliciting for trips for compensation or providing transportation service to the public under the guise of leasing or buy-and-sell arrangements shall be deemed, prima facie, a "motor carrier" subject to this chapter. The burden of proof shall be on such person or corporation to disprove such status.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.21, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 204, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 8-121.

69-12-107. Status of private carriers under motor carrier laws. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as converting or attempting to convert a private carrier into a common carrier. It is hereby declared that this chapter is intended primarily as a regulation of the public highways of the state.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.22, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-122.

Cross-References

Classification — highways and roads, 60-1-201.

69-12-108. Violations. Any motor carrier subject to the provisions of this chapter, as amended, or whenever any such motor carrier is a corporation, any director or officer thereof; any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent, or person acting for or employed by such corporation; any person, corporation, or association or officer, agent, or employee thereof; or any broker of property or officer, agent, or employee thereof who violates or fails to comply with or who procures, aids, or abets in the violation of any provision of this chapter, as amended, or who fails to obey, observe, or comply with any lawful order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission or any part of the provisions thereof is:

(1) subject to a civil penalty, to be collected and deposited to the general fund by the commission after notice and hearing, in an amount not less than $25 or more than $500 for the first offense and not less than $25 or more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense; or

(2) subject, upon conviction in a justice's court, to a fine of not less than $25 or more than $500 for the first offense and not less than $25 or more than $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.19, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 204, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-119; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.
Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.
Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
Enforcement procedures, 69-12-209.

Revocation of certificate, 69-12-327.
Failure to display ownership identification — penalty, 69-12-408.

Part 2
Role of Commission

69-12-201. Supervision and regulation of motor carriers. (1) The commission has the power and authority and it is its duty to:

(a) supervise and regulate every motor carrier in this state;

(b) fix, alter, regulate, and determine specific, just, reasonable, equal, nondiscriminatory, and sufficient rates, fares, charges, and classifications for Class A motor carriers;

(c) regulate the properties, facilities, operations, accounts, service, practices, and affairs of all motor carriers;

(d) require the filing of annual and other reports, tariffs, schedules, or other data by motor carriers;

(e) supervise and regulate motor carriers in all matters affecting the relationship between motor carriers and the traveling and shipping public.

(2) The commission may, by general order or otherwise, prescribe rules in conformity with this chapter and applicable to any and all motor carriers.

History: (1)(a) thru (1)(e), (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-103, R.C.M. 1947; (1)(f), (1)(g), (2) En. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 1981; (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1961; Sec. 8-104.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103(part), 8-104.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 227, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 686, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads, 61-10-141.
Fees, 69-12-423.

69-12-202. Encouragement of common carrier motor transportation. To fully secure adequate motor transportation facilities for all users of such service and to secure the public advantages thereof, the commission shall encourage a system of common carrier motor transportation within the state for the convenience of the shipping public. The maintenance of a common carrier motor transportation system within Montana is hereby declared to be a public purpose.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103(part).

69-12-203. Field inspectors. The commission may employ field inspectors to investigate and enforce the provisions of this chapter. Field inspectors employed by the commission are peace officers for the purpose of making arrests in connection with violations of this chapter and issuing summonses, accepting bail, and serving warrants of arrest. The field inspectors are empowered to make reasonable inspections of cargoes carried by commercial motor vehicles and require production of manifests, bills of lading, leases, and other documents relating to the cargo, driver, routing, or ownership of the vehicles. The scope of the inspections is limited to the enforcement of the provisions of Title 69, chapter 12.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103(b); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 686, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2028, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Enforcement of motor carriers law, 44-1-1005.
Arrest warrants, Title 46, ch. 6, part 2.
Bail, Title 46, ch. 9.
Officers authorized to weigh vehicles and require removal of excessive loads, 61-10-141.

69-12-204. General administrative procedure. Insofar as possible and applicable, the provisions of statutes prescribing the procedure before the commission in cases involving rates, facilities, service, or other affairs of railroads in this state, including forms of applications, complaints, answers, orders, and notices of hearing; the conducting of hearings; compelling the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records, data, and information; and the preparation, recording, and serving of reports and orders of the commission, shall be followed and shall govern in all proceedings and investigations before the commission in cases arising in connection with the performance by the commission of its duties or the exercise of its jurisdiction under the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.14, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-114(part).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.
Railroads, Title 69, ch. 14.

69-12-205. Rules to reflect differences between carrier classes. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), rules related to schedules, service, tariffs, rates, facilities, accounts, and reports must recognize the differences between types of Class A, Class D, and Class E motor carriers, as defined in this chapter, and must be just, fair, and reasonable to the classes and types of motor carriers in relation to each other and to the public.

(2) (a) In establishing the tariff or rates to be charged by Class A motor carriers for the carrying of persons, the commission shall take into consideration the kind and character of service to be performed.

(b) In establishing the tariff or rates to be charged by Class A motor carriers for the carrying of property or persons and property, the commission shall take into consideration the public necessity of the service, the kind and character of service to be performed, and the effect of the tariff and rates on other transportation agencies, if any. The commission shall, as far as possible, avoid detrimental or unreasonable competition with existing railroad service or service furnished by a motor carrier.

(3) Except as provided in 69-12-341, a Class E motor carrier is not subject to commission rules related to schedules, tariffs, or rates.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 352, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Classification and motor carrier certificates, Title 69, ch. 12, part 3.

69-12-206. Investigations by commission. (1) Any investigation, inquiry, or hearing which the commission has power to undertake or to hold under the provisions of this chapter may be undertaken or held by or before any member of the commission or by and before any agent or examiner of the commission designated for the purpose by the commission. Every finding, order, or decision made by a member of the commission or agent or examiner of the commission so designated, together with a statement in writing of the reasons therefor (which statement must be included in the finding, order, or decision, pursuant to the investigation, inquiry, or hearing) when approved and confirmed by the commission and ordered filed in its office shall be considered the finding, order, or decision of the commission.

(2) An agent or examiner of the commission designated as aforesaid may administer oaths, examine witnesses, and receive evidence.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-111(2).

69-12-207. Temporary operating authority. (1) To enable the provision of service for which there is an immediate and urgent need to a point or points or within a territory having no carrier service capable of meeting such need, the commission may, in its discretion upon affidavits or such other evidence as it may deem sufficient and without hearings or other proceedings, grant temporary authority for such service by a common carrier by motor vehicle or a contract carrier by motor vehicle, as the case may be. Such affidavits or other evidence as the commission may determine must accompany the application for temporary authority. The affidavits or other evidence must specify in detail the reason for supporting the application for temporary authority and the term within which the temporary authority would be required.

(2) Such temporary authority, unless suspended or revoked for good cause, shall be valid for such time as the commission shall specify, but for not more than 90 days. Temporary authority initially granted pursuant to the provisions hereof may be extended by the commission without hearings or other proceedings, but in no case shall a grant of temporary authority with extensions exceed an aggregate of 120 days.

(3) Neither the granting of temporary authority nor operation thereunder shall create any presumption that corresponding permanent authority will be granted thereafter. Transportation service rendered under such temporary authority shall be subject to all applicable provisions of this chapter and to the rules and requirements of the commission thereunder.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-131.

Cross-References

Affidavits, Title 26, ch. 1, part 10.

69-12-208. Provisions for bus service. The commission, after 10 days' notice and public hearing, shall have the power to compel all motor carrier bus lines under its jurisdiction to furnish, provide, and maintain such service, instrumentalities, equipment, facilities, and time schedules as shall promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its passengers and employees and the public and as shall in all respects be adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-129.

69-12-209. Enforcement procedures. (1) Orders and final determinations of the commission in all proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this chapter must be enforced in the manner provided for by the commission in accordance with Title 69, chapter 14, part 1.

(2) If any motor carrier violates the provisions of this chapter or fails or neglects to obey a commission order, the commission or any party injured may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction, in any county where the motor carrier is engaged in business, for the enforcement of this chapter or the order. The court shall enforce the provisions of this chapter or commission orders by writ of injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, to restrain the carrier or its officers, agents, employees, or representatives from further violation of the requirements of this chapter or the order or to require the carrier or its officers, agents, employees, or representatives to obey the requirements of this chapter or the order.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.14, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-114(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

69-12-210. Complaints. (1) The commission may conduct investigations and hear complaints to determine whether a motor carrier has violated any of the commission's rules or orders or any provision of this chapter.

(2) Following an opportunity for hearing and upon a finding that a motor carrier has violated any of the commission's rules or orders or any provision of this chapter, the commission may suspend or revoke the motor carrier's certificate or impose any penalty provided for under 69-12-108.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

Part 3
Classification and Motor Carrier Certificates

69-12-301. Classification of motor carriers. (1) Motor carriers are divided into three classes to be known as:

(a) Class A motor carriers;

(b) Class D motor carriers; and

(c) Class E motor carriers.

(2) Class A motor carriers include all motor carriers operating between fixed termini or over a regular route and under regular rates or charges, based upon either station-to-station rates or upon a mileage rate or scale.

(3) Class D motor carriers include all motor carriers operating motor vehicles transporting garbage.

(4) Class E motor carriers include all transportation network carriers.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-102(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 358, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Fees, 69-12-423.

69-12-302. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-102(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1991.

69-12-303 through 69-12-310 reserved.

69-12-311. Class A motor carrier certificate. (1) (a) A Class A motor carrier may not transport persons for hire on any public highway in this state without obtaining, pursuant to this chapter, a certificate of compliance.

(b) A Class A motor carrier may not transport property or persons and property for hire on any public highway in this state without obtaining, pursuant to this chapter, a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

(2) A Class A motor carrier shall apply for a certificate, in writing, separately for each route. The application must be verified by the applicant and specify the following:

(a) the name and address of the applicant and its officers, if any;

(b) the public highway or highways and the fixed termini between the regular route or routes where the applicant intends to operate;

(c) a full and complete description of the character of the vehicle or vehicles to be used, including the seating capacity;

(d) the proposed time schedule;

(e) a proposed schedule of the tariff or rates to be charged;

(f) a complete and detailed description of the property proposed to be devoted to the public service;

(g) a detailed statement showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant; and

(h) other information required by the commission.

(3) The application must be accompanied by a filing fee to be set by rule of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-108; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Suspension of certificate by petition, 69-12-404.

Fees, 69-12-423.

69-12-312. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 512, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.9, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-109; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 35, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

69-12-313. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 2023; sec. 15, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.10, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 472, L. 1977; Sec. 8-110, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-111, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-110(1), 8-111(part); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

69-12-314. Class D motor carrier certificate of public convenience and necessity. (1) Class D carriers shall conduct operations pursuant to a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the commission authorizing the transportation of the commodities described in 69-12-301(3). Class D carriers, when applying for a new or additional certificate of public convenience and necessity, shall file an application with the commission in accordance with the requirements of this chapter and the rules of the commission.

(2) A motor carrier may not possess a Class D motor carrier certificate of public convenience or necessity or operate as a Class D motor carrier unless the motor carrier actually engages in the transportation of garbage on a regular basis as part of the motor carrier's usual business operation.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-102(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 387, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 258, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 422, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Required records and reports, 69-12-407.

Fees, 69-12-423.

69-12-315. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 364, L. 1993.

History: **En. Secs. 6, 9, Ch. 481, L. 1991.**

69-12-316 through 69-12-320 reserved.

69-12-321. Hearing on application for motor carrier certificate. (1) (a) Upon the filing of an application for a certificate by a Class A, Class D, or Class E motor carrier or upon the filing of a request for a transfer of authority, the commission shall provide notice of the application to any interested party.

(b) If a protest or a request for hearing is received, the commission shall fix a time and place for a hearing on the application. The hearing must be set for not later than 60 days after receipt of a protest or a hearing request. If a protest or a request for hearing is not received, the commission may act on the application without a hearing as prescribed by commission rules.

(c) A protest related to an application by a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(a) or by a Class E motor carrier is limited to a protest of the motor carrier's ability to meet the requirements of 69-12-323(5).

(2) A motor carrier referred to in 69-12-322, the department of transportation, the governing board or boards of any county, town, or city into or through which the route or service as proposed may extend, and any person or corporation concerned are interested parties to the proceedings and may offer testimony for or against the granting of the certificate.

(3) An application by a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or by a Class D motor carrier for a certificate of public convenience and necessity may be denied without a public hearing when the records of the commission demonstrate that the route or territory sought to be served by the applicant has previously been made the basis of a public investigation and finding by the commission that public convenience and necessity do not require the proposed motor carrier service. A hearing must be held if the applicant presents facts demonstrating that conditions over the route or in the territory and affecting transportation facilities have materially changed since the previous public investigation and finding and that public convenience and necessity now require the motor carrier operation.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-111.1, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-111, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-111(part), 8-111.1(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 422, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

69-12-322. Notice of hearing. (1) Whenever a hearing is scheduled, whether as a result of a protest or request or upon the commission's own motion, the commission shall serve a copy of the petition and notice of hearing upon an officer or owner of any motor carrier that in the opinion of the commission might be affected by the granting of the certificate and shall notify any other affected party at least 10 days before the date of hearing.

(2) Notice of the hearing must be published in appropriate newspapers determined by the commission to have sufficient statewide circulation in the case of applications for Class A authority.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-111(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

69-12-323. Decision on application. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), within 180 days from the date of the completed filing of an application, the commission shall issue its finding, order, or decision on the application and the evidence presented in support of the application at the time of the hearing.

(b) The commission may extend the time for making a decision to a date requested by the applicant.

(2) (a) If after a hearing on the request for a certificate of public convenience and necessity the commission finds from the evidence that public convenience and necessity require the authorization of the service proposed or any part of the service proposed, a certificate of public convenience and necessity must be issued. In determining whether a certificate of public convenience and necessity should be issued, the commission shall consider:

(i) the transportation service being furnished or that will be furnished by any railroad or other existing transportation agency;

(ii) the likelihood of the proposed service being permanent and continuous throughout 12 months of the year; and

(iii) the effect that the proposed transportation service may have on other forms of transportation service that are essential and indispensable to the communities to be affected by the proposed transportation service or that might be affected by the proposed transportation service.

(b) For the purposes of issuing a certificate of public convenience and necessity to a Class D motor carrier, a determination of public convenience and necessity may include a consideration of competition.

(3) The commission may issue the certificate as requested in the application or in part and may attach terms and conditions to a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or a Class D motor carrier that in its judgment public convenience and necessity require.

(4) If a certificate is issued to a motor carrier as provided in this part, the certificate is in effect until terminated by the commission for cause or until terminated by the owner's failure to comply with 69-12-402.

(5) (a) In determining whether to approve a certificate of compliance for a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(a) or for a Class E motor carrier, the commission shall consider only whether the applicant meets the requirements of 69-12-415. The commission shall provide notice and may require a hearing in accordance with 69-12-321.

(b) An applicant seeking a certificate of compliance establishes a rebuttable presumption that it meets the requirements of 69-12-415 by demonstrating compliance with insurance, bonding, and security requirements established by the commission in accordance with 69-12-402.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-111.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-111, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.12, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 8-112, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-111(part), 8-111.1(part), 8-112(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Revocation of certificate, 69-12-327.

69-12-324. Special provisions when federal or state contract involved. (1) A written contract presented to the commission is sufficient proof that a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(a) or a Class E motor carrier meets the requirements for a certificate of compliance or that a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or a Class D motor carrier meets the requirements for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in accordance with the terms and conditions contained within the United States government or state government contracts. Subject to the provisions of this section, a transportation movement is considered to be:

(a) the transportation for hire of persons between two points within the state by a motor carrier pursuant to the terms of a written contract between the carrier and the United States government or an agency or department of the United States; or

(b) the transportation for hire of solid waste between two points within the state by a motor carrier pursuant to the terms of a written contract between the carrier and the state government or an agency or department of the state.

(2) The certificate issued pursuant to the terms of the United States government or state government contract is authorized only for the duration of the United States government or state government contract concerned. The certificate may be renewed for another definite term if the motor carrier is the motor carrier authorized to operate under the United States government or state government contract.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.10, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 476, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-110(2); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 9, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Waste and litter control, Title 75, ch. 10.

69-12-325. Transfer of certificate or privilege. Any right, privilege, or certificate held, owned, or obtained by any motor carrier may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, and inherited as other property only by the authorization of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.12, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-112(part).

69-12-326. Lease of certificate. (1) An authorized carrier operating within the state may lease its certificate or any integral segment thereof to another carrier only by approval of the commission. The contract or lease under which the certificate is leased must be in writing and approved by the commission prior to any operation under the certificate. The contract or lease must specify:

(a) the period for which a certificate is to be leased, which shall not be less than 30 days;
(b) the compensation to be paid;
(c) the time or date upon which the lease will commence and terminate; and
(d) the signatures of the parties thereto.

(2) Operation under the certificate is prohibited until approved by the commission in writing. During the period of the contract or lease, transportation movements under the contract or lease must be performed by the entity contracting for or leasing the certificate, or any integral segment thereof, while transportation movements by the owner (lessor) are prohibited.

History: En. 8-103.3 by Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.3.

69-12-327. Revocation of certificate — right of review. (1) If it appears that a certificate holder is violating or refusing to observe any of the commission's orders or rules or any provision of Title 69, as amended, the commission may issue an order to the certificate holder to show cause why the certificate should not be revoked. If the certificate holder fails to appear to show cause as ordered by the commission, the certificate may be revoked without a hearing. If the holder does appear to show cause, the commission may:

(a) dismiss the proceeding, notifying the holder that the certificate is not revoked; or

(b) hold a hearing on the question of revocation, notifying the holder of the time and place for the hearing.

(2) The holder of any such certificate or privilege shall have all rights of rehearing and review as to such order of the commission as is provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.7, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-107; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Effect of failure to pay compensation, fees, or charges, 69-12-422.

69-12-328. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 2011.

69-12-329 and 69-12-330 reserved.

69-12-331. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 35, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 593, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 200, L. 1997.

69-12-332 reserved.

69-12-333. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 364, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 481, L. 1991.

69-12-334. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 364, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 481, L. 1991.

69-12-335. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 364, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 481, L. 1991.

69-12-336 through 69-12-339 reserved.

69-12-340. Class E motor carrier certificate of compliance. (1) A Class E motor carrier may not transport persons on a public highway in this state without obtaining, pursuant to this chapter, a certificate of compliance.

(2) A Class E motor carrier shall apply for a certificate of compliance in writing. The application must be verified by the applicant and specify the following:

(a) the name and address of the applicant and its officers, if any;

(b) the locality and character of operations to be conducted;

(c) a detailed statement showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant;

(d) a detailed statement that the applicant complies or, once certificated, will comply with the requirements of 69-12-323(5);

(e) other information required by the commission.

(3) A transportation network carrier may apply for a Class E certificate of compliance on behalf of the transportation network carrier drivers who register with the transportation network carrier to use its software or digital network to offer transportation network carrier services.

(4) The application must be accompanied by a filing fee to be set by rule of the commission.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (3), a transportation network carrier does not own, control, operate, or manage the vehicles used by transportation network carrier drivers and is not a taxicab association or a for-hire vehicle owner.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

69-12-341. Fare charged for transportation network carrier services. (1) (a) A Class E motor carrier may charge a fare for the services provided to passengers in accordance with this section.

(b) If a fare is charged, the motor carrier shall:

(i) disclose to passengers the fare calculation method on its website or within the software application service; and

(ii) provide passengers with the applicable rates being charged and the option to receive an estimated fare before the passenger enters the transportation network carrier driver's vehicle.

(2) Within a reasonable period of time following the completion of a trip, a Class E motor carrier shall transmit to the passenger an electronic receipt that includes:

(a) the origin and destination of the trip;

(b) the total time and distance of the trip; and

(c) an itemization of the total fare paid.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

69-12-342. Authority. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, transportation network carrier services are exclusively governed by this chapter and rules promulgated by the commission consistent with this chapter.

(2) A local government as defined in 2-2-102 may not impose a tax or fee on, require a license for, or impose any other operational requirements on transportation network carrier services.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

69-12-343. Insurance requirements of transportation network carriers. A transportation network carrier driver or transportation network carrier on the driver's behalf shall maintain primary motor vehicle liability insurance on the driver's personal vehicle that meets the following requirements:

(1) The insurance policy recognizes that the driver is a transportation network carrier driver or otherwise uses a personal vehicle to transport riders for compensation and covers the driver:

(a) while the driver is logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network; or

(b) while the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride.

(2) (a) While a participating transportation network carrier driver is logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network and is available to receive transportation requests but is not engaged in a prearranged ride, the motor vehicle liability insurance policy must provide:

(i) primary motor vehicle liability insurance in the amount of at least $50,000 for death and bodily injury per person, $100,000 for death and bodily injury per incident, and $25,000 for property damage; and

(ii) uninsured motorist coverage when required by 33-23-201.

(b) The coverage requirements of subsection (2)(a) may be satisfied by any of the following:

(i) motor vehicle liability insurance maintained by the transportation network carrier driver;

(ii) motor vehicle liability insurance maintained by the transportation network carrier; or

(iii) any combination of subsections (2)(b)(i) and (2)(b)(ii).

(3) (a) While a transportation network carrier driver is engaged in a prearranged ride, the motor vehicle liability insurance policy must provide:

(i) primary motor vehicle liability insurance that provides at least $1,000,000 for death, bodily injury, and property damage; and

(ii) uninsured motorist coverage when required by 33-23-201.

(b) The coverage requirements of subsection (3)(a) may be satisfied by any of the following:

(i) motor vehicle liability insurance maintained by the transportation network carrier driver on the driver's personal vehicle;

(ii) motor vehicle liability insurance maintained by the transportation network carrier on the driver's personal vehicle; or

(iii) any combination of subsections (3)(b)(i) and (3)(b)(ii).

(4) If insurance maintained by the driver in subsection (2) or (3) has lapsed or does not provide the required limits of coverage, insurance maintained by a transportation network carrier must provide the coverage required by this section beginning with the first dollar of a claim and have the duty to defend such claim.

(5) Coverage under a motor vehicle liability insurance policy maintained by the transportation network carrier may not be dependent on a driver's personal motor vehicle liability insurer first denying a claim and a driver's personal motor vehicle liability insurance policy insurer may not be required to first deny a claim.

(6) Insurance required by this section may be placed with an insurer authorized under Title 33, including a surplus lines insurer.

(7) Insurance satisfying the requirements of this section satisfies mandatory insurance requirements in Title 61, chapter 6.

(8) A transportation network carrier driver shall carry proof of coverage satisfying subsections (2) and (3) at all times during the use of a personal vehicle in connection with a transportation network carrier's digital network. In the event of an accident, a transportation network carrier driver shall provide insurance coverage information to the directly interested

parties, motor vehicle liability insurers, and investigating police officers upon request. Upon such request, a transportation network carrier driver shall also disclose to directly interested parties, motor vehicle liability insurers, and investigating police officers whether the driver was logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network or engaged in a prearranged ride at the time of an accident.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 456, L. 2015.**

69-12-344. Disclosures. A transportation network carrier shall disclose in writing to a transportation network carrier driver the following before the driver is allowed to accept a request for a prearranged ride on the transportation network carrier's digital network:

(1) the insurance coverage, including the types of coverage and the limits for each coverage, that the transportation network carrier provides while the transportation network carrier driver uses a personal vehicle in connection with a transportation network carrier's digital network; and

(2) that the transportation network carrier driver's own motor vehicle liability insurance policy might not provide any liability or optional coverages while the driver is logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network and is available to receive transportation requests or is engaged in a prearranged ride, depending on its terms.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 456, L. 2015.**

69-12-345. Motor vehicle liability insurance provisions. (1) Insurers that write motor vehicle liability insurance in Montana may exclude any and all coverage afforded under the owner's insurance policy for any loss or injury that occurs while a driver is logged on to a transportation network carrier's digital network or while a driver provides a prearranged ride. This right to exclude all coverage may apply to any coverage included in a motor vehicle liability insurance policy, including but not limited to:

(a) liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage including insurance required under Title 61, chapter 6;

(b) personal injury protection coverage;

(c) uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage, including insurance provided under 33-23-201;

(d) medical payments coverage;

(e) comprehensive physical damage coverage; and

(f) collision physical damage coverage.

(2) Nothing in this section requires that a personal motor vehicle liability insurance policy provide coverage while the driver is logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network, while the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride, or while the driver otherwise uses a personal vehicle to transport riders for compensation. An insurer may provide coverage for the transportation network carrier driver's personal vehicle, if it chooses to do so, by contract or endorsement.

(3) A motor vehicle liability insurer that excludes the coverage described in 69-12-343 has no duty to defend or indemnify any claim expressly excluded. Sections 69-12-343 through 69-12-345 do not invalidate or limit an exclusion contained in a policy, including any policy in use or approved for use prior to the enactment of 69-12-343 through 69-12-345. A motor vehicle liability insurer that defends or indemnifies a claim against a driver that is excluded under the terms of its motor vehicle liability policy has a right of contribution against other insurers that provide motor vehicle liability insurance to the same driver in satisfaction of the coverage requirements of 69-12-343 at the time of loss.

(4) In a claims coverage investigation, transportation network carriers and any insurer potentially providing liability or optional coverages under 69-12-343 shall cooperate to facilitate the exchange of relevant information with directly involved parties and any insurer of the transportation network carrier driver, if applicable, including the precise times that a transportation network carrier driver logged on and off the transportation network carrier's digital network in the 12-hour period immediately preceding and in the 12-hour period immediately following the accident and disclose to one another a clear description of the coverage, exclusions, and limits provided under any motor vehicle liability insurance maintained under 69-12-343.

(5) Nothing in this chapter limits the right of a lender or secured party on a driver's vehicle to require a driver to maintain comprehensive and collision damage coverage for a driver's vehicle or to show evidence of that coverage to the lender or secured party that would cover the period when the driver is logged on to the transportation network carrier's digital network regardless of whether the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride. If the driver fails to maintain the required comprehensive and collision coverage or to show evidence to the lender or secured party of the coverage upon reasonable request by the lender or secured party, the lender or secured party may obtain the coverage at the expense of the driver and is not required to provide disclosure under 69-12-344.

(6) If a lender or a secured party has a secured interest in a driver's vehicle and a transportation network carrier's insurer makes a payment for a claim for damage to the driver's vehicle that is covered under comprehensive or collision damage coverage held by the transportation network carrier, the insurer shall issue the payment directly to the vehicle repair shop or jointly to the owner of the vehicle and the primary lender or secured party on the covered vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

Part 4
Requirements for Motor Carriers

69-12-401. Compliance with state law. It is unlawful for any corporation or person or the corporation's or person's officers, agents, employees, or servants to operate any motor vehicle for the transportation of persons or property for hire on any public highway in this state except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-102(b); amd. Sec. 2029, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Classification of highways, 60-1-201.

69-12-402. Compliance with commission rules. No certificate shall be issued or remain in force unless the holder thereof shall comply with such rules of the commission as it shall adopt governing the filing of bonds, policies of insurance, or such security or agreement in such form and adequate amount and conditioned as the commission may require for:

(1) the prompt payment of all compensation or fees due the state under the provisions of this chapter; and

(2) the payment of any final judgment which may be rendered against any such motor carrier arising out of the death of or injury to any passenger or injury to other persons or property as a result of any negligent operation of the motor vehicles or such motor carrier, with power in the commission to permit self-insurance whenever, in its opinion, the financial ability of the motor carrier warrants.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.13, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-113.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.
Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Motor vehicle financial responsibility, Title 61, ch. 6, part 1.

69-12-403. Discontinuance of service. A Class A motor carrier may not abandon or discontinue any service established under this chapter without an order of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 8-105; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 512, L. 2021.

69-12-404. Suspension of certificate by petition. (1) (a) A motor carrier may petition the commission in writing to suspend its certificate for a period not to exceed 6 months. Only one additional 6-month suspension may be requested and granted.

(b) The suspension of a certificate of public convenience and necessity requested by a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or by a Class D motor carrier may be granted upon a showing of present absence of public convenience and necessity or other showing of matters affecting motor carrier transportation.

(2) (a) The suspension of a certificate of compliance for a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(a) or for a Class E motor carrier as provided for in subsection (1) for a period of 12

consecutive months automatically terminates a certificate of compliance and requires a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(a) or a Class E motor carrier to reapply for a certificate of compliance.

(b) The suspension of a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or a Class D motor carrier as provided in subsection (1) for a period of 12 consecutive months establishes a prima facie presumption of absence of public convenience and necessity. If after notice and hearing the motor carrier pursuant to 69-12-311(1)(b) or the Class D motor carrier is unable to prove the existence of public convenience and necessity or existing demand for the transportation service, the commission may cancel a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

History: (1)En. 8-107.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1973; Sec. 8-107.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 8-107.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1973; Sec. 8-107.2, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-107.1, 8-107.2; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 10, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

69-12-405. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 358, L. 1995.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 275, L. 1971; Sec. 8-101.1, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3, Ch. 275, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 233, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-101.2, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-101.1, 8-101.2.

69-12-406. Restriction on transportation of certain waste. Except as provided in 69-12-324, a Class A or Class E motor carrier may not be authorized or permitted to transport garbage within the state. This restriction does not apply to recyclables.

History: En. 8-102.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-102.1(part); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 588, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 341, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 259, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 11, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Waste and litter control, Title 75, ch. 10.

69-12-407. Records and reports. (1) All records, books, accounts, and files of a Class A and Class D motor carrier in this state, as they relate to the business of transportation conducted by the motor carrier, must at all times be subject to examination by the commission or by any authorized agent or employee of the commission. The commission shall prescribe a uniform system of accounts and uniform reports covering the operations of Class A and Class D motor carriers. A motor carrier authorized to operate in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall keep its records, books, and accounts according to the uniform system to the extent possible.

(2) Before April 1 of each year, unless this deadline has been extended for good cause by the commission, a motor carrier authorized to engage in business shall file with the commission a report, under oath, on a form prescribed and furnished by the commission.

(3) In addition to other reporting requirements, a Class D motor carrier shall provide sufficient information to the commission to show that the carrier is entitled to possess the Class D motor carrier certificate of public convenience and necessity under the requirements of 69-12-314.

(4) (a) To ensure safety with respect to transportation network carrier drivers affiliated with Class E motor carriers, the commission may conduct audits of a Class E motor carrier, but not more than twice annually.

(b) A Class E motor carrier shall, upon request from the commission, provide to the commission up to 1,000 unique identification numbers, each of which has been assigned by the motor carrier to an individual transportation network carrier driver affiliated with the motor carrier.

(c) The commission may request from the Class E motor carrier copies of records held by the motor carrier for up to 10 of the motor carrier's drivers, who may be identified in the request only by the driver's unique identification number.

(d) The Class E motor carrier shall comply with the request in an electronic format acceptable to the commission within 1 business day after receiving the request.

(e) The Class E motor carrier may redact the records provided to the commission under subsection (4)(d) to protect the individual privacy of the transportation network carrier's drivers, including information that could be used to identify a driver. Information that a Class E motor carrier may redact includes but is not limited to the transportation network carrier driver's name, address, and social security number, other than the last four digits.

(5) Except as required by Article II, section 9 or 10, of the Montana constitution, the records obtained by the commission under subsection (4) may not be publicly disclosed by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.18, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-118; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 35, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 12, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

Cross-References

Fees, 69-12-423.

69-12-408. Identification of ownership of certain large motor vehicles. (1) A person may not operate a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles having a gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds upon a public highway in this state for the transportation of passengers, household goods, or garbage for hire on a commercial basis unless the name or trade name, city, and state or the name or trade name and the public service commission or department of transportation number is displayed on both sides of each vehicle operated under its own power, either alone or in combination. If a number is displayed, it must be the number of the person or corporation under whose jurisdiction the vehicle or vehicles are being operated.

(2) The display must be in letters in sharp contrast to the background and in a size, shape, and color readily legible in daylight from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is not in motion. The display must be maintained so that it remains legible. The display may be accomplished either by painting the information on the vehicle or through the use of a decal or a removable device prepared so that it meets the identification and legibility requirements of this section.

(3) This section does not apply to:
(a) farm vehicles; or
(b) motor vehicles being:
(i) transported to dealers from point of manufacture;
(ii) transported from one dealer to another;
(iii) demonstrated to a prospective buyer; or
(iv) delivered to a buyer from a dealer or a manufacturer.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1963; Sec. 53-801, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 133, L. 1963; Sec. 53-802, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 133, L. 1963; Sec. 53-803, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 53-801, 53-802, 53-803; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 89, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Gross vehicle weight licensing requirements, Title 61, ch. 10, part 2.

69-12-409 through 69-12-414 reserved.

69-12-415. Carrier fitness. A certificate may not be issued or remain in force unless the certificate holder is fit, willing, and able to perform the authorized service and conforms to the provisions of this chapter and the rules and orders of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 456, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Certificate defined, 69-12-101.

69-12-416 through 69-12-420 reserved.

69-12-421. Annual fee for motor carriers. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), in addition to all of the licenses, fees, or taxes imposed upon motor vehicles in this state and in consideration of the use of the public highways of this state, every motor carrier shall, at the time of the issuance of a certificate and annually thereafter, on or between October 1 and the following January 31, pay to the public service commission of Montana a fee set by rule of the commission for every motor vehicle operated by the carrier over or upon the public highways of this state.

(2) (a) A motor carrier engaged in seasonal operations only, where its operations do not extend continuously over a period of not to exceed 6 months in any calendar year, shall only be required to pay compensation and fees in a sum equal to one-half of the compensation and fees herein provided.

(b) The compensation and fees herein imposed shall not apply to motor vehicles maintained and used by a motor carrier as standby or emergency equipment. The commission shall have the power and it is hereby made its duty to determine what motor vehicles shall be classed as standby or emergency equipment.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 8-116(a); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Operation of municipal busline, 7-14-4403.
Motor vehicle taxes and fees, Title 61, ch. 3, part 5.

69-12-422. Effect of failure to pay compensation, fees, or charges. (1) Upon the failure of any motor carrier to pay such compensation when due, the commission may in its discretion revoke the carrier's certificate or privilege, and no carrier whose certificate or privilege is so revoked shall again be authorized to conduct such business until such compensation shall be paid.

(2) All compensation, fees, or charges imposed and accruing under the provisions of this chapter shall be a lien upon all property of the motor carrier used in its operations under this chapter. Said lien shall attach at the time the compensation, fees, or charges become due and payable and shall have the effect of an execution duly levied on such property of the motor carrier and shall so remain until said compensation, fees, or charges are paid or the property sold for the payment thereof.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 184, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 3847.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 8-116(c), (d).

Cross-References

Operation of municipal busline, 7-14-4403.
Lien of carrier, 30-7-307.
Enforcement of carrier's lien, 30-7-308.
Revocation of certificate, 69-12-327.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

69-12-423. Fees to be charged by commission. (1) The public service commission may, except as otherwise provided by law, require and receive fees before filing annual reports, tariffs, schedules, applications, and supplements not provided by law to be furnished free of charge.

(2) The commission shall require and receive an additional sum to be set by the commission to pay the cost of publishing such notice as may be required by this chapter.

(3) This section does not require or authorize the public service commission to collect fees for the filing of annual reports, tariffs, schedules, and supplements of these which relate solely to interstate commerce.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 3847.26, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 472, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-126(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 500, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 588, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Fees, 69-1-114.

Part 5
Ratemaking Requirements

69-12-501. Rate schedules to be maintained. (1) A Class A motor carrier issued a certificate shall maintain on file with the commission, if applicable, a full and complete schedule of its rates, fares, charges, classifications, and rules of service and any and all tariff provisions relating to rates, fares, charges, classifications, or rules. A schedule on file and approved on March 7, 1961, remains in full force and effect until changed or modified by the commission or by the carrier with the approval of the commission.

(2) A change, modification, alteration, increase, or decrease in any rate, fare, charge, classification, or rule of service may not be made by a motor carrier without first obtaining the approval of the commission. The commission shall prescribe rules providing for the form and

style of all schedules and tariffs and for the procedures to be followed in filing or publishing any changes or modifications of schedules and tariffs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.2; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 456, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 512, L. 2021.

69-12-502. Prohibition on deviation from rate schedules. It is unlawful for any Class A motor carrier to charge, demand, receive, or collect any greater or less rate, charge, or fare than that fixed by the commission for the transportation service provided. It is also unlawful for any Class A motor carrier to refund or remit, in any manner or by any device, any portion of the rates, fares, and charges required to be collected under the schedule of the Class A carrier on file with the commission.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.3; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 512, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 422, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 13, Ch. 422, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

69-12-503. Rates to be reasonable and nondiscriminatory. (1) All rates, fares, charges, classifications, or rules of service for the transportation of property and/or persons upon the public highways of this state must be fair, just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory. No motor carrier operating under established rates shall make, give, or permit any undue preference or advantage to any particular person, company, corporation, locality, or description of traffic, nor shall such motor carrier subject any particular person, company, corporation, locality, or description of traffic to any prejudice or disadvantage in any respect. Nothing herein provided shall prevent the commission from authorizing different rates or schedules of rates for service between the same places or between different points of origin and/or destination within the same places when such different rates are justified by the differing character of service to be rendered by the carrier to a shipper or consignee.

(2) The commission may, upon its own initiative or upon the complaint of any interested party, investigate any rate, fare, charge, classification, or rule of service contained in the schedule of any motor carrier. If the commission shall find, after such investigation, that any such rate, fare, charge, classification, or rule of service is unfair, unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory, it shall disallow the same and fix a rate, fare, charge, classification, or rule of service which shall be fair, just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory and it shall order the affected motor carrier or carriers to conform to such modified schedule. Each motor carrier affected by any complaint or investigation shall first be given notice of the same and an opportunity to be heard before the commission.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 201, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.4.

Cross-References

Illegal discrimination, Title 49, ch. 2.

69-12-504. Procedure to revise rate schedule. (1) No motor carrier shall change or revise any rate, fare, charge, classification, or rule of service contained in its schedule without first obtaining approval therefor from the commission. Such changes or revisions shall be made by filing with the commission the tariff sheet or sheets containing such changes or revisions, plainly stating the changes or revisions to be made, and by submitting at the same time testimony and exhibits supporting the requested change or revision and prepared by the motor carrier. Additional testimony or exhibits may be submitted before or during the hearing provided for in 69-12-505 and may be submitted after the hearing with the approval of the commission. The public shall be provided with such notice of the proposed changes or revisions as the commission shall, by rule, require.

(2) The tariff sheets containing changes or revisions shall be filed with the commission at least 45 days before the proposed effective date. The change or revision shall be effective on the stated effective date unless disallowed or suspended by the commission prior to this date. However, the commission may, for good cause, allow any change or revision to become effective on less than 45 days' notice.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 201, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.5(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

69-12-505. Suspension of proposed rate revision — hearing. (1) Upon its own initiative or upon the complaint of any interested party filed with the commission within 20 days after the date upon which a change or revision of any rate, fare, charge, or classification is filed with the commission, the commission may suspend the operation of such rate, fare, charge, or classification for a period not to exceed 180 days. The order directing such suspension must be issued by the commission not less than 2 business days prior to the proposed effective date. The motor carrier or carriers filing such rate, fare, charge, or classification shall be given prompt notice by the complaining party, mailing a copy of the complaint concerning such proposed change or revision to the carrier or publishing agent, and such carrier or carriers also shall be given an opportunity to reply to any such complaint. If the proposed change or revision is in a tariff issued by a tariff publishing bureau for a motor carrier or carriers, notice to such bureau of any complaint will constitute notice to the participating carriers in such tariff.

(2) (a) If all the protests are withdrawn and the commission finds the proposed increase justified, the commission may vacate the suspension and permit the proposed rates to become effective without a public hearing.

(b) Unless the suspension has been vacated, whenever the suspension of any proposed change or revision in a tariff is ordered by the commission, it shall also order a public hearing to consider the reasonableness of the proposed change or revision. Due notice shall be given for such hearing to all known interested or affected persons, and the same shall be allowed to appear and present evidence. Additional prepared testimony may be presented before or during the hearing and may also be submitted after the hearing with the permission of the commission.

(3) After considering the evidence presented at such hearing, the commission shall issue an order approving, denying, or modifying the proposed change or revision. Unless such hearing is held and such order is issued within 180 days from the date upon which the suspension was ordered, the proposed change or revision shall be deemed approved and effective as filed.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 201, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.5(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1979.

69-12-506 through 69-12-510 reserved.

69-12-511. Procedure to recover excess charges. (1) Any sum or amount of money paid to any motor carrier in excess of the rates, fares, or charges established for such service by the commission may be recovered from such carrier by the person or shipper who paid the same in any action brought in the district court of the county in which such payment was made. Any such action must be brought within 2 years from the date of such payment. No contract or agreement, written or otherwise, between such person or shipper and any motor carrier shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of showing a waiver of the right given by this section.

(2) If upon the trial of such action it shall satisfactorily appear to the court or jury that such overcharge was willfully made, the person or shipper bringing the said action shall be awarded damages in treble the amount of such excess or overcharge, together with the costs and expenses of such action, including a reasonable attorney's fee, to be taxed and collected as other costs in the action.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 201, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 8-104.6.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

Part 6
Carrier Agreements
(Repealed)

69-12-601. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 518, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.4(1), (2).

69-12-602. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 518, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.4(3) thru (5).

69-12-603. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 518, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.4(6).

69-12-604. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 518, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.4(7).

69-12-605. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.4 by Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 518, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.4(8), (9).

69-12-606 through 69-12-610 reserved.

69-12-611. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 2023.

History: En. 8-103.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 352, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 481, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 364, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 512, L. 2021.

69-12-612. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 35, L. 2013.

History: En. 8-103.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 106, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 8-103.2.

CHAPTER 13
PIPELINE CARRIERS

Part 1 — General Provisions
69-13-101. Common carrier pipeline — definition.
69-13-102. Scope of chapter — enforcement.
69-13-103. Right to construct pipelines.
69-13-104. Use of power of eminent domain.
69-13-105. Violations.
69-13-106. Confidentiality of cultural sites.

Part 2 — Role of Commission
69-13-201. Establishment of rates and operating rules.
69-13-202. Assumption of validity of commission orders.
69-13-203. Investigatory and enforcement authority of commission.

Part 3 — Requirements for Pipeline Carriers
69-13-301. Records and reports.
69-13-302. Connection and interchange facilities.
69-13-303. Prohibition of discrimination in rates or service.

Chapter Cross-References

Annual report to Department of Revenue, 15-23-301.
Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.
Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, ch. 20.

Part 1
General Provisions

69-13-101. Common carrier pipeline — definition. (1) A person, firm, corporation, limited partnership, joint-stock association, or association is a common carrier if it engages in:

(a) owning, operating, or managing any pipeline or any part of any pipeline within the state for the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide to or for the public for hire or engaging in the business of transporting crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide by pipelines;

(b) owning, operating, or managing any pipeline or any part of any pipeline for the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide to or for the public for hire when the pipeline is constructed or maintained upon, along, over, or under any public road or highway;

(c) owning, operating, or managing any pipeline or any part of any pipeline for transportation to or for the public for hire of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide when the pipeline is or may be constructed, operated, or maintained across, upon, along, over, or under the right-of-way of any railroad, corporation, or other common carrier required by law to transport crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide as a common carrier;

(d) owning, operating, or managing or participating in ownership, operation, or management, under lease, contract of purchase, agreement to buy or sell, or other agreement or arrangement of any kind whatsoever, any pipeline or any part of any pipeline for the transportation from any oil field, coal mine or field, or place of production within this state to any distributing, refining, or marketing center or reshipping point within this state of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide bought from others; or

(e) made a common carrier by or under the terms of contract with or in pursuance of the law of the United States.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, "plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide" has the meaning provided for in 15-6-158.

(3) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

(a) pipelines that are limited in their use to the wells, stations, plants, and refineries of the owner and that are not a part of the pipeline transportation system of any common carrier; or

(b) any property of a common carrier that is not a part of or necessarily incident to its pipeline transportation system.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3848, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3848, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 8-201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 2013.

69-13-102. Scope of chapter — enforcement. (1) It is declared that the operation of pipelines to which this chapter applies for the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide, in connection with the purchase or purchase and sale of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide, is a business in which the public is interested and is subject to regulation by law. The business of purchasing or of purchasing and selling crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide, using in connection with that business a pipeline of the class subject to this chapter to transport the crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide, may not be conducted unless the pipeline used in connection with that business is a common carrier within the purview of this chapter and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the commission.

(2) It is the duty of the attorney general to enforce this provision by injunction or other adequate remedy.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3849, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3849, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-202; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 44, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Attorney General, Title 2, ch. 15, part 5.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Investigatory and enforcement authority of Public Service Commission, 69-13-203.

69-13-103. Right to construct pipelines. (1) The right to lay, maintain, and operate pipelines, together with telegraph and telephone lines incidental to and designed for use only in connection with the operation of such lines, or along, across, or under any public stream or highway in this state is hereby conferred upon all persons, firms, limited partnerships, joint-stock associations, or corporations coming within any of the definitions of common carrier pipelines as hereinbefore made. This right to run along, across, or over any public road or highway, as provided for, can only be exercised upon condition that the traffic thereon not be interfered with and that such road or highway be promptly restored to its former condition of usefulness. The restoration of the road or highway is subject also to the supervision of the county commissioners of the county in which said highway is situated.

(2) Any person, firm, limited partnership, joint-stock association, or corporation may acquire the right to construct pipelines and such incidental telephone and telegraph lines along, across, or over any public road or highway in this state by filing with the commission an

acceptance of the provisions of this law, expressly agreeing in writing that in consideration of the right so acquired, it shall be and become a common carrier pipeline, subject to the duties and obligations conferred or imposed in this chapter. In the exercise of the privileges herein conferred, such pipelines shall compensate the county for any damage done to such public road in the laying of pipelines or telegraph or telephone lines along or across the same. Nothing herein shall be construed to grant any pipeline company the right to use any public street or alley in any incorporated city or town except by express permission from the city or governing authority thereof.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3850, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3850, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-203(part).

69-13-104. Use of power of eminent domain. Every person, firm, corporation, limited partnership, joint-stock association, or association of any kind mentioned in this chapter that has filed with the commission its acceptance of the provisions of this chapter has the power of eminent domain. In the exercise of the power of eminent domain, the entity may enter upon and condemn the land, rights-of-way, easements, and property of any person or corporation necessary for the construction, maintenance, or authorization of the entity's common carrier pipeline. The power of eminent domain must be exercised as provided in Title 70, chapter 30.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3850, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3850, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-203(part); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.

69-13-105. Violations. (1) Any common carrier as herein defined who shall violate any provisions of this chapter or who shall fail to perform any duty herein imposed or any valid order of the commission, when not stayed or suspended by order of court, shall be subject to a penalty of not less than $100 or more than $1,000 for each offense. Such penalty shall be recoverable at suit of the attorney general of Montana in the name of the state and for its use.

(2) For the willful violation of any of the provisions herein forbidding discrimination on the part of common carriers, it is hereby provided that the owners, officers, agents, or employees of such carriers who may be guilty thereof shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. Each violation of any of such provisions shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense, and upon conviction thereof the party violating same shall be fined in a sum of not less than $50 or more than $1,000 and may be further punished by confinement in the county jail for not less than 10 days or more than 6 months.

(3) Actual damages may also be recovered by and for the use of any person, corporation, or association of persons against whom there shall have been an unlawful discrimination as herein defined. Such suit shall be brought in the name of and for the use of party aggrieved and may be maintained in any court of proper jurisdiction, having due regard to the ordinary statutes of venue.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3856, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3856, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-209.

Cross-References

Attorney General, Title 2, ch. 15, part 5.
Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.

69-13-106. Confidentiality of cultural sites. (1) The location of any heritage properties or paleontological remains on or beneath land, rights-of-way, or easements obtained for a common carrier pipeline is confidential and may not be disclosed by the entity owning, operating, or managing any common carrier pipeline.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not prohibit a person or entity from disclosing the location of heritage properties or paleontological remains to the department of environmental quality for purposes of reviewing an application for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20. The department may not disclose information regarding the location of heritage properties or paleontological remains to the public.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Heritage property" has the meaning provided in 22-3-421.

(b) "Paleontological remains" has the meaning provided in 22-3-421.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2017.

Part 2
Role of Commission

69-13-201. Establishment of rates and operating rules. (1) The commission may establish and enforce rates of charges and regulations for gathering, transporting, loading, and delivering crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide by common carrier in this state and for the use of storage facilities necessarily incident to the transportation and may prescribe and enforce rules for the government and control of common carriers in respect to their pipelines and receiving, transferring, and loading facilities. The commission shall exercise the power upon petition by any person showing a substantial interest in the subject.

(2) An order establishing or prescribing rates and rules may not be made except after hearing and at least 10 days' and not more than 30 days' notice to the person, firm, corporation, partnership, joint-stock association, or association owning or controlling and operating the pipeline or pipelines affected.

(3) If a rate is filed by any pipeline and a complaint against the rate or a petition to reduce the rate is filed by any shipper and is sustained, in whole or in part, all shippers who have paid the rates filed by the pipeline have the right to reparation or reimbursement of all excess in transportation charges paid, over and above the proper rate as finally determined, on all shipments made after the date of the filing of the complaint.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3851, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3851, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-204; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 44, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Hearings to be open, 69-3-104.

69-13-202. Assumption of validity of commission orders. Until set aside or vacated by some decree or order of a court of competent jurisdiction, all orders of the commission as to any matter within its jurisdiction shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of their validity.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3852, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3852, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-205(part).

69-13-203. Investigatory and enforcement authority of commission. The commission shall have the power and authority to hear and determine complaints, to require attendance of witnesses, and to institute suits and sue out such writs and process as may be necessary for the enforcement of its orders.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3853, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3853, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-206(part).

Cross-References

Investigatory powers of Consumer Counsel, 69-2-203.
Enforcement by Attorney General, 69-13-102.

Part 3
Requirements for Pipeline Carriers

69-13-301. Records and reports. (1) Common carriers of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide shall make and publish their tariffs under rules that may be prescribed by the commission. The commission shall require the common carriers to make reports and may investigate their books and records kept in connection with the business.

(2) The commission shall require common carrier pipelines to make monthly reports, duly verified under oath, of the total quantities of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide owned by the pipelines, of the quantities held by them in storage for others, and of their unfilled storage capacity. Publicity may not be given by the commission to the reports as to stock of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide on hand of any particular pipeline, but the commission in its discretion may make public the aggregate amounts held by all the pipelines making the reports and of their aggregate storage capacity.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3853, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3853, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-206(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 44, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

69-13-302. Connection and interchange facilities. (1) Each common carrier shall exchange crude petroleum tonnage, coal tonnage, petroleum or coal products tonnage, or carbon dioxide volume with each similar common carrier. The commission may require connections and facilities for the interchange of the tonnage and volume to be made at every locality reached by both pipelines whenever a necessity for the connections and facilities exists, subject to rates and regulations that may be made by the commission. Any common carrier under similar rules must be required to install and maintain facilities for the receipt and delivery at all points on the pipeline of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide.

(2) A carrier may not be required to receive or transport any crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or any carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide except as may be marketable under rules prescribed by the commission. The commission shall make rules for the ascertainment of the amount of water and other foreign matter in crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or in carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide tendered for transportation, for deduction for water and foreign matter, and for the amount of deduction to be made for temperature, leakage, and evaporation.

(3) The particular powers delegated to the commission in this section may not be construed to limit the general powers conferred by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3852, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3852, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 8-205(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 44, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

69-13-303. Prohibition of discrimination in rates or service. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a common carrier in its operations may not discriminate between or against shippers in regard to facilities furnished, service rendered, or rates charged under the same or similar circumstances in the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide. There may not be any discrimination in the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide when any of those products were produced or purchased by the common carrier directly or indirectly. In this connection the pipeline must be considered as a shipper of the crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide when any of those products were produced or purchased by the pipeline directly or indirectly and handled through its facilities. A carrier in the operation may not directly or indirectly charge, demand, collect, or receive from any one a greater or lesser compensation for any service rendered than from another for a like and contemporaneous service. Subject to the provisions of this chapter and the rules that may be prescribed by the commission, every common carrier shall receive and transport crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide delivered to it for transportation and shall receive and transport any of those products and perform its other duties with respect to any of those products without discrimination.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not limit the right of the commission to prescribe rates and regulations different from or to some places from other rates or regulations for transportation from or to other places, as it may determine. A carrier is not guilty of discrimination when obeying any order of the commission. When there is offered for transportation more crude petroleum, coal, or the products of crude petroleum or coal or of carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide than can be immediately transported, the products must be equitably apportioned. The commission may make and enforce general or specific regulations in this regard. A common carrier may not at any time be required to receive petroleum or petroleum products for shipments exceeding 3,000 barrels in any 1 day from any person, firm, corporation, or association of persons.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 7, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3854, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3854, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 190, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-207, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 10, Ch. 8, Ex. L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3857, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3857, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 170, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 8-210, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 8-207, 8-210; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 231, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 44, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Violations and penalties, 69-13-105.

CHAPTER 14
RAILROADS

Part 1 — Role of Commission — Penalties

69-14-101. Repealed.
69-14-102. Application — definition.
69-14-103. Interpretation.
69-14-104. Violations of railroad laws — penalties.
69-14-105. Fees to be charged by commission.
69-14-106 through 69-14-110 reserved.
69-14-111. Supervision of railroads.
69-14-112. Repealed.
69-14-113. Repealed.
69-14-114. Repealed.
69-14-115. Repealed.
69-14-116. Repealed.
69-14-117. Repealed.
69-14-118. Repealed.
69-14-119. Repealed.
69-14-120. Repealed.
69-14-121 through 69-14-130 reserved.
69-14-131. Repealed.
69-14-132. Repealed.
69-14-133. Repealed.
69-14-134. Repealed.
69-14-135. Repealed.
69-14-136. Repealed.
69-14-137. Repealed.

Part 2 — Requirements for Railroads

69-14-201. Repealed.
69-14-202. Repealed.
69-14-203. Repealed.
69-14-204. Repealed.
69-14-205. Repealed.
69-14-206. Repealed.
69-14-207. Repealed.
69-14-208. Repealed.
69-14-209. Repealed.
69-14-210. Repealed.
69-14-211. Repealed.
69-14-212. Repealed.
69-14-213. Repealed.
69-14-214. Repealed.
69-14-215. Repealed.
69-14-216. Repealed.
69-14-217 through 69-14-230 reserved.
69-14-231. Repealed.
69-14-232. Repealed.
69-14-233. Repealed.
69-14-234. Repealed.
69-14-235. Repealed.
69-14-236. Repealed.
69-14-237. Repealed.
69-14-238. Repealed.
69-14-239. Operation of trains at grade crossings.
69-14-240. Duty to construct drains and ditches.
69-14-241 through 69-14-250 reserved.
69-14-251. Annual reports.
69-14-252. Accident reports.

Part 3 — Ratemaking Procedures (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 4 — Review of Commission Action (Repealed)

Part 5 — Railroad Corporations (Repealed)

Part 6 — Railroad Highway Crossings

69-14-601. Definition of railroad company.
69-14-602. Construction and maintenance of railroad crossings outside of incorporated cities and towns.
69-14-603. Railroad crossings in unincorporated towns or villages.
69-14-604. Procedure to order construction of crossing.
69-14-605. Time for completion of crossing.
69-14-606. Role of public service commission with respect to crossings.
69-14-607. Overhead or underground crossings.
69-14-608. Court action to determine justness and reasonableness of commission order.
69-14-609. Extension of time to comply with order.
69-14-610. Effect of railroad crossing provisions on liability of railroad.
69-14-611. Penalty for failure to comply with crossing order.
69-14-612. Reflectorized material on crossing signs required.
69-14-613 through 69-14-619 reserved.
69-14-620. Establishment of railroad quiet zones.
69-14-621. Repealed.
69-14-622. Repealed.
69-14-623. Repealed.
69-14-624. Repealed.
69-14-625. Repealed.
69-14-626. Prohibition on extended obstruction of highway crossings.

Part 7 — Protection of Livestock and Agricultural Resources

69-14-701. Maintenance of fences — exception — penalty.
69-14-702. Crossings to be maintained.
69-14-703. Placement of cattle guards.
69-14-704. Openings under trestles.
69-14-705. Application of provisions dealing with crossings.
69-14-706. Violation of crossing provisions.
69-14-707. Liability for negligent destruction of domestic animals.
69-14-708. Records of accidents involving livestock.
69-14-709. Allowance of attorney fees.
69-14-710. Tender or deposit of value of animal.
69-14-711. Payment of damages to department of livestock.
69-14-712. Repealed.
69-14-713. Violation of provisions dealing with injury to livestock.
69-14-714. Payment of claim — penalty.
69-14-715 through 69-14-720 reserved.
69-14-721. Control of fire hazard along right-of-way.
69-14-722. Maintenance of fireguards.

Part 8 — Loading Platforms and Spurs (Repealed)

Part 9 — Grain and Commodity Storage and Transportation

69-14-901. Authorization to locate and erect grain warehouse or elevator on railroad right-of-way.
69-14-902. Decision on application by railroad.
69-14-903. Court action to resolve differences.
69-14-904. Procedure in district court.
69-14-905. Right to supreme court review.
69-14-906. Payment of court costs.
69-14-907. Elevators and warehouses considered public.
69-14-908. Prompt payment of rental required.
69-14-909. Time limit for construction of elevator or warehouse.
69-14-910. Connection of railroad to elevator or warehouse.
69-14-911. Location of facility.
69-14-912 through 69-14-920 reserved.
69-14-921. Suitable cars to be furnished for shipment of grain and other commodities in bulk.
69-14-922. Action by shipper to render cars suitable.
69-14-923. Demurrage not to accrue during repairs.
69-14-924. Liability of railroad for repairs.
69-14-925. Enforcement of provisions related to suitable cars for commodity shipments.
69-14-926 through 69-14-930 reserved.
69-14-931. Definitions.
69-14-932. First right to purchase or match offer — lease preference — negotiation process — exception.

Part 10 — Railroad Personnel

69-14-1001. Repealed.
69-14-1002. Compensation of employees on removal of railroad division point or terminal.
69-14-1003. Railroad personnel as law officers.
69-14-1004. Penalty for being under the influence while engaged in train operations.
69-14-1005. Medical aid for injured train operator.
69-14-1006. Liability for death or injury to railroad employees.

Part 11 — Sale or Transfer of Railroad Line

69-14-1101. Definitions.
69-14-1102. Conditions for transfer of line of railroad.
69-14-1103. Notice of intent.

Part 12 — Railroad Vandalism Prevention Act

69-14-1201. Short title.
69-14-1202. Purpose.
69-14-1203. Definitions.
69-14-1204. Stowing away on railroad property.
69-14-1205. Intentional vandalism to railroad property.
69-14-1206. Theft of railroad freight — receiving stolen railroad freight.

Chapter Cross-References

Railroad responsibility for costs of special improvement district around tracks, 7-12-2156.
Assessment of railroads, 15-8-301, 15-8-407, 15-23-101.
Assessment of railroads and other franchises, 15-8-407.
Securities issued by railroad exempt from securities registration, 30-10-104.
Service of process provisions for insurance not applicable to railroads engaged in interstate commerce, 33-1-614.
Criminal responsibility of corporation, 45-2-311.
Accountability for conduct of corporation, 45-2-312.
Relocation of utilities' facilities, 60-4-402.
Regulation of carriers, Title 60, ch. 11.
Abandoned railbeds — acquisition of ownership or easement, 60-11-111, 60-11-112.
Penalty for interference with official railroad signs or signals, 61-8-713.
Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.
Restriction on building railroad on public watershed, 75-6-112.
Contracts for use of railroads, 76-5-1109.
Easements for public uses, 77-2-101.
Assessment of railroads in drainage districts, 85-8-341, 85-8-342.

Part 1
Role of Commission — Penalties

69-14-101. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3835, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3835, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-157, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 11, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4373, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3792, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3792, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-114, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 72-101.1 by Sec. 12, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-101.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-101.1(part), 72-157; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 333, L. 1993.

69-14-102. Application — definition. (1) In accordance with the commission's authority pursuant to 69-14-111, this chapter applies to all persons, firms, or companies, incorporated or otherwise, that do business as common carriers on any of the lines of railroad in this state.

(2) As used in this chapter, "railroad" means a corporation, company, or individual owning or operating a railroad in whole or in part in this state. The term also includes express companies, sleeping-car companies, and a rail authority established under Title 7, chapter 14, part 16.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4373, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3792, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3792, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-114, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 72-101.1 by Sec. 12, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-101.1(part); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

69-14-103. Interpretation. This chapter shall not have the effect of releasing or waiving any right of action by the state or any person for any right, penalty, or forfeiture which may arise under any law of this state. All penalties accruing under this part are cumulative to each other, and a suit for or recovery of one is not a bar to the recovery of any other penalty.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4398, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3817, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3817, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-140; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-104. Violations of railroad laws — penalties. (1) If a railroad violates this chapter, fails or refuses to perform duties in accordance with this chapter, or fails, neglects, or refuses to act in accordance with commission requirements or orders, the railroad, upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined not less than $100 and not more than $1,000 for each violation, failure, or refusal.

(2) The commission shall recover the fine in a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day's violation, failure, or refusal is a separate offense subject to penalty in accordance with subsection (1).

(3) Enforcement of violations in this chapter is limited by 49 U.S.C. 20113.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 2015.**

69-14-105. Fees to be charged by commission. The commission shall require and receive a fee from the affected railroad to pay the cost of publishing notice as required by this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1979; Sec. 69-14-313, MCA 2013; redes. 69-14-105 by Code Commissioner, 2015.**

69-14-106 through 69-14-110 reserved.

69-14-111. Supervision of railroads. (1) The commission shall supervise railroads subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The commission may:

(a) adopt or enforce regulations and orders related to railroad safety or security in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 20106;

(b) bring civil action in a district court for violations of federal railroad safety regulations in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 20113; and

(c) participate in investigative and surveillance activities in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 20105.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4378, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3797, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3797, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-119(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 104, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Public transportation issues — Department of Transportation to represent state, 60-21-101.

Application — definition, 69-14-102.

69-14-112. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Secs. 16, 16a, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Secs. 4378, 4379, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 3797, 3798, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 3797, 3798, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-119(part), 72-120; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 235, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 51, L. 1999.**

69-14-113. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Secs. 10, 18, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Secs. 4372, 4381, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 3791, 3800, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 3791, 3800, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-113, 72-122; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2030, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

69-14-114. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4377, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-118(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 235, L. 1997.**

69-14-115. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3819, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3819, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-142, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3820, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3820, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1971; Sec. 72-143, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-142, 72-143; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 125, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 235, L. 1997.**

69-14-116. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 3827, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3827, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-150; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 235, L. 1997.**

69-14-117. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4382, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3801, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3801, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-123.**

69-14-118. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3834, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3834, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20. Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-156(part).**

69-14-119. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3834, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3834, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20. Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-156(part).

69-14-120. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-163(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-121 through 69-14-130 reserved.

69-14-131. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4397, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3816, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3816, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-139(part); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2031, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-132. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4383, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3802, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3802, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-124; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2032, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-133. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4393, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3812, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3812, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-135; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-134. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4387, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3806, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3806, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-128; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2033, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-135. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 25, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4388, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3807, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3807, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-129, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 6, Ch. 136, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 3831, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3831, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-154, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 5, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3839, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3839, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-161, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-129, 72-154, 72-161; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-136. Repealed. Sec. 55, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3840, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3840, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-162.

69-14-137. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4392, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3811, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3811, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-134; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

Part 2

Requirements for Railroads

Part Cross-References

Railroad responsibility for costs of special improvement district around tracks, 7-12-2156.
City and town regulation of railroads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 43.
Certain political contributions by railroads prohibited, 13-35-227.
Criminal offense to carry dangerous drugs on train, 45-9-127.
Railroad crossings — stops required, 61-8-348, 61-8-349.
Moving heavy equipment at grade crossings, 61-8-350.
Expense of cleaning and disinfecting carriers' facilities, 81-2-110.

69-14-201. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 971, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4324, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6558, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 481; re-en. Sec. 6558, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-602.

69-14-202. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 4343, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6582, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6582, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M., 72-627; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 645, L. 1989.

69-14-203. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6584, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6584, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-629, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6585, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6585, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-630, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-629, 72-630.

69-14-204. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 972, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4325, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6559, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 482; re-en. Sec. 6559, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-603.

69-14-205. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 973, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4326, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6560, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 483; re-en. Sec. 6560, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-604.

69-14-206. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 974, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4327, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6561, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 484; re-en. Sec. 6561, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-605.

69-14-207. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 975, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4328, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6562, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 487; re-en. Sec. 6562, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-606; amd. Sec. 2034, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-208. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 976, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4329, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6563, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 488; re-en. Sec. 6563, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-607; amd. Sec. 2035, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-209. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 977, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4330, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6564, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 490; re-en. Sec. 6564, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-608; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-210. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 970, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4323, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6557, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 479; re-en. Sec. 6557, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-601; amd. Sec. 2036, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-211. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, p. 150, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 978, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4331, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6565, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6565, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1949; Sec. 72-609, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, p. 151, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 981, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6568, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6568, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 60, L. 1949; Sec. 72-612, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-609, 72-612; amd. Sec. 2037, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-212. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, p. 150, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 979, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4332, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6566, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6566, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 60, L. 1949; Sec. 72-610, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 3, p. 151, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 980, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4333, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6567, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6567, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-611, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-610, 72-611.

69-14-213. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 152, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 982, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4335, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6569, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6569, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-613.

69-14-214. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 6, p. 152, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 983, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4336, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6570, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6570, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-614.

69-14-215. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 24, L. 1917; re-en. Secs. 6611, 6612, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 6611, 6612, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-654, 72-655; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2038, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-216. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 6550, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6550, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-411.

69-14-217 through 69-14-230 reserved.

69-14-231. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 3828, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3828, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-151.

69-14-232. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1907; Sec. 4338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1977; Sec. 72-622, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 1907; Sec. 4339, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6578, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6578, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-623, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-622(1), 72-623; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-233. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1907; Sec. 4338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 72-622(part).

69-14-234. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1907; Sec. 4338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 72-622(part).

69-14-235. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1907; Sec. 4338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6577, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 32, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 72-622(4).

69-14-236. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 6609, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6609, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1977; Sec. 72-652, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 6610, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6610, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-653, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-652, 72-653.

69-14-237. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6620, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6620, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-663, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 145, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6621, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6621, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-664, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 145, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6622, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6622, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-665, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-663, 72-664, 72-665.

69-14-238. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1)(a)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1957; Sec. 72-668, R.C.M. 1947; (1)(b)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 1957; Sec. 72-669, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 1957; Sec. 72-670, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-668, 72-669, 72-670; amd. Sec. 2039, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-239. Operation of trains at grade crossings. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), no railway company operating trains within this state shall permit any locomotives or cars to cross the tracks of any other railroad, at grade, without coming to a full stop immediately before crossing.

(2) (a) If any railway company or companies using one or more tracks crossing each other or connecting in any way at a common grade shall, by an interlocking plant, signal station, or any other works or fixtures, to be erected by them or either of them, render it safe to pass over said crossings without stopping and if such plant, works, or fixtures shall have been first approved by the county commissioners of the county wherein such works are to be constructed and used and the plans of such works and fixtures for such crossing, designating the place of such crossing, shall have been filed with such commissioners, then and in that case the foregoing provisions of this section requiring the stopping of trains at such crossing shall not apply to said companies or either of them.

(b) If said county commissioners shall disapprove any such plans so filed with them or fail to approve the same within 20 days after the filing thereof with them, such railway companies or either of them may apply in the county where such crossing is situated to the district court in and for said county or to a judge thereof in vacation, by petition in writing setting forth the object of such application. Said court or judge shall thereupon appoint a time and place for the hearing of said petition, and a copy of the order appointing such time and place, together with a copy of said petition, shall be served upon said county commissioners at least 10 days before the day appointed for said hearing. Said district court or a judge thereof in vacation shall have full power upon the hearing of said petition to grant the prayer thereof or to make such other order thereon as may be proper in the premises, and the foregoing provisions of this section requiring the stoppage of trains at crossings shall not apply to said railway companies or either of them if said district court shall by its order upon said petition grant the prayer thereof or otherwise and to any extent approve the construction and use of the interlocking plant or other structures therein referred to.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4359, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6596, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6596, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-641.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of railways and street railroads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 43.
Certain vehicles to stop at all railroad grade crossings, 61-8-349.
Railroad highway crossing, Title 69, ch. 14, part 6.

69-14-240. Duty to construct drains and ditches. (1) It shall be the duty of every corporation, company, or person owning or operating any railroad or branch thereof in this state and of any corporation, company, or person constructing any railroad in this state, within 3 months after the completion of the same through any county in this state, to cause to be constructed and maintained suitable ditches and drains along each side of the roadbed of such road or to construct culverts or openings through such roadbed to connect with ditches, drains, or watercourses, so as to afford sufficient outlet to drain and carry off the water along such railroad whenever the draining of such water has been obstructed or rendered necessary by the construction of such railroad. None of the drains or ditches herein referred to shall be required to be constructed by any of the persons or corporations herein named or described except when required to remove and drain off water accumulated upon property adjacent to or upon the right-of-way whose natural channel or outlet has been destroyed or impaired by the embankment of such railway so constructed as aforesaid.

(2) In case such corporation, company, or person shall fail or neglect to construct and maintain such ditches or drains as are herein required within the time limited in this section, the board of county commissioners of any county through which such railroad has been or may be constructed and located and in which the draining herein required has been neglected is hereby authorized and required, upon the petition of 20 landowners of such county along the line of and contiguous to such railroad, to cause such ditches or drains, as are herein required, to be constructed and maintained. Said board of county commissioners may maintain an action against such corporation, company, or person so failing to comply with the provisions of this section, in any court of competent jurisdiction and in the name of such county, and shall be entitled to recover all costs and expenses incurred in the construction and maintenance of said drains or ditches.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 101, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4362, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6599, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6599, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-644.

Cross-References

Municipal regulation of railways and street railroads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 43.

69-14-241 through 69-14-250 reserved.

69-14-251. Annual reports. (1) The commission shall require verified annual reports from each and every railroad owning, operating, or having any line of railroad in this state and shall prescribe the manner in which such reports shall be made and may require specific answers to all questions upon which the commission may desire information. It shall be the duty of the president or other officer in charge of such railroad to make such report and answers to the commission. The commission, at such other times as it may deem necessary, may require such other information, statements, or reports as may be deemed necessary and may fix the time for filing of the same.

(2) Any railroad failing or refusing to make or file such annual report or failing or refusing to furnish such additional information, statements, or reports, as may be demanded by the commission, shall forfeit the sum of $500 for each day that such refusal or neglect shall be continued.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4395, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3814, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3814, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-137.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

69-14-252. Accident reports. A railroad company operating any line of railroad within this state shall promptly upon the occurrence of any accident report the accident to the commission. The report must include the time and place of the accident, the names of any persons killed or injured, and the value of any property destroyed.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4380, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3799, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3799, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-121; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Public participation in governmental operations, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3.

Part 3
Ratemaking Procedures
(Renumbered and Repealed)

69-14-301. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4375, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 359, L. 1977; Sec. 72-116, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4377, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1973; Sec. 72-118, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-116(1), 72-118(part); amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-302. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4375, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 72-116(part).

69-14-303. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: (1), (2)En. Secs. 22, 23, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Secs. 4385, 4386, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 3804, 3805, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 3804, 3805, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Secs. 58, 59, Ch. 359, L. 1977; Secs. 72-126, 72-127, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 72-231 by Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1977; Sec. 72-231, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-126, 72-127, 72-231; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-304. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, p. 164, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 4353, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6590, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6590, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-635, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, p. 165, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 4354, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6591, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6591, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-636, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-635, 72-636.

69-14-305. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part).

69-14-306. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part).

69-14-307. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part).

69-14-308. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part).

69-14-309. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part); amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-310. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3795, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-117(part).

69-14-311. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4377, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-118(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 430, L. 1979.

69-14-312. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4377, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3796, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 227, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 429, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-118(part).

69-14-313. Renumbered 69-14-105. Code Commissioner, 2015.

69-14-314 through 69-14-320 reserved.

69-14-321. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4375, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3794, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 72-116(part).

69-14-322. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4389, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3808, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 3808, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-130; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

Part 4
Review of Commission Action
(Repealed)

69-14-401. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4384, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3803, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3803, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-125; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-402. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 28, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4391, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3810, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3810, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-133, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 27, Ch. 37, L. 1907; Sec. 4390, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 3809, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3809, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-132, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-132, 72-133; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-403. Repealed. Sec. 55, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 3832, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3832, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-155.

Part 5
Railroad Corporations
(Repealed)

69-14-501. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 95, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 305, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 683, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 893, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4274, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-204(part); amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 213, Ch. 368, L. 1991.

69-14-502. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 95, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 305, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 683, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 893, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4274, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-204(part); amd. Sec. 2040, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-503. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 93, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 303, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 681, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 891, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4272, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6504, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6504, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-202(part).

69-14-504. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 93, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 303, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 681, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 891, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4272, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6504, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6504, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-202(part).

69-14-505. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 6, p. 94, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 304, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 682, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 892, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4273, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6505, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6505, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-203, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 7, p. 95, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 305, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 683, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 893, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4274, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6506, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-204, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-203, 72-204(part); amd. Sec. 2041, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-506. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 21, p. 104, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 319, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 698, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 906, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4287, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6519, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6519, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-217.

69-14-507. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 706, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 913, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4294, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6526, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6526, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-149, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 72-224.

69-14-508. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 147, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 920, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6528, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6528, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-226.

69-14-509. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 147, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 921, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4297, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6529, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6529, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-227.

69-14-510. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 147, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 922, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6530, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6530, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-228.

69-14-511. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 703, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 911, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4292, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6524, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 473; re-en. Sec. 6524, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-222(part); amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-512. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 703, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 911, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4292, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6524, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 473; re-en. Sec. 6524, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-222(part); amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-513. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 704, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 912, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4923, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6525, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 473a; re-en. Sec. 6525, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-223(part); amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

69-14-514. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 157, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 923, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4299, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6531, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6531, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-229; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-515. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 22, p. 104, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 320, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 699, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 907, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4288, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6520, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6520, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-218.

69-14-516 through 69-14-530 reserved.

69-14-531. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 4, p. 93, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 302, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 680, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 890, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4271, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6503, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 454-496; re-en. Sec. 6503, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-201.

69-14-532. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part); amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-533. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part).

69-14-534. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 13, p. 102, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 311, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 690, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 898, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6512, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6512, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-210.

69-14-535. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 16, p. 103, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 314, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 693, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 901, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4282, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6515, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6515, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-213.

69-14-536. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 702, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 910, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4291, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6523, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6523, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-221; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

69-14-537. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 12, p. 101, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 310, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1, p. 37, L. 1883; re-en. Sec. 688, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 896, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4277, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6510, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6510, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-208.

69-14-538. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 689, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 897, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4278, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6511, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6511, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-209.

69-14-539. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part).

69-14-540 through 69-14-550 reserved.

69-14-551. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 17, p. 103, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 315, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 694, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 902, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4283, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6516, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6516, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-214.

69-14-552. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part); amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

69-14-553. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 15, p. 102, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 313, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 692, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 900, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6514, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6514, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-212; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 814, L. 1991.

69-14-554. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 11, p. 100, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 309, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 687, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 895, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4276, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6509, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6509, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-207.

69-14-555. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 707, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 914, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4295, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6527, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6527, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-225.

69-14-556. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 14, p. 102, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 312, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 691, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 899, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4280, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6513, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6513, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-148, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 72-211.

69-14-557. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 19, p. 104, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 317, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 696, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 904, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4285, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6518, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6518, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-216.

69-14-558. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part).

69-14-559. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 6508, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6508, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-206.

69-14-560. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 23, p. 104, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 321, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 700, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 908, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4289, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6521, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 6521, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-219(part).

69-14-561. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-205(part).

69-14-562. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 23, p. 104, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 321, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 700, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 908, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 66, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4289, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6521, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 6521, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-219(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 477, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 527, L. 2003.

69-14-563. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 18, p. 103, Ex. L. 1873; re-en. Sec. 316, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 695, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 903, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4284, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6517, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6517, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-215(part).

Part 6
Railroad Highway Crossings

Part Cross-References

Municipal regulation of railways and street railroads, Title 7, ch. 14, part 43.
Authority of Transportation Commission to prioritize expenditures on railroad crossings, 60-2-121.
Obedience to signal indicating approach of train, 61-8-347.
Railroad crossings — stops required, 61-8-348, 61-8-349.
Moving heavy equipment at grade crossings, 61-8-350.
Penalty for interference with official railroad signs or signals, 61-8-713.
Operation of trains at grade crossings, 69-14-239.

69-14-601. Definition of railroad company. The words "railroad company", as used in 69-14-601 through 69-14-611, shall be taken and construed to mean any corporation, person, or association of persons owning or operating a railroad.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6636, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6636, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-712.

69-14-602. Construction and maintenance of railroad crossings outside of incorporated cities and towns. At all places in the state, outside of incorporated cities and towns where a lawfully established public highway crosses any railroad, it shall be the duty of the railroad company owning or operating such railroad to construct and thereafter maintain in proper condition a good and safe crossing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6625, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6625, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-701.

Cross-References

Roads crossing railroad, 7-14-2612.

Reflectorized material on crossing signs required, 69-14-612.

69-14-603. Railroad crossings in unincorporated towns or villages. In any unincorporated community ordinarily known as a village or town where the public necessity and convenience require a railroad crossing at the intersection of the railroad with any street or highway, whether lawfully established or otherwise, which is commonly used by the public, the board of county commissioners of the county may order the construction and maintenance of such railroad crossing. Upon such order becoming final and effective, it shall be the duty of the railroad company to construct and maintain in proper condition a good and safe crossing. The board of county commissioners may order more than one railroad crossing in such unincorporated community, as provided in this section, when the public necessity and convenience require more than one such crossing to afford reasonable facilities for public travel.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6626, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6626, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-702.

Cross-References

Reflectorized material on crossing signs required, 69-14-612.

69-14-604. Procedure to order construction of crossing. If a board of county commissioners orders the construction of a railroad crossing, the board shall enter an order upon its minutes, specifying the place of the crossing. A copy of the order must be served upon the railroad company, and a copy must be immediately mailed to the public service commission.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6627, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6627, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-703; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-605. Time for completion of crossing. It shall be the duty of a railroad company to construct a crossing ordered by the board of county commissioners of any county within 60 days after service of such order; provided, however, that in case any crossing shall be ordered requiring any extended period of construction, such additional time as is reasonably necessary to complete the same shall be allowed by the commission upon the proper application for such extension.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6628, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6628, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-704.

69-14-606. Role of public service commission with respect to crossings. (1) The commission may enforce the orders of any board of county commissioners for the construction of railroad crossings and may pass upon the reasonableness of any such order and modify, change, or annul the same.

(2) Whenever any railroad crossing has been ordered by the county commissioners, as herein provided, the railroad company may, within 30 days after the service of such order, serve upon the commission a notice stating why the order is considered unreasonable or unjust and requesting that the commission hold a hearing for the purpose of determining whether or not the construction of such crossing should reasonably be required. The commission shall thereupon institute a hearing for this purpose, and all interested parties shall be given reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard. The commission may, after such hearing, either affirm, modify, or annul such order.

History: En. Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Secs. 6629, 6630, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 6629, 6630, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-705, 72-706; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-607. Overhead or underground crossings. (1) No railroad crossing, other than a grade crossing, shall be ordered by any board of county commissioners.

(2) (a) The public service commission may, however, upon petition or request in writing of any board of county commissioners, order an overhead or underground crossing at any

place where a railroad crossing has not been constructed and is required by the provisions of 69-14-601 through 69-14-611; provided, in its judgment, the safety, necessity, and convenience of the traveling public require such crossing.

(b) When any such petition or request is presented, the commission shall fix a date for hearing the same and shall give at least 10 days' written notice to the board of county commissioners and the owner or operator of the railroad to be affected by such order of the time fixed for the hearing. At such hearing, the commission shall hear all testimony offered as to the safety, necessity, and convenience of the traveling public requiring such a crossing and the expense of constructing and maintaining the same and shall make such investigation and inspection of the conditions at the place of crossing as may be deemed necessary or advisable and shall thereupon determine whether such order should be made.

(3) In the event an overhead or underground crossing is ordered, the commission may in its discretion require the same to be constructed and maintained by and at the expense of the railroad company or may apportion the expense between the railroad company and the county in which said crossing is located. The part of the expense apportioned to said county, if any, shall be paid to the railroad company from the funds of said county properly applicable to the payment of such expense.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6631, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6631, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-707.

69-14-608. Court action to determine justness and reasonableness of commission order. The board of county commissioners or the railroad company affected by an order or decision of the commission made pursuant to the provisions of 69-14-601 through 69-14-611 may commence an action in any court having jurisdiction to determine the justness and reasonableness of such order or decision. In any such action the order or decision sought to be reviewed shall prima facie be deemed just, reasonable, and proper.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6632, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6632, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-708.

69-14-609. Extension of time to comply with order. In the event of an application to the commission to review any order made by the board of county commissioners and in the event of any action to review any order or decision of the commission, as herein provided, the time within which to comply with said order shall be extended and the railroad company shall have 60 days after the order or decision becomes final and effective within which to comply with the same. The time for compliance as herein provided may be extended, for good cause shown, by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6633, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6633, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-709.

69-14-610. Effect of railroad crossing provisions on liability of railroad. (1) Nothing contained in 69-14-601 through 69-14-611 affects the liability of a railroad company for damage to persons or property injured at a railroad crossing.

(2) A railroad company or an employee of a railroad company may not be held liable for damages to persons or property injured at a railroad crossing that is within a quiet zone, as defined in 69-14-620, if the damages are alleged to arise from the locomotive's failure to sound its horn or bell at a railroad crossing that is within a quiet zone as provided in 69-14-620.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6634, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6634, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-710; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

69-14-611. Penalty for failure to comply with crossing order. Any railroad company failing to construct any crossing after the order or decision requiring the construction of same has become final, within the time herein provided or within any extension of time granted by the commission, shall for each day's failure pay to the state a fine of not less than $10 or more than $100, to be recovered in a civil action in the name of the state, and it shall be the duty of the county attorney of the county within which is located the site of the proposed crossing to prosecute such action.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 148, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6635, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6635, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-711.

69-14-612. Reflectorized material on crossing signs required. Within 2 years after April 9, 1987, a railroad company shall install and maintain reflectorized material on the front and back sides of crossbuck blades on all public crossing signs the railroad company is required to construct and maintain under 69-14-602 and 69-14-603.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 1987.**

69-14-613 through 69-14-619 reserved.

69-14-620. Establishment of railroad quiet zones. (1) For the purposes of this section, "quiet zone" means a segment of a railroad within which is situated one or a number of consecutive railroad crossings at which locomotive horns and bells are not routinely sounded.

(2) A governing body of a municipality or a board of county commissioners may petition to the secretary of the United States department of transportation to establish quiet zones at railroad crossings that meet the requirements established in the rules adopted to implement 49 U.S.C. 20153(c). In developing the petition, the governing body of the municipality or the board of county commissioners shall consult with the railroad corporations that operate the rail lines through crossings that are within the proposed quiet zone. The petition must include how the municipality or county intends to implement the supplemental safety measures that are required by the United States department of transportation at railroad crossings within quiet zones.

(3) A quiet zone may not be established at a railroad crossing unless the governing body of a municipality or a board of county commissioners follows the procedure provided in subsection (2) and receives the approval of the secretary of the United States department of transportation or the secretary's designee.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 2003.**

69-14-621. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3842, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3842, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-164, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3845, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3845, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; Sec. 72-167, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-164(part), 72-167(part).**

69-14-622. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3843, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3843, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-165.**

69-14-623. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3844, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3844, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-166.**

69-14-624. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3845, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3845, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-167(part).**

69-14-625. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 151, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 3846, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3846, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-168.**

69-14-626. Prohibition on extended obstruction of highway crossings. (1) It shall be unlawful for any corporation, association, or company to willfully obstruct, blockade, interfere with, or prevent the free use of any public highway within the state where such highway crosses any railroad track outside of incorporated cities and towns by stopping any railroad train, car, engine, or locomotive for more than 15 minutes at any one time or by placing, depositing, or leaving any article or thing whatsoever on any railroad track at the point where any public highway crosses such track outside of incorporated cities and towns.

(2) Any corporation, association, or company so obstructing, blockading, or interfering with the free use of any such highway shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 or more than $100. This section shall not be construed as repealing any existing laws prohibiting encroachments upon or obstruction of public highways.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1907; Sec. 4358, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6595, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6595, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-640.**

Part 7
Protection of Livestock and Agricultural Resources

Part Cross-References

Funds earmarked for railroad crossings, 15-70-102.
Limitation on action for killing or injuring stock by railroad, 27-2-207.
Inspection of livestock transported by railroad — exception, 81-3-212.
Driving livestock on railroad tracks, 81-5-102.

69-14-701. Maintenance of fences — exception — penalty. (1) Railroad corporations shall build and maintain a legal fence on both sides of their track and property and maintain cattle guards at all crossings over which cattle or other domestic animals cannot pass, except that a fence is not required in places where water ditches, embankments, terrain, or other sufficient protection prevents domestic animals from straying onto the right-of-way. An affected landowner or lessee may construct, maintain, or repair a fence subject to approval and reimbursement by the railroad corporation.

(2) If a railroad corporation does not build and maintain the fence and guards and its engines or cars, because of the lack of a fence or maintenance of a fence, kill or maim cattle or other domestic animals upon its line of road, it must pay to the owner of the cattle or other domestic animals, in all cases, a fair market price for the animal, unless it occurred through the neglect or fault of the owner of the animal killed or maimed; however, nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a person from recovering damages from a railroad corporation for its negligent killing or injury to cattle or other domestic animals at spurs, sidings, Ys, crossings, and turntables.

(3) An affected landowner or lessee may file a complaint with the public service commission when a fence is in disrepair or in need of maintenance. The public service commission shall certify that the fence is in need of repair and notify the railroad corporation responsible for the fence. The public service commission shall forward a copy of the complaint, a certification that the fence is in need of repair, and a verification that the railroad corporation was notified to the county attorney of the county within which the site of the fence in disrepair is located. Upon notice, the railroad corporation responsible for the fence shall repair the fence within 30 days, weather permitting. A railroad corporation failing to repair the fence within 30 days of notification shall pay a fine of $100 plus $50 a day each day after the 30th day of notification, for failure to repair the fence. The fine must be recovered in a civil action and deposited in the county general fund. It is the duty of the county attorney of the county within which the site of the fence in disrepair is located to prosecute the action.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 267, L. 1891; en. Sec. 950, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1905; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4308, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6540, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 485; re-en. Sec. 6540, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Negligence, 27-1-701, 27-1-702.
Costs of cattle guards as part of eminent domain proceedings, 70-30-301.
Legal fences defined, 81-4-101.
Where cattle guards are to be maintained, 81-4-102.

69-14-702. Crossings to be maintained. (1) Any railroad corporation or lessee, person, company, or corporation operating any railroad in this state which may fence its right-of-way shall make crossings through its fence and over its roadbed along its right-of-way every 4 miles thereof or as near thereat as may be practicable.

(2) Such openings shall not be less than 60 feet in width.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 959, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4318, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6552, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6552, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-502, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 960, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4319, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6553, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6553, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-503, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-502, 72-503(part).

69-14-703. Placement of cattle guards. The railroad company or lessee, person, company, or corporation operating any railroad shall place cattle guards on either side of the openings required by 69-14-702, sufficient to prevent any cattle from entering upon the right-of-way enclosed.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 960, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4319, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6553, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6553, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-503(part).

Cross-References

Costs of cattle guards as part of eminent domain proceedings, 70-30-301.

Where cattle guards are to be maintained, 81-4-102.

69-14-704. Openings under trestles. The railroad company, lessee, person, or company operating any railroad, in addition to the openings required by 69-14-702, shall leave unfenced any places where the railroad runs over trestles that are sufficiently high for cattle to go underneath the same.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 961, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4320, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6554, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6554, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-504.

69-14-705. Application of provisions dealing with crossings. The provisions of 69-14-702 through 69-14-706 shall only apply to grazing country.

History: En. Sec. 4, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 962, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4321, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6555, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6555, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-505.

69-14-706. Violation of crossing provisions. Any railroad corporation or lessee, person, company, or corporation operating any railroad in this state violating the provisions of 69-14-702 through 69-14-705 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined in a sum not less than $100 and not more than $500.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 148, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 963, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4322, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6556, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6556, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-506.

69-14-707. Liability for negligent destruction of domestic animals. Every railroad corporation or company operating any railroad or branch thereof within the limits of this state which shall negligently injure or kill any horse, mare, gelding, filly, jack, jenny, mule, cow, heifer, bull, ox, steer, calf, or other domestic animal by running any engine or car over or against any such animal shall be liable to the owner of such animal for the damages sustained by such owner by reason thereof. The killing or injury shall be prima facie evidence of negligence on the part of such corporation or company.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 68, L. 1881; re-en. Sec. 713, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 951, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4309, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6541, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6541, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-402.

Cross-References

Negligence, 27-1-701, 27-1-702.

69-14-708. Records of accidents involving livestock. (1) A railroad company must report to the department of livestock any livestock killed or injured by a train or railroad equipment on the railroad right-of-way within 30 days after the killing or injuring of any livestock.

(2) A railroad company failing to provide the notice provided for in subsection (1) is liable to the owner of the animal killed or injured, whether negligently done or not. The court or jury before whom an action is tried for the recovery of damages may in its discretion render a verdict and judgment for the amount of the value of the livestock killed or the amount of damages sustained by reason of injury.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 3, p. 70, L. 1881; amd. Sec. 720, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 953, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 4311, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6542, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6542, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-403, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 721, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 954, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4312, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6543, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6543, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-404, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-403, 72-404; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-709. Allowance of attorney fees. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), whenever any of the livestock referred to in this part are injured or killed and the owner brings an action for the recovery of the loss or damage sustained, the court in which the action is brought shall impose, as a part of the costs, a reasonable sum to be fixed by the court as a fee to the attorney of the prevailing or successful party for conducting the action. The fee must be collected in the same manner as other costs.

(2) A fee may not be allowed by the court or collected from the defendant when it appears from the pleadings or proof in an action that the defendant prior to the institution of the action offered or agreed to pay to the plaintiff, in settlement of the loss or damages claimed, a sum equal to or in excess of the amount recovered as damages in the action or unless the plaintiff, at least 40 days prior to the commencement of the action, has made a demand, in writing,

upon the defendant, the defendant's agent, or the defendant's attorney for the money claimed as indemnity for the killing of the livestock.

History: En. Sec. 722, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 955, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4313, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6544, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6544, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-405; amd. Sec. 2042, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

69-14-710. Tender or deposit of value of animal. If a corporation, association, company, or person owning, controlling, or operating a railroad or branch of a railroad kills or injures an animal as described in 69-14-707 and tenders to the owner or to the owner's agent the amount that the corporation, association, company, or person considers to be the value of the animal or the damage to the animal, or if the railroad, corporation, association, company, or person deposits with the department of livestock that amount for the owner of the animal and the owner or the owner's agent refuses to accept the amount in settlement, then the owner shall pay all costs incurred in any action instituted, after the tender or deposit, to recover the value or damage unless the owner recovers in the action more than the amount tendered.

History: En. Sec. 723, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 956, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4314, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6545, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6545, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-406; amd. Sec. 2043, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-711. Payment of damages to department of livestock. (1) If livestock are killed by railroad corporations in violation of 69-14-701 and if the owner of the livestock does not claim or assert a claim against the railroad or railroad corporation for the value of the livestock killed within 6 months from the date the animal is killed, the department of livestock shall demand from the railroad or railroad corporation payment in damages for livestock. The department shall institute and prosecute, in the name of the state, actions against the railroad or railroad companies in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover damages if the railroad fails, neglects, or refuses to make payment of the amount of the claim filed by the department.

(2) The money recovered must be paid to the department and must be held by the department for a period of 2 years after the date of its receipt. If the lawful owner of the animal killed does not present and prove the owner's claim to the net proceeds received from the animal killed within the 2 years, the money must be paid to the state treasurer and credited to the stock estray fund. If the owner of the animal killed proves the owner's claim within the 2 years, the department may pay the claimant the amount of money to which the claimant is entitled for the animal killed by the railroad or railroad company, the damages for which have been collected by the department.

(3) In actions prosecuted under this section for the recovery of the value of livestock killed, the prevailing or successful party shall recover all costs. If the owner of an animal killed has not presented a claim against the railroad or railroad company that caused it to be killed, a settlement made by the department constitutes a bar against an action by the owner of the animal.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1907; Sec. 4315, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6546, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6546, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-407; amd. Sec. 2044, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-712. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 726, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 958, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4317, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 99, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6548, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6548, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-409.

69-14-713. Violation of provisions dealing with injury to livestock. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who violates any of the provisions of 69-14-701 through 69-14-711 relating to livestock killed or injured by railroads is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A person violating any of the provisions of 69-14-711 shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not less than $10 or more than $300, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not less than 10 days or more than 60 days, or both.

History: (1)En. Sec. 720, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8561, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11278, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11278, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-35-174, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 72-507 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1974; Sec. 72-507, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 99, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6549, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6549, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-410, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-410, 72-507; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-714. Payment of claim — penalty. Upon determining liability for the amount of the value of an animal killed or maimed under the circumstances described in 69-14-701, the railroad corporation shall pay the plaintiff within 30 days. Upon failure to pay the plaintiff within 30 days, interest at a rate of 10% a year accrues on the amount due until the claim is paid.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 1993.

69-14-715 through 69-14-720 reserved.

69-14-721. Control of fire hazard along right-of-way. A railroad corporation or railroad company operating a railroad within this state shall keep its railroad track and either side of the track for a reasonable distance within its right-of-way, free from dead grass, weeds, or any dangerous or combustible material. A railroad corporation or company failing to keep its railroad track and each side of the track free of combustible material as specified in this section is liable for any damages on account of fire emanating from trains, track maintenance, or other railroad operations. A railroad corporation or company may not be required to keep free of combustible material, as specified in this section, land that is not a part of its right-of-way.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 71, L. 1881; re-en. Sec. 719, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 952, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4310, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6551, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6551, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 588, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.
Penalty for setting or leaving fire causing damage, 50-63-102.
Liability of offender for damages and costs, 50-63-103.
Reduction of slash and debris along right-of-way, 76-13-407.

69-14-722. Maintenance of fireguards. (1) Every railroad corporation operating its lines of road or any part thereof within this state shall, between April 15 and July 1 in each year, plow in a good and workmanlike manner, covering the sod well, upon each side of its line of road, wherever it passes through a range or grazing country, a continuous strip of not less than 6 feet in width on each side of its track, as a fireguard. Said strip shall, as near as practicable, run parallel with the line or lines of said railroad, and in addition to such plowing, said railroad company shall cause to be burned, between July 15 and September 15 of each year, all the grass and vegetation between the said plowed strips and a line of 50 feet inside said plowed strips. Said plowing shall be not less than 300 feet from the center of the railroad track on each side of same except in cases of cultivated fields, and then such plowing and burning shall be done closer to such railroad but not less than 70 feet from the center of the track.

(2) Such fireguard, so plowed and burned, need not be constructed within the limits of any town, village, or city; in private fields under cultivation; along the line of such railroad whenever the same runs through the mountains; or elsewhere where such plowing or burning would be impracticable. Said fireguard or portion thereof need not be plowed or burned on or through any lands which may be released from the operation of this section by the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such land is situated, by their written certificate of release filed in the office of the county clerk of the county.

(3) If any railroad company fails to comply with any of the provisions of this section, the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such violation occurs shall cause the neglected plowing, burning, or both to be done and may, in a suit to be brought in their name as said board in the district court having jurisdiction, recover double the amount of the cost of such plowing, burning, or both, with reasonable attorney fees to be fixed by the court. Such railroad company shall be liable further for all damages caused by its failure to comply with this section.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1, p. 163, L. 1901; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4360, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6597, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6597, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-642, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2, p. 164, L. 1901; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 63, L. 1903; re-en. Sec. 4361, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6598, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6598, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-643, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-642, 72-643.

Cross-References

Criminal offense of arson or negligent arson, 45-6-102, 45-6-103.
Penalty for setting or leaving fire causing damage, 50-63-102.
Liability of offender for damages and costs, 50-63-103.

Part 8
Loading Platforms and Spurs
(Repealed)

69-14-801. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3822, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3822, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-145; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-802. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 26, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3823, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3823, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-146; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 43, L. 1979.

69-14-803. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 26, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3824, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3824, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-147.

69-14-804. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 26, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3825, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3825, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-148.

69-14-805. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 26, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3826, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3826, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-149; amd. Sec. 130, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

69-14-806 through 69-14-810 reserved.

69-14-811. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 136, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 3829, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3829, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-152.

69-14-812. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3837, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3837, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 72-159(part).

69-14-813. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3837, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3837, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 72-159(part).

69-14-814. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 105, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 3841, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-163(part).

Part 9
Grain and Commodity Storage and Transportation

69-14-901. Authorization to locate and erect grain warehouse or elevator on railroad right-of-way. (1) Any person, firm, or corporation desirous of erecting and operating at or contiguous to any railway station or siding a warehouse or elevator for the purchase, sale, shipment, or storage of grain, including flaxseed, for the public for hire may make application in writing, containing a description of that portion of the right-of-way of the railroad on which the person, firm, or corporation desires to erect a warehouse or elevator, the size and capacity of the warehouse or elevator proposed to be erected, and the time for which it is desired to maintain the warehouse or elevator. The application must be made to the person, firm, or corporation owning, leasing, or operating the railroad at the station or siding, for the right, privilege, and easement of erecting and maintaining for the time stated in the application and for reasonable compensation for the warehouse or elevator upon the right-of-way pertaining to the railway at the siding or station and within and between the outside switches of the yard of the railway station or siding. Upon paying or securing in the manner prescribed in this section reasonable compensation for the right, privilege, and easement, the person, firm, or corporation is absolutely and unconditionally entitled to the right, privilege, and easement.

(2) The application must also state the amount the applicant considers reasonable compensation for the right, privilege, and easement the applicant desires to acquire, and the applicant shall tender and pay to the person, firm, or corporation from whom the easement is sought the sum stated in the application.

(3) If the person, firm, or corporation owning, leasing, or operating the railroad is not willing to allow the portion of the right-of-way selected by the applicant to be appropriated for the stated purpose and the parties cannot agree as to the quantity and location of the land upon which the grain warehouse or grain elevator is to be erected, the matter must be determined by the district court in the same manner and by the same proceeding for determining the amount of compensation to be paid when the parties cannot agree as to the amount.

History: (1), (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6638, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6638, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 88-201, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 88-202, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 88-201, 88-202(part); amd. Sec. 2045, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Easements, Title 70, ch. 17, part 1.

Warehouse operators of agricultural commodities, Title 80, ch. 4, part 5.

69-14-902. Decision on application by railroad. It shall be the duty of any person, firm, or corporation to whom application is made for the right to erect and maintain an elevator or warehouse under the provisions of 69-14-901 through 69-14-911, within 30 days after the receipt of such application, to notify said applicant in writing of the acceptance or rejection of the amount stated in said application to be reasonable compensation for the right, privilege, and easement sought to be acquired. In case such person, firm, or corporation fails to notify the applicant within said 30 days, such person, firm, or corporation shall be deemed to have accepted said amount, and upon the payment or tender thereof, said applicant shall be deemed to have acquired the right, privilege, and easement applied for.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-202(part).

69-14-903. Court action to resolve differences. (1) In case the amount so named in the application and tendered is not accepted and the parties cannot agree on the amount to be paid for such right, privilege, and easement, the same shall be ascertained, assessed, and determined by proceedings in the district court of the county in which the station or siding at which the right, privilege, and easement sought is situated. The court is hereby given full jurisdiction in the premises and shall at all times be deemed open and in session for the purposes of 69-14-901 through 69-14-911.

(2) Proceedings in the district court shall be instituted and carried on as provided in 69-14-904.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6639, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 88-202, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 88-203, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 88-202(part), 88-203(part).

69-14-904. Procedure in district court. (1) The parties seeking the right, privilege, and easement aforesaid shall present to and file with the district court a petition in writing and under oath, specifying and describing the right, privilege, and easement sought, the time for which the same is sought, and the fact that the parties to the proceedings are unable to agree upon the amount of compensation therefor.

(2) A copy of the application for such privilege shall be attached to said petition, and thereupon it shall be at once the duty of the court by its order in writing to fix a time not more than 30 days thereafter within which the person, firm, or corporation so owning, managing, or controlling such railroad shall appear and join issue in said proceeding. Such notice shall be served as a summons is served in civil actions and shall be ample notice to the parties so served to appear and join in the proceedings and shall be ample to give the court full jurisdiction over the party against whom the proceedings are instituted and the property involved in the proceeding.

(3) The manner of joining issue and the procedure at the trial shall be the same as that in any other civil action at law.

(4) The trial of such issue shall be expedited by the court as much as possible. At the trial the court or jury, as the case may be, shall find and assess the compensation, both in the form of an annual rental and in the form of a gross sum, for the right, privilege, and easement sought. Immediately after the finding or verdict has been made, the party against whom the proceedings have been taken shall elect whether to receive the annual rental or the gross sum found. In case such election is not made by said party, then the other party to the proceedings may make

such election. After election is made as aforesaid, judgment shall be rendered adjudging, among other things, that upon payment of the gross sum found or the annual rental found, yearly in advance, as the case may be, the party instituting the proceedings shall be entitled to the right, privilege, and easement of erecting and maintaining the elevator or warehouse asked for in the application and petition aforesaid and for the time therein specified. Thereupon the party in whose favor said judgment is rendered shall be entitled to a writ of execution in proper form to immediately invest such party with the right, privilege, and easement aforesaid.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-203(part).

Cross-References

Contents of writ of execution, Title 25, ch. 13, part 3.

Easements, Title 70, ch. 17, part 1.

69-14-905. Right to supreme court review. Within 30 days after the entry of said judgment, as hereinbefore provided, but not later, an appeal may be taken by either party to the supreme court. Such appeal shall not stay or hinder the use or enjoyment to the fullest extent of the right, privilege, and easement asked for by the petition and conferred by the judgment if the party instituting the proceedings shall make and file a bond with sureties, to be approved by the court, in an amount double the gross sum or annual rental, conditioned to pay such sum or rental and to abide and satisfy any judgment the supreme court may render in the premises. Either party may appeal from that part of the judgment determining the quantity and location of the land upon which such warehouse or elevator is to be erected, and in the event of such appeal, the judgment shall be suspended pending the appeal.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6641, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6641, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-204(part).

69-14-906. Payment of court costs. Costs and disbursements, as in civil actions, in each court shall be paid by the unsuccessful party. If the finding of the court or jury is for a less or the same amount as tendered by the petitioner before instituting the proceedings, then the petitioner shall be deemed the successful party. If the amount found is larger than the sum tendered, then the petitioner shall be deemed the unsuccessful party.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6641, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6641, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-204(part).

Cross-References

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

69-14-907. Elevators and warehouses considered public. All elevators and warehouses erected and maintained under the provisions of 69-14-901 through 69-14-911 shall be deemed public elevators and public warehouses and shall be subject to legislative control.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6642, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6642, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-205.

Cross-References

Warehouse operators of agricultural commodities, Title 80, ch. 4, part 5.

69-14-908. Prompt payment of rental required. In case the annual rental is elected, the same shall be paid yearly in advance, and if not so paid after 30 days' default, the right, privilege, and easement aforesaid shall be absolutely forfeited.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6640, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-203(part).

69-14-909. Time limit for construction of elevator or warehouse. Any person, firm, or corporation availing itself of the provisions of 69-14-901 through 69-14-911 shall, within 60 days after the amount to be paid for the easement acquired thereunder is finally determined, by agreement or by proceedings in court, commence the erection of the warehouse or elevator mentioned in the application and complete the same within 90 days thereafter. In case of failure to comply with the provisions of this section, such person or persons shall be deemed to have abandoned the right acquired, and the part or portion of the railroad right-of-way described in the application shall be subject to selection by other applicants who may desire to avail themselves of the provisions of 69-14-901 through 69-14-911.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6643, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6643, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 88-206.

69-14-910. Connection of railroad to elevator or warehouse. (1) Every railroad company or corporation organized under the laws of this state or doing business therein shall, upon application in writing, provide reasonable sidetrack facilities and running connections between its main track and elevators and warehouses upon or contiguous to its right-of-way at stations. Every such railroad corporation shall permit connections to be made and maintained in a reasonable manner with its sidetracks to and from any warehouse or elevator, without reference to its size, cost, or capacity, where grain is or may be stored. Such railroad company shall not be required to construct or furnish any sidetracks except upon its own land or right-of-way. The reasonable cost of the construction of such sidetracks and connections, except the cost of the rails and fastenings, shall be paid by the person or persons for whose benefit such sidetracks are provided or connections made.

(2) Where stations are 10 miles or more apart, the railroad company, when required to do so by the public service commission, shall construct and maintain a sidetrack for the use of shippers between such stations.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6644, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6644, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 88-207(part).

69-14-911. Location of facility. Such elevators and warehouses shall not be constructed within 100 feet of any existing structure and shall be at safe fire distance from the station buildings and so as not essentially to conflict with the safe and convenient operation of the road.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 43, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 6644, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6644, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 88-207(part).

69-14-912 through 69-14-920 reserved.

69-14-921. Suitable cars to be furnished for shipment of grain and other commodities in bulk. (1) All cars furnished by railroad or railway companies for the transportation of grain or other commodities in bulk must be constructed to prevent leakage when such commodities are placed or hauled in the cars. It is the duty of all railroad or railway companies to furnish cars in the required condition.

(2) Whenever cars placed for loading grain or other commodities in bulk are found to be in a condition that will not afford safe transportation for commodities, the railroad or railway company shall, upon written complaint to the agent or other person in authority by the shipper or the shipper's representative who proposes to load the car or cars and within 24 hours, cause the car or cars to be properly cleaned and put in repair to allow safe transportation for the commodity to be shipped.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6613, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6613, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-656, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6614, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6614, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-657, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-656, 72-657; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-922. Action by shipper to render cars suitable. (1) If a railroad or railway company fails within 24 hours after written complaint has been made by the shipper or the shipper's representative to clean and prepare a car or cars, then the shipper or the shipper's representative may properly and safely clean and prepare the car or cars. Preparing a car or cars may not include repairs covered in 49 CFR, parts 200 through 399. The railroad or railway company shall pay for the labor expended in the cleaning or preparation and the actual cost of material used.

(2) If a car or cars are placed at a station or siding where there is no representative of the railroad or railway company upon whom complaint may be served, then the shipper or the shipper's representative may at once clean and repair the cars and must be paid for the labor and material expended, as provided in subsection (1).

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6615, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6615, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-658, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6616, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6616, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-659, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-658, 72-659; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

69-14-923. Demurrage not to accrue during repairs. It is further provided that no demurrage shall accrue or be collected for the time elapsing while such car or cars are being repaired or cleaned or coopered in accordance herewith.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6617, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6617, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-660.

69-14-924. Liability of railroad for repairs. A person making the repairs upon or cleaning or coopering the cars of any railroad or railway company as provided in this part may recover the amounts expended in an action at law upon the refusal of the railroad or railway company to reimburse the person.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6618, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6618, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 72-661; amd. Sec. 2046, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-925. Enforcement of provisions related to suitable cars for commodity shipments. It is hereby made the duty of the commission to enforce the provisions of 69-14-921 through 69-14-924.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6619, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6619, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 315, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 72-662.

69-14-926 through 69-14-930 reserved.

69-14-931. Definitions. As used in 69-14-932 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Fair market value" means:

(a) the price negotiated between the parties under 69-14-932; or

(b) the appraised value as determined by a certified appraisal under 69-14-932.

(2) "Leaseholder" means a person who holds a lease or permit with respect to land adjacent to a railroad right-of-way and who has constructed or owns buildings on the land that have an appraised value of $5,000 or more.

(3) "Right-of-way" means land upon which a railroad has or has had tracks.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 814, L. 1991.

69-14-932. First right to purchase or match offer — lease preference — negotiation process — exception. (1) A person or entity that has a leasehold site between a point 8.5 feet from the centerline of the track nearest the edge of the right-of-way and 300 feet from the track centerline and that uses the leasehold for transporting grain, seed, or related agricultural input commodities, regardless of the status of train operations, has a right of first refusal to purchase the land if the owner seeks to sell the land or transfer the leasehold estate.

(2) The leaseholder of a leasehold site described in subsection (1) must be given the opportunity to match a competing lease offer upon expiration of an existing lease. If the leaseholder matches the new lease offer, the lease must be given to the leaseholder. When a person other than the current leaseholder becomes the lessee of a leasehold site described in subsection (1) or the lease is terminated by the lessor for reasons other than nonpayment or other material breach of the lease, the lessor or new lessee shall compensate the former leaseholder for the fair market value of improvements made by the former leaseholder.

(3) The owner of the land may not sell or offer for sale an interest in the leased land or dispossess the leaseholder for reasons other than nonpayment or other material breach of the lease unless the owner first extends to the leaseholder a written offer to sell the leased land to the leaseholder at fair market value. The leaseholder shall respond to the offer within 60 days of receipt of the offer.

(4) The owner shall negotiate in good faith with the leaseholder for a period not to exceed 90 days following the leaseholder's response to the written offer provided for in subsection (3). The land may not be sold or transferred during the response and negotiation periods.

(5) (a) If the owner and the leaseholder cannot agree on the fair market value, they shall appoint a certified appraiser to establish the fair market value.

(b) If the owner and leaseholder cannot agree on an appraiser, each shall appoint a certified appraiser who shall make an independent appraisal. If the appraisals are within 5% of each other, the average of the two appraisals constitutes the fair market value.

(c) If the two appraisals differ by more than 5%, the two appraisers shall appoint a third certified appraiser whose appraisal establishes the fair market value.

(d) If the leaseholder fails to close the purchase of the leasehold estate for any reason within 45 days after the fair market value of the land has been established by the appraisal process provided for in this section, the right of first refusal is extinguished and the owner is free to transfer the property to a person or entity other than the leaseholder.

(e) The owner may transfer a title under this section by quitclaim deed rather than warranty deed.

(6) This section does not apply to the sale of an entire operating railroad line by one operating railroad to another entity for the purpose of operating a railroad.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 814, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2047, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 10
Railroad Personnel

Part Cross-References

Licensure of plumbing work in railroad not required, 37-69-102.
Limitation of hours worked in tunnel, 39-4-103.
Workers' compensation not applicable to certain railroad workers, 39-71-401.
Penalty for derailment of railroad cars, 45-8-113.
Penalty for abandonment of animal on railroad, 45-8-211.
Deaf and blind persons to be given equal accommodations, 49-4-211.

69-14-1001. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-169; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 1983.

69-14-1002. Compensation of employees on removal of railroad division point or terminal. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), when any railroad or railway company operating its line of road in, into, or through the state moves any of its division points or terminals, it is liable to any employee of the railroad or railway company for any damage sustained by the employee by reason of any decrease in value of any real property actually occupied by the employee as the employee's place of residence that is caused by the removal of the division point or terminal. However, the employee must have a freehold estate in the property. The damages are collectible in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) When any railroad or railway company in good faith determines upon a change or removal of any division point or terminal and in good faith posts prominently at its station house, shops, and yards a statement of its intention to do so in a manner that gives reasonable notice to the employee, it is not liable, as provided in subsection (1), for any decrease in value of any interest in any property purchased after the time of the posting if the division point or terminal is changed or removed within 6 months after the date of the posting.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6623, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6623, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-666, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6624, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6624, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-667, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-666, 72-667; amd. Sec. 2048, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

69-14-1003. Railroad personnel as law officers. A conductor, engineer, or other person in charge of the operation of cars, trains, or locomotives upon any railroad is, while engaged or employed, a public executive officer of the class of peace officers and of the grade of constable in each county in which the train, cars, or locomotives are located and has the same authority as other peace officers to, with or without a warrant, arrest and prosecute persons trespassing or illegally obtaining passage on the railroad. The railroad personnel mentioned in this section are not entitled to receive fees for any arrest or prosecution that may be made or prosecuted under this section. None of the railroad personnel mentioned in this section are authorized to hold the office or exercise its functions unless at the time they are citizens of the United States and have been citizens of this state for at least 1 year preceding their exercising the functions of the office.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 150, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 8884, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11570, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11570, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-35-203, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 72-672 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-672; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 43, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2049, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Railroad corporation special peace officers, Title 44, ch. 4, part 9.

69-14-1004. Penalty for being under the influence while engaged in train operations. A person who is under the influence, as provided in 49 CFR 383.51, of alcohol or a drug while in charge of a locomotive engine while as conductor or driver upon any railroad car or train or while acting as train dispatcher or as telegraph operator receiving or transmitting dispatches in relation to the movement of trains is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 690, Pen. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8521, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11253, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pen. C. Sec. 391; re-en. Sec. 11253, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-35-109, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 72-671 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 72-671; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 235, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Penalty for misdemeanor, 46-18-212.

69-14-1005. Medical aid for injured train operator. (1) If a railroad train operator or employee of any railroad doing business in this state is injured during the operator's or employee's regular course of employment, any employee of the railroad is empowered and authorized to call upon and retain the services of the nearest practicing physician or surgeon to care for and treat the injured train operator or employee during and until the time that one of the regularly employed and paid physicians or surgeons of the railroad corporation is able to render service.

(2) If the services of any physician or surgeon other than the regularly employed physician or surgeon of the railroad corporation are retained and hired as provided in this section, the physician or surgeon must be compensated and paid a reasonable fee for the services performed.

(3) If a railroad corporation refuses or neglects to pay for the services of a physician as provided in subsection (2) within a reasonable time after the physician or surgeon has rendered the services, the railroad corporation is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6602, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6602, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-645, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 95, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 6603, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6603, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-646, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 95, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 6604, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6604, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-647, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-645, 72-646, 72-647; amd. Sec. 2050, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Good Samaritan law, 27-1-714.

Consent to emergency treatment, 41-1-405.

69-14-1006. Liability for death or injury to railroad employees. (1) A person or corporation operating a railroad in this state is liable in damages to any person suffering injury while the person is employed by the person or corporation operating the railroad or, in case of the death of an employee, instantaneously or otherwise, to the employee's personal representative, for the benefit of the surviving spouse and children of the employee and, if none, then of the employee's parents and, if none, then of the next of kin dependent upon the employee. The damages must be for an injury or death resulting in whole or in part from the negligence of any of the officers, agents, or employees of the person or corporation operating the railroad, in or about the handling, movement, or operation of any train, engine, or car on or over the railroad or by reason of any defect or insufficiency, due to its negligence, in its cars, engines, appliances, machinery, track, roadbed, works, boats, wharves, or other equipment.

(2) (a) In all actions brought against any person or corporation operating the railroad, under or by virtue of any of the provisions of this section, the fact that the employee may have been guilty of contributory negligence may not bar a recovery, but the damages must be diminished by the jury in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to the employee. However, an employee who is injured or killed may not be held to have been guilty of contributory negligence in any case in which the violation by the person or corporation operating the railroad of any statute enacted for the safety of employees contributed to the injury or death of the employee.

(b) An employee of a person or corporation operating the railroad may not be considered to have assumed any risk incident to the employee's employment when the risk arises by reason of the negligence of the employer or of any person in the service of the employer.

(3) A contract, rule, or device, the purpose or intent of which is to enable a person or corporation operating a railroad to exempt itself from any liability created by this section, is, to that extent, void. In an action brought against a person or corporation operating a railroad under or by virtue of any of the provisions of this section, the person or corporation may set off any sum it has contributed or paid to any insurance, relief benefit, or indemnity that may have been paid to the injured employee or the person entitled to the payment on account of the injury or death for which the action is brought.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6605, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6605, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-648, R.C.M. 1947; (2)(a)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6606, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6606, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-649, R.C.M. 1947; (2)(b)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 29, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6607, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6607, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-650, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 29, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 6608, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6608, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 72-651, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 72-648, 72-649, 72-650, 72-651; amd. Sec. 2051, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Comparative negligence — extent to which contributory negligence bars recovery, 27-1-702.

Part 11
Sale or Transfer of Railroad Line

69-14-1101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Buyer" means a person, corporation, association, business entity, labor organization, the state of Montana or any of its political subdivisions, or any other entity that acquires a line of railroad, by purchase, lease, or other agreement, to continue the commercial transportation of goods or passengers.

(2) "Labor organization" means any organization or association of any kind in which employees participate and that exists for the primary purpose of dealing with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours of employment, fringe benefits, or other conditions of employment.

(3) "Seller" means a person, corporation, association, or business entity that transfers a line of railroad by sale, lease, or other agreement.

(4) "Transaction" means the limited purchase, sale, or transfer of part of a line of railroad that will be operated by a common rail carrier.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 653, L. 1987.

69-14-1102. Conditions for transfer of line of railroad. Thirty days prior to filing with the federal surface transportation board of an application to purchase, sell, or transfer any section of a line of railroad, the seller and buyer shall:

(1) file a notice of intent and other information, as described in 69-14-1103, with the attorney general and the commission; and

(2) require representatives to attend meetings, upon reasonable notice, with the attorney general and the commission to respond to questions and requests for information on the proposed transaction directly related to the requirements of 69-14-1103.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 653, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 104, L. 2015.

69-14-1103. Notice of intent. (1) The notice of intent filed in accordance with 69-14-1102 must contain:

(a) a complete and accurate description of the identities of the buyer and seller; and

(b) a thorough description of the railroad line to be transferred.

(2) A general description of the terms of the proposed transaction and any labor agreements must be attached to the notice of intent.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 653, L. 1987.

Part 12
Railroad Vandalism Prevention Act

69-14-1201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Railroad Vandalism Prevention Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 2001.

69-14-1202. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to:

(1) better inform the public of current widespread vandalism that takes place on railroad property and the cost of that vandalism that must ultimately be borne by shippers;

(2) prevent accidents and injuries to persons who enter railroad property;

(3) prevent acts of vandalism to railroad property that affect the health, safety, and welfare of the traveling public, the neighboring community, and railroad employees;

(4) protect railroad property and freight in transit; and

(5) otherwise enhance the safety of transportation by railroad.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 432, L. 2001.

69-14-1203. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Bodily injury" means:

(a) a cut, abrasion, bruise, burn, or disfigurement;

(b) physical pain;

(c) illness;

(d) impairment of the function of or loss of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or

(e) any other injury to the body, no matter how temporary.

(2) "Enter railroad property" includes but is not limited to performing vandalism or other unlawful activity on railroad property.

(3) (a) "Railroad" means any form of nonhighway ground transportation that runs on rails or electromagnetic guideways.

(b) Railroad does not include rapid transit operations in an urban area that are not connected to the general railroad system of transportation.

(4) "Railroad carrier" means an entity that provides rail transportation.

(5) (a) "Railroad property" means all tangible real and personal property owned, leased, or operated by a railroad carrier, including a right-of-way, track, bridge, yard, shop, station, tunnel, viaduct, trestle, depot, warehouse, terminal, railroad signal system, train control system, centralized dispatching system, or any other structure, appurtenance, or equipment owned, leased, or used in the operation of any railroad carrier, including a train, locomotive, engine, railroad car, work equipment, rolling stock, or safety device.

(b) Railroad property does not include a railroad carrier's administrative buildings or offices, office equipment, or intangible property such as computer software or other information.

(6) "Right-of-way" means the track or roadbed owned, leased, or operated by a railroad carrier that is located on either side of its tracks and that is readily recognizable to a reasonable person as being railroad property or is reasonably identified as railroad property by fencing or appropriate signs.

(7) "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves:

(a) a substantial risk of death;

(b) extreme physical pain;

(c) protracted and obvious disfigurement; or

(d) protracted impairment of the function of or loss of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

(8) "Vandalism to railroad property" means committing an act that may cause damage to railroad property or bodily injury to another person. This includes but is not limited to:

(a) taking, removing, defacing, altering, marking with graffiti, or otherwise marking a railroad sign, placard, or marker;

(b) throwing a rock, baseball, or other dangerous object at a locomotive, railroad car, or train;

(c) dropping a brick or other dangerous object from a bridge or other overpass onto a railroad right-of-way;

(d) shooting a firearm or other dangerous weapon at a locomotive, railroad car, or train;

(e) removing appurtenances from, damaging, or otherwise impairing the operation of any railroad signal system, including a train control system, centralized dispatching system, or highway-railroad grade crossing warning signal on a railroad owned, leased, or operated by a railroad carrier, without consent of the railroad carrier;

(f) interfering or tampering with or obstructing in any way any switch, frog, rail, roadbed, sleeper, viaduct, bridge, trestle, culvert, embankment, structure, or appliance pertaining to or connected with any railroad carrier, without consent of the railroad carrier; or

(g) taking, stealing, removing, changing, adding to, altering, or in any manner interfering with any journal bearing, brass, waste, packing, triple valve, pressure cock, brake, air hose, or any other part of the operating mechanism of any locomotive, engine, tender, coach, car, caboose, or motor car used or capable of being used by any railroad carrier, without the consent of the railroad carrier.

(9) "Yard" means a system of parallel tracks, crossovers, and switches where railroad cars are switched and made up into trains and where railroad cars, locomotives, and other rolling stock are kept when not in use or when awaiting repairs.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 432, L. 2001.

69-14-1204. Stowing away on railroad property. (1) A person commits the offense of stowing away on railroad property if the person knowingly and without lawful authority or consent is on, occupies, or rides on the outside of a train or on the inside of a passenger car, locomotive, or freight car, including a boxcar, flatbed, or container car.

(2) A person convicted of the offense of stowing away on railroad property shall be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be incarcerated in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 432, L. 2001.

69-14-1205. Intentional vandalism to railroad property. (1) A person commits the offense of intentional vandalism to railroad property if the person knowingly or purposely vandalizes railroad property.

(2) A person convicted of intentional vandalism to railroad property must be ordered to make restitution to the railroad carrier in the amount of the cost to repair any railroad property damaged, the cost of any train or shipment delay, and the cost of any accident or damage resulting from the vandalism.

(3) (a) A person convicted of the offense of intentional vandalism to railroad property in which the damage to railroad property does not exceed $1,000 and in which there is no bodily injury to another person as a result of the offender's actions shall be fined an amount not to exceed $1,000 or be incarcerated in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of intentional vandalism to railroad property in which the damage to railroad property exceeds $1,000 or in which there is bodily injury to another person as a result of the offender's actions shall be fined an amount not to exceed $10,000 or be incarcerated for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both.

(c) A person convicted of the offense of intentional vandalism to railroad property that results in serious bodily injury to another person as a result of the offender's actions shall be fined an amount not to exceed $20,000 or be incarcerated in a state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years, or both.

(d) A person convicted of the offense of intentional vandalism to railroad property that results in the death of another person as a result of the offender's actions shall be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000 or be incarcerated in a state prison for a term not to exceed 40 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 432, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 2003.

69-14-1206. Theft of railroad freight — receiving stolen railroad freight. (1) A person commits the offense of theft of railroad freight if the person takes railroad freight by theft, as established in 45-6-301(1).

(2) A person commits the offense of receiving stolen railroad freight if the person obtains stolen railroad freight by theft, as established in 45-6-301(3).

(3) A person convicted of the offense of theft of railroad freight or the offense of receiving stolen railroad freight shall be fined an amount not to exceed $5,000 or be incarcerated for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 432, L. 2001.

TITLE 70
PROPERTY

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26. Landlord and Tenant — Residential and Commercial.
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Title Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.

CHAPTER 1
PROPERTY IN GENERAL
REAL AND PERSONAL

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70-1-702. Estate defined.
70-1-703. Conveyances to an estate.
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Part 8 — Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities (Renumbered)

Part 1
General Provisions

70-1-101. Property defined — ownership. The ownership of a thing is the right of one or more persons to possess and use it to the exclusion of others. In this code, the thing of which there may be ownership is called property.

History: **En. Sec. 1070, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4421, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6663, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 654; Field Civ. C. Sec. 159; re-en. Sec. 6663, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-201.**

Cross-References

Real estate defined, 37-51-102.

70-1-102. Ownership public or private — state as private proprietor. All property has an owner, whether that owner is the state and the property public or the owner an individual and the property private. The state may also hold property as a private proprietor.

History: **En. Sec. 1090, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4431, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6673, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 669; Field Civ. C. Sec. 168; re-en. Sec. 6673, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-301.**

Cross-References

General rights of state over property, Title 70, ch. 1, part 2.
State Lands, Title 77.

70-1-103. Owner entitled to products and accessions. The owner of a thing also owns all of its products and accessions.

History: **En. Sec. 1170, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4472, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6714, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 732; Field Civ. C. Sec. 209; re-en. Sec. 6714, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-415.**

Cross-References

Seizures of property related to controlled substances, Title 44, ch. 12.
Property — acquired by accession, 70-1-110.
Accession and intermixture of personal property, Title 70, ch. 4.
Increase of thing during period of loan, 70-7-103.
Increase of thing loaned for exchange, 70-7-203.

70-1-104. In what things property interests may exist. There may be ownership of:

(1) all inanimate things which are capable of appropriation or of manual delivery;
(2) all domestic animals;
(3) all obligations;
(4) such products of labor or skill as the composition of an author, the goodwill of a business, trademarks, and signs; and
(5) rights created or granted by statute.

History: **En. Sec. 1071, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4422, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6664, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 655; Field Civ. C. Sec. 160; re-en. Sec. 6664, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-202.**

Cross-References

Seizures of property related to controlled substances, Title 44, ch. 12.
Prohibition of possession of wild animals — exceptions, 50-23-102.

70-1-105. Real or personal. Property is either:

(1) real or immovable; or
(2) personal or movable.

History: **En. Sec. 1073, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4424, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6666, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 657; Field Civ. C. Sec. 162; re-en. Sec. 6666, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-206.**

70-1-106. Real property defined. Real or immovable property consists of:

(1) land;
(2) that which is affixed to land, including a manufactured home declared an improvement to real property under 15-1-116;

(3) that which is incidental or appurtenant to land;
(4) that which is immovable by law.

History: **En. Sec. 1074, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4425, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6667, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 658; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 163; re-en. Sec. 6667, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-207; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 450, L. 2005.**

70-1-107. Choice of law as to real property. Real property within this state is governed by the law of this state, except where the title is in the United States.

History: **En. Sec. 1200, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4480, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6722, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 755; re-en. Sec. 6722, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-501.**

70-1-108. Personal property defined. (1) Every kind of property that is not real is personal.

(2) Digital assets are considered personal property.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "digital assets" means cryptocurrencies, natively electronic assets, including stable coins and nonfungible tokens, and other digital-only assets that confer economic, proprietary, or access rights or powers.

History: **En. Sec. 1079, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4430, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6672, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 663; Field Civ. C. Sec. 167; re-en. Sec. 6672, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-212; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 344, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 344, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

70-1-109. Choice of law as to personal property. If there is no law to the contrary in the place where personal property is situated, it is considered to follow the person of its owner and is governed by the law of the owner's domicile.

History: **En. Sec. 1340, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4556, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6803, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 946; Field Civ. C. Sec. 364; re-en. Sec. 6803, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1101; amd. Sec. 2052, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-1-110. How property acquired. Property is acquired by:
(1) occupancy;
(2) accession;
(3) transfer;
(4) will; or
(5) succession.

History: **En. Sec. 1380, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4569, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6816, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1000; re-en. Sec. 6816, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1201.**

Cross-References

Uniform Probate Code — intestacy, wills, and donative transfers, Title 72, ch. 2.

Part 2
General Rights of State Over Property

Cross-References

Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.

70-1-201. Original and ultimate title. The original and ultimate right of all property, real and personal, within the jurisdiction of this state and not belonging to the United States is in the people of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 60, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 26, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 27, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 40; re-en. Sec. 27, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-101.**

Cross-References

Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.

70-1-202. Property of the state — what included. The state is the owner of:
(1) all land below the water of a navigable lake or stream;
(2) all property lawfully appropriated by it to its own use;
(3) all property dedicated or granted to the state; and
(4) all property of which there is no other owner.

History: **En. Sec. 1091, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4432, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6674, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 670; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 169; re-en. Sec. 6674, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-302.**

Cross-References

Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Public land trust — disposition, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Access to surface waters by public bridge or county road right-of-way, 23-2-312.
State Lands, Title 77.
Ownership records of state-owned land, Title 77, ch. 1, part 7.

70-1-203. Escheat. Whenever the title to any property fails for want of heirs or next of kin, it reverts to the state. All property within the limits of this state which does not belong to any person belongs to the state.

History: En. Sec. 61, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 27, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 28, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 41; re-en. Sec. 28, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-102.

Cross-References

Disposition of unclaimed funds from liquidated bank, 32-1-537.
Escheated estates, Title 72, ch. 14.

70-1-204. Acquisition by taxation. The state or any county thereof may acquire property by taxation in the modes authorized by law.

History: En. Sec. 62, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 28, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 29, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 43; re-en. Sec. 29, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-103.

Cross-References

Tax liens, Title 15, ch. 17.

70-1-205. Eminent domain. The state may acquire or authorize others to acquire title to property, real or personal, for public use, in the cases and in the modes provided in chapter 30 of this title.

History: En. Sec. 63, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 29, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 30, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 44; re-en. Sec. 30, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-104.

Cross-References

Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.

Part 3
Kinds of Ownership Interests

70-1-301. Interests in real property specially named elsewhere. In respect to real or immovable property, the interests mentioned in this part are denominated estates and are specially named and classified in 70-15-202 through 70-15-216, in Title 70, chapter 15, part 3, in Title 70, chapter 16, in 70-17-101 through 70-17-111, and in Title 72, chapter 38, part 8.

History: En. Sec. 1122, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4455, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6697, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 701; Field Civ. C. Sec. 193; re-en. Sec. 6697, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-327; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

70-1-302. Ownership — absolute or qualified. The ownership of property is either:

(1) absolute; or
(2) qualified.

History: En. Sec. 1100, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4433, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6675, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 678; Field Civ. C. Sec. 171; re-en. Sec. 6675, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-303.

70-1-303. When ownership absolute. The ownership of property is absolute when a single person has the absolute dominion over it and may use it or dispose of it according to the person's pleasure, subject only to general laws.

History: En. Sec. 1101, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4434, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6676, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 679; Field Civ. C. Sec. 172; re-en. Sec. 6676, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-304; amd. Sec. 2053, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-1-304. When ownership qualified. The ownership of property is qualified when:

(1) it is shared with one or more persons;
(2) the time of enjoyment is deferred or limited;
(3) the use is restricted.

History: En. Sec. 1102, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4435, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6677, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 680; Field Civ. C. Sec. 173; re-en. Sec. 6677, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-305.

70-1-305. Ownership by single person. The ownership of property by a single person is designated as a sole or several ownership.

History: **En. Sec. 1103, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4436, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6678, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 681; Field Civ. C. Sec. 174; re-en. Sec. 6678, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-306.**

70-1-306. Ownership by several persons — types. The ownership of property by several persons is either of:

(1) joint interests;
(2) partnership interests;
(3) interests in common.

History: **En. Sec. 1104, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4437, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6679, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 682; Field Civ. C. Sec. 175; re-en. Sec. 6679, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-307.**

Cross-References
Husband and wife, Title 40, ch. 2.
Husband and wife as joint tenants, 40-2-105.
Joint tenancy — how created, 70-20-105.
Conveyance in joint tenancy — right of survivorship, 70-20-310.
Partition of real property, Title 70, ch. 29.

70-1-307. Joint interest defined. A joint interest is one owned by several persons in equal shares by a title created by a single will or transfer, when expressly declared in the will or transfer to be a joint tenancy or when granted or devised to executors or trustees as joint tenants.

History: **En. Sec. 1105, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4438, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6680, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 683; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 176; re-en. Sec. 6680, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-308.**

Cross-References
Husband and wife as joint tenants, 40-2-105.
Action for waste — treble damages, 70-16-106.
Dower and curtesy abolished, 72-2-122.

70-1-308. Safe deposit box — joint tenancy. When so specified in the agreement granting for a term of time the right in two or more persons to use or occupy any safe or box, commonly referred to as a safe deposit vault or box for the safekeeping of valuables, such interest and estate created in the grantees shall be a joint tenancy in such vault or box and pass to the survivors and survivor upon the death of one or more of the joint tenants with right in such survivors and survivor to have access to and possession of such vault or box and the contents thereof under the terms of the agreement.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 67-309.**

Cross-References
Credit unions — joint accounts, 32-3-505.

70-1-309. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: **En. 67-308.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 75, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-308.1.**

70-1-310. Action by or against joint tenants or tenants in common. All persons holding as tenants in common, joint tenants, or any number less than all may jointly or severally commence or defend any civil action or proceeding for the enforcement or protection of the rights of that party. In all cases, one tenant in common or one joint tenant may sue a cotenant.

History: **En. Sec. 21, p. 43, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 21, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 21, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 586, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6493, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9085, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 384; re-en. Sec. 9085, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2823; amd. Sec. 2054, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-1-311. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 2, p. 454, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 2, p. 504, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 771, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1285, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 592, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; en. Sec. 1, p. 134, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 6499, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9091, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9091, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2829.**

70-1-312. Partnership interest defined. A partnership interest is one owned by several persons in partnership for partnership purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 1106, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4439, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6681, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 684; Field Civ. C. Sec. 177; re-en. Sec. 6681, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-311.**

Cross-References
Partnerships, Title 35, ch. 10 through 12.

70-1-313. Interest in common defined. An interest in common is one owned by several persons, not in joint ownership or partnership.

History: En. Sec. 1107, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4440, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6682, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 685; Field Civ. C. Sec. 178; re-en. Sec. 6682, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-312.

Cross-References

Action by or against joint tenants or tenants in common, 70-1-310.
Action for waste — treble damages, 70-16-106.
Abuse of property held jointly or in common — action — mining property, 70-19-202.

70-1-314. Interest in common — how created. Every interest created in favor of several persons in their own right, including husband and wife, is an interest in common unless acquired by them in partnership for partnership purposes or unless declared in its creation to be a joint interest, as provided in 70-1-307.

History: En. Sec. 1108, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4441, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6683, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 686; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 179; re-en. Sec. 6683, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-313.

Cross-References

Husband and wife as joint tenants, 40-2-105.
Husband and wife — when interests separate, 40-2-201.
Dower and curtesy abolished, 72-2-122.

70-1-315. Interest as to time of enjoyment. In respect to the time of enjoyment, an interest in property is either:

(1) present or future; and
(2) perpetual or limited.

History: En. Sec. 1109, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4442, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6684, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 688; Field Civ. C. Sec. 180; re-en. Sec. 6684, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-314.

70-1-316. Present interest — to what entitles owner. A present interest entitles the owner to the immediate possession of the property.

History: En. Sec. 1110, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4443, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6685, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 689; Field Civ. C. Sec. 181; re-en. Sec. 6685, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-315.

70-1-317. Future interest — to what entitles owner. A future interest entitles the owner to the possession of the property only at a future period.

History: En. Sec. 1111, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4444, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6686, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 690; Field Civ. C. Sec. 182; re-en. Sec. 6686, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-316.

Cross-References

Future estate — right of possession at future day, 70-15-209.

70-1-318. What future interests recognized. No future interest in property is recognized by the law, except such as is defined in this code.

History: En. Sec. 1124, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4457, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6699, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 703; Field Civ. C. Sec. 195; re-en. Sec. 6699, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-329.

70-1-319. Mere possibility not an interest. A mere possibility, such as the expectancy of an heir apparent, is not to be deemed an interest of any kind.

History: En. Sec. 1121, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4454, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6696, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 700; Field Civ. C. Sec. 192; re-en. Sec. 6696, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-326.

70-1-320. Perpetual interest — duration. A perpetual interest has a duration equal to that of the property.

History: En. Sec. 1112, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4445, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6687, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 691; Field Civ. C. Sec. 183; re-en. Sec. 6687, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-317.

70-1-321. Limited interest — duration. A limited interest has a duration of less than that of the property.

History: En. Sec. 1113, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4446, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6688, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 692; Field Civ. C. Sec. 184; re-en. Sec. 6688, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-318.

70-1-322. Kinds of future interests. A future interest is either:

(1) vested; or
(2) contingent.

History: En. Sec. 1114, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4447, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6689, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 693; Field Civ. C. Sec. 185; re-en. Sec. 6689, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-319.

70-1-323. Future interest — when vested. A future interest is vested when there is a person in being who would have a right, defeasible or indefeasible, to the immediate possession of the property upon the ceasing of the intermediate or precedent interest.

History: En. Sec. 1115, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4448, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6690, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 694; Field Civ. C. Sec. 186; re-en. Sec. 6690, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-320.

70-1-324. Future interest — when contingent. A future interest is contingent whilst the person in whom or the event upon which it is limited to take effect remains uncertain.

History: En. Sec. 1116, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4449, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6691, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 695; Field Civ. C. Sec. 187; re-en. Sec. 6691, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-321.

70-1-325. Two or more alternative future interests. Two or more future interests may be created to take effect in the alternative so that if the first in order fails to vest, the next in succession shall be substituted for it and take effect accordingly.

History: En. Sec. 1117, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4450, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6692, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 696; Field Civ. C. Sec. 188; re-en. Sec. 6692, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-322.

70-1-326. Future interests — how passed. Future interests pass by succession, will, and transfer in the same manner as present interests.

History: En. Sec. 1120, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4453, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6695, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 699; Field Civ. C. Sec. 191; re-en. Sec. 6695, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-325.

Part 4
Conditions and Limitations of Ownership

Part Cross-References

Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

70-1-401. Fixing time of enjoyment — computation — condition. The time when the enjoyment of property is to begin or end may be determined by computation, or be made to depend on event. In the latter case, the enjoyment is said to be upon condition.

History: En. Sec. 1140, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4458, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6700, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 707; Field Civ. C. Sec. 196; re-en. Sec. 6700, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-401.

70-1-402. Kinds of conditions. Conditions are precedent or subsequent. The former fix the beginning, the latter the ending, of the right.

History: En. Sec. 1141, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4459, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6701, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 708; Field Civ. C. Sec. 197; re-en. Sec. 6701, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-402.

Cross-References

Types of conditions — defined, 28-1-402 through 28-1-405.

70-1-403. Condition precedent requiring wrongful act. If a condition precedent requires the performance of an act wrong of itself, the instrument containing it is so far void and the right cannot exist. If it requires the performance of an act not wrong of itself, but otherwise unlawful, the instrument takes effect and the condition is void.

History: En. Sec. 1142, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4460, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6702, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 709; Field Civ. C. Sec. 198; re-en. Sec. 6702, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-403.

Cross-References

When contract wholly void, 28-2-603.
When contract partially void, 28-2-604.
Contracts — illegal objects and provisions, Title 28, ch. 2, part 7.

70-1-404. Conditions restraining marriage void. Conditions imposing restraints upon marriage, except upon the marriage of a minor, are void, but this does not affect limitations where the intent was not to forbid marriage but only to give the use until marriage.

History: En. Sec. 1143, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4461, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6703, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 710; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 199; re-en. Sec. 6703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-404.

Cross-References

Contracts in restraint of marriage generally void, 28-2-706.

70-1-405. Conditions restraining alienation void. Conditions restraining alienation, when repugnant to the interest created, are void.

History: En. Sec. 1144, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4462, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6704, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 711; Field Civ. C. Sec. 200; re-en. Sec. 6704, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-405.

70-1-406. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1150, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4463, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6705, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 715; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 201; re-en. Sec. 6705, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-406(a).

70-1-407. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1151, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4464, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6706, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 716; Field Civ. C. Sec. 202; re-en. Sec. 6706, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-407(part).

70-1-408. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1150, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4463, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6705, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 715; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 201; re-en. Sec. 6705, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-406(b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1979.

70-1-409. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1151, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4464, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6706, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 716; Field Civ. C. Sec. 202; re-en. Sec. 6706, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-407(part).

70-1-410. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1220, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4491, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6733, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 771; Field Civ. C. Sec. 228; re-en. Sec. 6733, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-512.

70-1-411. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 214, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-423, 67-424.

70-1-412. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1190, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4478, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6720, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 748; Field Civ. C. Sec. 215; re-en. Sec. 6720, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-421.

70-1-413. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1160, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4467, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6709, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 722; Field Civ. C. Sec. 204; re-en. Sec. 6709, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-410.

70-1-414. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1161, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4468, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6710, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 723; Field Civ. C. Sec. 205; re-en. Sec. 6710, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-411.

70-1-415. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1162, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4469, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6711, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 724; Field Civ. C. Sec. 206; re-en. Sec. 6711, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 67-412.

70-1-416. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1163, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4470, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6712, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 725; Field Civ. C. Sec. 207; re-en. Sec. 6712, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-413.

70-1-417. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1164, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4471, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6713, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 726; Field Civ. C. Sec. 208; re-en. Sec. 6713, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 212, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 67-414.

70-1-418. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 250, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1171, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4473, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6715, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 733; Field Civ. C. Sec. 210; re-en. Sec. 6715, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-416.

70-1-419. Future interest not void for improbable contingency. A future interest is not void merely because of the improbability of the contingency on which it is limited to take effect.

History: En. Sec. 1118, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4451, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6693, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 697; Field Civ. C. Sec. 189; re-en. Sec. 6693, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-323.

70-1-420. Future interest limited to class — posthumous children. When a future interest is limited to successors, heirs, issue, or children, posthumous children are entitled to take in the same manner as if living at the death of their parent.

History: En. Sec. 1119, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4452, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6694, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 698; Field Civ. C. Sec. 190; re-en. Sec. 6694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-324.

Cross-References

Omitted children, 72-2-332.

70-1-421. Future interest subject to defeat — how — not void. A future interest may be defeated in any manner or by any act or means which the party creating such interest provided for or authorized in the creation thereof, nor is the future interest, thus liable to be defeated, to be on that ground adjudged void in its creation.

History: En. Sec. 1181, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4475, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6717, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 740; Field Civ. C. Sec. 212; re-en. Sec. 6717, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-418.

70-1-422. Future interest contingent on death without children — how defeated. A future interest depending on the contingency of the death of any person without successors, heirs, issue, or children is defeated by the birth of a posthumous child of such person, capable of taking by succession.

History: En. Sec. 45, p. 486, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 45, p. 403, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 222, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 280, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1180, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4474, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6716, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 739; Field Civ. C. Sec. 211; re-en. Sec. 6716, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-417.

70-1-423. Future interest not defeated by destruction of other interest. No future interest can be defeated or barred by any alienation or other act of the owner of the intermediate or precedent interest or by destruction of such precedent interest by forfeiture, surrender, merger, or otherwise, except as provided by 70-1-424 or where a forfeiture is imposed by statute as a penalty for the violation thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1182, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4476, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6718, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 741; Field Civ. C. Sec. 213; re-en. Sec. 6718, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-419.

70-1-424. Future contingent interest — termination of precedent interest. No future interest, valid in its creation, is defeated by the determination of the precedent interest before the happening of the contingency on which the future interest is limited to take effect, but should such contingency afterwards happen, the future interest takes effect in the same manner and to the same extent as if the precedent interest had continued to the same period.

History: En. Sec. 1183, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4477, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6719, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 742; Field Civ. C. Sec. 214; re-en. Sec. 6719, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-420.

Part 5
Transfer of Property
Grants and Their Interpretation

Part Cross-References

Transfer of real property, Title 70, ch. 20.

Small Tract Financing Act of Montana — trust indentures, Title 71, ch. 1, part 3.

70-1-501. Transfer defined. Transfer is an act of the parties or of the law by which the title to property is conveyed from one living person to another.

History: En. Sec. 1430, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4588, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6835, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1039; Field Civ. C. Sec. 458; re-en. Sec. 6835, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1501.

70-1-502. Voluntary transfer — applicability of contract rules. A voluntary transfer is an executed contract subject to all rules of law concerning contracts in general, except that a consideration is not necessary to its validity.

History: En. Sec. 1431, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4589, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6836, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1040; Field Civ. C. Sec. 459; re-en. Sec. 6836, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1502.

Cross-References

Contracts — obligations in general, Title 28, ch. 1.

70-1-503. What may be transferred. Property of any kind may be transferred, except as otherwise provided by this part.

History: En. Sec. 1440, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4590, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6837, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1044; Field Civ. C. Sec. 460; re-en. Sec. 6837, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1503.

70-1-504. Possibility not transferable. A mere possibility not coupled with an interest cannot be transferred.

History: En. Sec. 1441, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4591, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6838, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1045; Field Civ. C. Sec. 461; re-en. Sec. 6838, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1504.

70-1-505. Right of reentry or repossession transferable. A right of reentry or of repossession for breach of condition subsequent can be transferred.

History: En. Sec. 1442, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4592, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6839, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1046; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 462; re-en. Sec. 6839, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1505.

70-1-506. Oral transfer permitted. A transfer may be made without writing in every case in which a writing is not expressly required by statute.

History: En. Sec. 1450, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4594, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6841, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1052; Field Civ. C. Sec. 463; re-en. Sec. 6841, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1507.

70-1-507. Grant defined. A transfer in writing is called a grant or conveyance or bill of sale. The term "grant", in this part, includes all these instruments unless it is specially applied to real property.

History: En. Sec. 1451, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4595, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6842, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1053; re-en. Sec. 6842, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1508.

70-1-508. Delivery of grant necessary. A grant takes effect so as to vest the interest intended to be transferred only upon its delivery by the grantor.

History: En. Sec. 1452, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4596, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6843, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1054; Field Civ. C. Sec. 465; re-en. Sec. 6843, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1509.

70-1-509. Presumption of delivery. A grant duly executed is presumed to have been delivered at its date.

History: En. Sec. 1453, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4597, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6844, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1055; Field Civ. C. Sec. 466; re-en. Sec. 6844, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1510.

70-1-510. Delivery to grantee necessarily absolute. A grant cannot be delivered to the grantee conditionally. Delivery to the grantee or to the grantee's agent is necessarily absolute, and the instrument takes effect upon delivery, discharged of any condition on which the delivery is made.

History: En. Sec. 1454, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4598, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6845, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1056; Field Civ. C. Sec. 467; re-en. Sec. 6845, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1511; amd. Sec. 2055, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-1-511. Delivery in escrow. A grant may be deposited by the grantor with a third person, to be delivered on performance of a condition, and on delivery by the depositary, it will take effect. While in the possession of the third person and subject to condition, it is called an escrow.

History: En. Sec. 1455, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4599, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6846, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1057; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 468; re-en. Sec. 6846, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1512.

70-1-512. Constructive delivery. Though a grant is not actually delivered into the possession of the grantee, it is considered constructively delivered in the following cases:

(1) when the instrument is, by the agreement of the parties at the time of execution, understood to be delivered and under circumstances that the grantee is entitled to immediate delivery; or

(2) when it is delivered to a stranger for the benefit of the grantee and the grantee's assent is shown or may be presumed.

History: En. Sec. 1457, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4601, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6848, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1059; Field Civ. C. Sec. 470; re-en. Sec. 6848, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1514; amd. Sec. 2056, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-1-513. Grants — how interpreted generally. Grants are to be interpreted in like manner with contracts in general, except so far as is otherwise provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1470, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4602, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6849, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1066; Field Civ. C. Sec. 472; re-en. Sec. 6849, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1515.

Cross-References

Interpretation of contracts, Title 28, ch. 3.

70-1-514. Clear limitation not controlled by other words. A clear and distinct limitation in a grant is not controlled by other words less clear and distinct.

History: En. Sec. 1471, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4603, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6850, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1067; Field Civ. C. Sec. 473; re-en. Sec. 6850, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1516.

70-1-515. Recitals — when resorted to. If the operative words of a grant are doubtful, recourse may be had to its recitals to assist the construction.

History: En. Sec. 1472, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4604, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6851, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1068; Field Civ. C. Sec. 474; re-en. Sec. 6851, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1517.

Cross-References

What contracts must be in writing, 28-2-903.

When extrinsic evidence concerning written agreement may be considered, 28-2-905.

70-1-516. Interpretation against grantor — exception. A grant is to be interpreted in favor of the grantee, except that a reservation in any grant and every grant by a public officer or body, as such, to a private party is to be interpreted in favor of the grantor.

History: En. Sec. 1473, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4605, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6852, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1069; Field Civ. C. Sec. 475; re-en. Sec. 6852, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1518.

70-1-517. Irreconcilable provisions. If several parts of a grant are absolutely irreconcilable, the former part prevails.

History: En. Sec. 1474, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4606, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6853, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1070; Field Civ. C. Sec. 476; re-en. Sec. 6853, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1519.

70-1-518. Meaning of heirs and issue in certain remainders. When a future interest is limited by a grant to take effect on the death of any person without heirs or heirs of the person's body or without issue or in equivalent words, the words must be taken to mean successors or issue living at the death of the person named as ancestor.

History: En. Sec. 44, p. 486, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 44, p. 403, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 221, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 279, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1475, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4607, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6854, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1071; Field Civ. C. Sec. 477; re-en. Sec. 6854, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1520; amd. Sec. 2057, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Future interest contingent on death without children — how defeated, 70-1-422.

Share of heirs other than surviving spouse, 72-2-113.

70-1-519. Transfer vests title. A transfer vests in the transferee all the actual title to the thing transferred which the transferor then has unless a different intention is expressed or is necessarily implied.

History: En. Sec. 1490, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4609, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6856, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1083; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 479; re-en. Sec. 6856, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1522.

70-1-520. Transfer of incidents. The transfer of a thing transfers also all its incidents unless expressly excepted, but the transfer of an incident to a thing does not transfer the thing itself.

History: En. Sec. 1491, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4610, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6857, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1084; Field Civ. C. Sec. 481; re-en. Sec. 6857, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1523.

70-1-521. Grant may inure to benefit of stranger. Except as provided in 70-1-522, a present interest and the benefit of a condition or covenant respecting property may be taken by any natural person under a grant although not named a party to the grant.

History: En. Sec. 1492, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4611, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6858, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1805; Field Civ. C. Sec. 482; re-en. Sec. 6858, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1524; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-1-522. Certain restrictions on political free speech contrary to public policy — enforcement prohibited — definitions. (1) A person, homeowners' association, property owners' association, corporation, or other private entity may not, as a condition of property ownership within the jurisdiction of the private entity or by other means, prohibit the placement of a sign advocating the election, appointment, or defeat of a candidate for public office or the passage or defeat of a ballot issue on:

(a) property belonging to individual or joint property owners who authorize the placement of the sign; or

(b) common areas in which an owner owns an undivided interest.

(2) A person, homeowners' association, property owners' association, corporation, or other private entity may impose limits on the size of signs allowed to be displayed within the jurisdiction of the private entity and may regulate the location of sign placement and the time period during which signs may be displayed.

(3) An ordinance, covenant, contract term, or other provision, whether agreed to or not between the homeowners' association, property owners' association, corporation, or other private entity and the owner or tenant, is contrary to the public policy of this state. A court may not enforce the terms of an ordinance, covenant, contract term, or other provision that is contrary to public policy under this section.

(4) As used in this section, "ballot issue" and "candidate" have the meanings provided in 13-1-101.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 307, L. 2009.**

Part 6
Rentals — Hiring
(Repealed)

70-1-601. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2600, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5215, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7730, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1925; Field Civ. C. Sec. 979; re-en. Sec. 7730, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-101.**

70-1-602. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2602, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5217, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7732, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1927; Field Civ. C. Sec. 981; re-en. Sec. 7732, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-103.**

70-1-603. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2601, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5216, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7731, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1926; Field Civ. C. Sec. 980; re-en. Sec. 7731, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-102.**

70-1-604. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2603, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5218, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7733, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1928; Field Civ. C. Sec. 982; re-en. Sec. 7733, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-104.**

70-1-605. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2604, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5219, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7734, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1929; Field Civ. C. Sec. 983; re-en. Sec. 7734, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-105.**

70-1-606. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2605, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5220, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7735, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1930; Field Civ. C. Sec. 984; re-en. Sec. 7735, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-106.**

70-1-607. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2608, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5223, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7738, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1933; Field Civ. C. Sec. 987; re-en. Sec. 7738, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-109.**

70-1-608. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2609, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5224, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7739, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1934; Field Civ. C. Sec. 988; re-en. Sec. 7739, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-110.**

70-1-609. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2606, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5221, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7736, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1931; Field Civ. C. Sec. 985; re-en. Sec. 7736, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-107.**

70-1-610. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2607, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5222, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7737, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1932; Field Civ. C. Sec. 986; re-en. Sec. 7737, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-108.**

70-1-611. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: **En. Sec. 2610, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5225, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7740, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1935; Field Civ. C. Sec. 989; re-en. Sec. 7740, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-111.**

Part 7
Gifts and Devises to Estates

70-1-701. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to declare that a gift or devise may be made to the estate of a named or otherwise designated person and that a power to appoint to the estate of such a person may be created and exercised in order to ensure that persons who make inter vivos or testamentary conveyances that are subject to the law of Montana can effectively use forms of conveyances that are commonly used in other states to qualify for the federal estate and gift tax marital deductions.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 376, L. 1979.**

70-1-702. Estate defined. The word "estate" as used in this part means persons who may take interests in property.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 376, L. 1979.**

70-1-703. Conveyances to an estate. Unless a contrary intention appears, a devise, as defined in 72-1-103, or an inter vivos conveyance of a property interest to the estate of a named or otherwise designated person passes the interest as if the interest had been owned by that person. The interest may pass to the heirs of that person, may be used to satisfy devises made in that person's will, or may be used to satisfy claims for debts or taxes.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 376, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

70-1-704. Repealed. Sec. 40, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 376, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2058, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 8
Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities (Renumbered)

70-1-801. Renumbered 72-2-1001. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-802. Renumbered 72-2-1002. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-803. Renumbered 72-2-1003. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-804. Renumbered 72-2-1004. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-805. Renumbered 72-2-1005. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-806. Renumbered 72-2-1006. Code Commissioner, 1993.

70-1-807. Renumbered 72-2-1007. Code Commissioner, 1993.

CHAPTER 2
PERSONAL PROPERTY — SPECIAL KINDS QUIET TITLE AND PARTITION

Part 1 — Special Kinds

70-2-101. Thing in action defined.
70-2-102. Transfer and succession.
70-2-103 through 70-2-110 reserved.
70-2-111. Wild animals.
70-2-112. Repealed.
70-2-113. Repealed.

Part 2 — Quiet Title and Partition

70-2-201. Action for quieting title to personal property.
70-2-202. General procedural provisions applicable.
70-2-203 through 70-2-210 reserved.
70-2-211. Partition of personal property.
70-2-212. Real property partition provisions applicable.

Part 1
Special Kinds

70-2-101. Thing in action defined. A thing in action is a right to recover money or other personal property by a judicial proceeding.

History: **En. Sec. 1350, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4557, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6804, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 953; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 366; re-en. Sec. 6804, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1102.**

Cross-References

Actions and special proceedings defined, 27-1-102.

70-2-102. Transfer and succession. A thing in action arising out of the violation of a right of property or out of an obligation may be transferred by the owner. Upon the death of the owner, it passes to the owner's personal representatives except when in the cases provided in this title it passes to the owner's devisees or successor in office.

History: **En. Sec. 1351, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4558, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6805, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 954; Field Civ. C. Sec. 367; re-en. Sec. 6805, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1103; amd. Sec. 2059, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-2-103 through 70-2-110 reserved.

70-2-111. Wild animals. Animals wild by nature are the subjects of ownership, while living, only when on the land of the person claiming them or when tamed or taken or held in the possession or disabled and immediately pursued.

History: En. Sec. 1072, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4423, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6665, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 656; Field Civ. C. Sec. 161; re-en. Sec. 6665, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-203.

Cross-References

Prohibition of possession of wild animals, 50-23-102.
Fish and wildlife — fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, Title 87, ch. 2.
Fish and wildlife — restrictions and regulations, Title 87, ch. 3.
Alternative livestock ranches, Title 87, ch. 4, part 4.
Menageries, sanctuaries, and zoos, Title 87, ch. 4, part 8.

70-2-112. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 6665.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-204.

70-2-113. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 97, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 6665.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 310, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 10, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-205; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

Part 2
Quiet Title and Partition

70-2-201. Action for quieting title to personal property. Any person claiming title to personal property, whether in actual possession thereof or not, may bring an action in the district court of any county wherein such personal property or any part thereof is situated against any person or persons claiming any interest therein by reason of alleged ownership, lien, or otherwise and by a decree of such court may have established and determined finally the rights of all claimants to such personal property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 9478.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6201.

70-2-202. General procedural provisions applicable. The provisions of Title 25, chapter 3, parts 2 and 3, and Rules 4 and 12(a), M.R.Civ.P., are applicable to the action for which provision is made in 70-2-201.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 51, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 9478.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6202; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-2-203 through 70-2-210 reserved.

70-2-211. Partition of personal property. (1) When any personal property is owned by two or more persons, any one or more thereof may bring an action, according to the respective rights of the persons interested therein, for the partition of such property or for a sale of the same or any part thereof if it appears that a partition cannot be made without great prejudice to the owners.

(2) Such action shall be brought in the county wherein said property or any part thereof is situated.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6301.1.

70-2-212. Real property partition provisions applicable. The provisions contained in chapter 29 of this title, which prescribe the manner in which real property may be sold, are hereby made applicable to the action which is authorized by 70-2-211.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6301.2.

CHAPTER 3
TRANSFER OF PERSONAL PROPERTY — GIFTS

Part 1 — General Provisions

70-3-101. Gift defined.
70-3-102. Gift — how made.
70-3-103. Gift not revocable.
70-3-104. Unsolicited goods considered gift.

Part 2 — Gifts in View of Death

70-3-201. Gift in view of death defined.
70-3-202. When gift presumed to be in view of death.
70-3-203. Revocation.
70-3-204. Effect of will upon gift.
70-3-205. When gift treated as legacy.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-3-101. Gift defined. A gift is a transfer of personal property made voluntarily and without consideration.

History: En. Sec. 1550, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4635, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6882, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1146; Field Civ. C. Sec. 500; re-en. Sec. 6882, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1706.

Cross-References

Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, Title 72, ch. 26.

70-3-102. Gift — how made. A verbal gift is not valid unless the means of obtaining possession and control of the thing are given or, if it is capable of delivery, unless there is an actual or symbolical delivery of the thing to the donee.

History: En. Sec. 1551, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4636, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6883, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1147; Field Civ. C. Sec. 501; re-en. Sec. 6883, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1707.

70-3-103. Gift not revocable. A gift, other than a gift in view of death, cannot be revoked by the giver.

History: En. Sec. 1552, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4637, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6884, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1148; Field Civ. C. Sec. 502; re-en. Sec. 6884, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1708.

70-3-104. Unsolicited goods considered gift. Unless otherwise agreed, when unsolicited goods are delivered to a person, the person may refuse delivery of the goods, or if the goods are delivered, the person is not bound to return the goods to the sender. If unsolicited goods are either addressed to or intended for the recipient, they must be considered a gift, and the recipient may use or dispose of them in any manner without obligation to the sender.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1706.1; amd. Sec. 2060, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Gifts in View of Death

70-3-201. Gift in view of death defined. A gift in view of death is one which is made in contemplation, fear, or peril of death and with intent that it shall take effect only in case of the death of the giver.

History: En. Sec. 1553, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4638, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6885, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1149; Field Civ. C. Sec. 503; re-en. Sec. 6885, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1709.

70-3-202. When gift presumed to be in view of death. A gift made during the last illness of the giver or under circumstances that would impress the giver with an expectation of speedy death is presumed to be a gift in view of death.

History: En. Sec. 1554, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4639, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6886, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1150; Field Civ. C. Sec. 504; re-en. Sec. 6886, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1710; amd. Sec. 2061, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-3-203. Revocation. A gift in view of death may be revoked by the giver at any time and is revoked by the giver's recovery from the illness or escape from the peril under the presence of which it was made or by the occurrence of any event that would operate as a revocation of a will made at the same time.

History: En. Sec. 1555, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4640, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6887, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1151; Field Civ. C. Sec. 505; re-en. Sec. 6887, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1711; amd. Sec. 2062, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-3-204. Effect of will upon gift. A gift in view of death is not affected by a previous will or by a subsequent will unless it expresses intention to revoke the gift.

History: En. Sec. 1556, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4641, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6888, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1152; Field Civ. C. Sec. 506; re-en. Sec. 6888, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1712.

Cross-References

Wills, will contracts, and custody and deposit of wills, Title 72, ch. 2, part 5.
Wills — rules of construction, Title 72, ch. 2, part 6.

70-3-205. When gift treated as legacy. A gift in view of death must be treated as a legacy so far as relates to the creditors of the giver.

History: En. Sec. 1557, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4642, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6889, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1153; Field Civ. C. Sec. 507; re-en. Sec. 6889, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1713.

CHAPTER 4
ACCESSION AND INTERMIXTURE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Part 1 — General Provisions

70-4-101. Uniform Commercial Code — applicability.
70-4-102. Uniting several things — to whom whole belongs.
70-4-103. Rules for determination of principal part.

Part 2 — Uniting of Materials — Workmanship

70-4-201. Use of materials belonging to another — reimbursement.
70-4-202. Uniting of materials of maker and other.
70-4-203. Uniting of materials of several owners.
70-4-204. Use of materials without consent — owner prevails.
70-4-205. Owner of materials wrongfully used — election of remedies.
70-4-206. Wrongdoer liable in damages.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-4-101. Uniform Commercial Code — applicability. The provisions of this chapter apply only to the extent not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Commercial Code.

History: En. 67-1410 by Sec. 11-147, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1410.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code, Title 30, ch. 1 through 9A.

70-4-102. Uniting several things — to whom whole belongs. When things belonging to different owners have been united so as to form a single thing and cannot be separated without injury, the whole belongs to the owner of the thing that forms the principal part. However, that person shall reimburse the value of the residue to the other owner or surrender the whole to the other owner.

History: En. Sec. 1410, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4579, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6826, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1025; Field Civ. C. Sec. 449; re-en. Sec. 6826, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1401; amd. Sec. 2063, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-4-103. Rules for determination of principal part. (1) That part is considered to be the principal to which the other has been united only for the use, ornament, or completion of the principal part unless the other is the more valuable and has been united without the knowledge of its owner, who may, in that case, require it to be separated and returned to the owner although some injury results to the thing to which it has been united.

(2) If neither part can be considered the principal within the rule prescribed by subsection (1), the more valuable or, if the values are nearly equal, the most considerable in bulk is to be considered the principal part.

History: En. Secs. 1411, 1412, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 4580, 4581, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 6827, 6828, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1026, 1027; Field Civ. C. Secs. 450, 451; re-en. Secs. 6827, 6828, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1402, 67-1403; amd. Sec. 2064, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Uniting of Materials — Workmanship

70-4-201. Use of materials belonging to another — reimbursement. If one makes a thing from materials belonging to another, the latter may claim the thing on reimbursing the value of the workmanship unless the value of the workmanship exceeds the value of the materials, in which case the thing belongs to the maker on reimbursing the value of the materials.

History: En. Sec. 1413, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4582, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6829, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1028; Field Civ. C. Sec. 452; re-en. Sec. 6829, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1404.

70-4-202. Uniting of materials of maker and other. When a person has made use of materials that in part belong to the person and in part to another in order to form a thing of a new description without having destroyed any of the materials but in a way that they cannot be separated without inconvenience, the thing formed is common to both proprietors in proportion, as respects the one, of the materials belonging to the person and, as respects the other, of the materials belonging to the other and the price of the other's workmanship.

History: En. Sec. 1414, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4583, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6830, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1029; Field Civ. C. Sec. 453; re-en. Sec. 6830, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1405; amd. Sec. 2065, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-4-203. Uniting of materials of several owners. When a thing has been formed by the combination of several materials of different owners and none of the materials can be considered the principal substance, an owner without whose consent the combination was made may require a separation if the materials can be separated without inconvenience. If they cannot be separated, the owners acquire the thing in common, in proportion to the quantity, quality, and value of their materials, but if the materials of one were far superior to those of the others, both in quantity and value, the person may claim the thing on reimbursing to the others the value of their materials.

History: En. Sec. 1415, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4584, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6831, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1030; Field Civ. C. Sec. 454; re-en. Sec. 6831, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1406; amd. Sec. 2066, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-4-204. Use of materials without consent — owner prevails. Title 70, chapter 4, part 1, and 70-4-201 through 70-4-203 are not applicable to cases in which one willfully uses the materials of another without the other's consent, but in those cases, the product belongs to the owner of material if its identity can be traced.

History: En. Sec. 1416, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4585, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6832, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1031; Field Civ. C. Sec. 455; re-en. Sec. 6832, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1407; amd. Sec. 2067, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-4-205. Owner of materials wrongfully used — election of remedies. If a person whose material has been used without the person's knowledge in order to form a product of a different description can claim an interest in the product, the person has an option to demand either restitution of the person's material in kind, in the same quantity, weight, measure, and quality, or the value of the material or, if the person is entitled to the product, the value of the product in place of the product.

History: En. Sec. 1417, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4586, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6833, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1032; Field Civ. C. Sec. 456; re-en. Sec. 6833, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1408; amd. Sec. 2068, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-4-206. Wrongdoer liable in damages. One who wrongfully employs materials belonging to another is liable to the other in damages as well as under the provisions of Title 70, chapter 4, part 1, and 70-4-201 through 70-4-205.

History: En. Sec. 1418, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4587, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6834, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1033; Field Civ. C. Sec. 457; re-en. Sec. 6834, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1409; amd. Sec. 2069, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Damages, Title 27, ch. 1, parts 2 and 3.

CHAPTER 5
FINDERS

Part 1 — Rights and Duties of Finders Generally

70-5-101. Nonapplicability to things abandoned.
70-5-102. Finder not bound to take charge — status as depositary.
70-5-103. Duty to inform owner when known.
70-5-104. Right of finder to require proof of claimant's ownership.

70-5-105. Compensation of finder.
70-5-106. Exoneration of finder by storage of thing found.
70-5-107. Exoneration of owner by surrender of thing to finder.

Part 2 — Procedure

70-5-201. When finder may sell thing found.
70-5-202. How sale conducted.
70-5-203. Repealed.
70-5-204. Repealed.
70-5-205. Repealed.
70-5-206. Repealed.
70-5-207. Repealed.
70-5-208. Repealed.
70-5-209. Repealed.

Chapter Cross-References

Performance to one of several joint creditors, 28-1-1103.

Part 1
Rights and Duties of Finders Generally

70-5-101. Nonapplicability to things abandoned. The provisions of this chapter have no application to things which have been intentionally abandoned by their owners.

History: En. Sec. 2528, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5186, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7693, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1872; Field Civ. C. Sec. 946; re-en. Sec. 7693, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-409.

70-5-102. Finder not bound to take charge — status as depositary. A person who finds a thing lost is not bound to take charge of it, but if the person does, the person is a depositary for the owner, with the rights and obligations of a depositary for hire.

History: En. Sec. 2520, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5178, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7685, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1864; Field Civ. C. Sec. 938; re-en. Sec. 7685, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-401; amd. Sec. 2070, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

U.C.C. — warehouse receipts, bills of lading, and other documents of title, Title 30, ch. 7.
Bailment — deposit, Title 70, ch. 6.

70-5-103. Duty to inform owner when known. If a person finds money, goods, things in action, or other personal property or saves a domestic animal from drowning or starvation when the property is of a value of $10 or more and the person knows or suspects who the owner is, the person shall use reasonable diligence to inform the owner and make restitution without compensation, further than a reasonable charge for saving and taking care of the property. If the person fails to do so, the person is liable in damages to the owner and does not have a claim to any reward offered by the owner for the recovery of the thing or to any compensation for the person's trouble or expenses.

History: En. Sec. 2900, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1996, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7694, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3136; re-en. Sec. 7694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-410(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2071, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-5-104. Right of finder to require proof of claimant's ownership. The finder of a thing may in good faith before giving it up require reasonable proof of ownership from any person claiming it.

History: En. Sec. 2522, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5180, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7687, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1866; Field Civ. C. Sec. 940; re-en. Sec. 7687, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-403.

70-5-105. Compensation of finder. The finder of a thing is entitled to compensation for all expenses necessarily incurred by the finder in its preservation and for any other service necessarily performed by the finder about it and to a reasonable reward for keeping it.

History: En. Sec. 2523, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5181, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7688, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. Sec. 1867; Field. Civ. C. Sec. 941; re-en. Sec. 7688, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-404; amd. Sec. 2072, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-5-106. Exoneration of finder by storage of thing found. The finder of a thing may be exonerated from liability at any time by placing it in storage with any responsible person of good character at a reasonable expense.

History: En. Sec. 2524, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5182, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7689, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1868; Field Civ. C. Sec. 942; re-en. Sec. 7689, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-405; amd. Sec. 2073, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-5-107. Exoneration of owner by surrender of thing to finder. The owner of a thing found may be exonerated from the claims of the finder by surrendering it to the finder in satisfaction of the claims.

History: En. Sec. 2527, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5185, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7692, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1868; Field. Civ. C. Sec. 945; re-en. Sec. 7692, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-408; amd. Sec. 2074, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Procedure

70-5-201. When finder may sell thing found. The finder of a thing may sell it, if it is a thing which is commonly the subject of sale, when the owner cannot with reasonable diligence be found or being found refuses upon demand to pay the lawful charges of the finder, in the following cases:

(1) when the thing is in danger of perishing or of losing the greater part of its value; or

(2) when the lawful charges of the finder amount to two-thirds of its value.

History: En. Sec. 2525, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5183, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7690, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1869; Field Civ. C. Sec. 943; re-en. Sec. 7690, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-406.

70-5-202. How sale conducted. A sale under the provisions of 70-5-201 must be made in the same manner as the sale of a thing pledged.

History: En. Sec. 2526, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5184, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7691, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1870; Field Civ. C. Sec. 944; re-en. Sec. 7691, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-407.

70-5-203. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2900, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1996, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7694, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3136; re-en. Sec. 7694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-410(part).

70-5-204. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2901, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1997, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7695, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3137; re-en. Sec. 7695, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-411.

70-5-205. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2902, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1998, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7696, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3138; re-en. Sec. 7696, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-412.

70-5-206. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2903, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 1999, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7697, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3139; re-en. Sec. 7697, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-413.

70-5-207. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2904, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2000, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7698, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3140; re-en. Sec. 7698, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-414.

70-5-208. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2906, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2002, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7700, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3142; re-en. Sec. 7700, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-416.

70-5-209. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2905, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2001, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7699, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3141; re-en. Sec. 7699, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-415.

CHAPTER 6
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Part 1
Nature and Classification of Deposits

70-6-101. Deposit — voluntary or involuntary. A deposit may be:

(1) voluntary or involuntary; and

(2) for safekeeping or for exchange.

History: En. Sec. 2440, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5133, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7636, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1813; Field Civ. C. Sec. 907; re-en. Sec. 7636, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-101.

Cross-References

When seller must act as depositary, 30-11-201.

70-6-102. Voluntary deposit — how made. A voluntary deposit is made by one giving to another, with the other's consent, the possession of personal property to keep for the benefit of the former or of a third party. The person giving is called the depositor and the person receiving the depositary.

History: En. Sec. 2441, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5134, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7637, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1814; Field Civ. C. Sec. 908; re-en. Sec. 7637, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-102; amd. Sec. 2075, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-103. Involuntary deposit — how made. An involuntary deposit is made:

(1) by the accidental leaving or placing of personal property in the possession of any person, without negligence on the part of the owner; or

(2) in cases of fire, shipwreck, inundation, insurrection, riot, or like extraordinary emergencies, by the owner of personal property committing it out of necessity to the care of any person.

History: En. Sec. 2442, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5135, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7638, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1815; Field Civ. C. Sec. 909; re-en. Sec. 7638, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-103.

70-6-104. Involuntary depositary bound to take charge. The person with whom a thing is deposited in the manner described in 70-6-103 is bound to take charge of it if able to do so.

History: En. Sec. 2443, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5136, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7639, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1816; Field Civ. C. Sec. 910; re-en. Sec. 7639, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-104.

70-6-105. Involuntary deposit as gratuitous. An involuntary deposit is gratuitous, the depositary being entitled to no reward.

History: En. Sec. 2481, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5154, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7657, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1845; Field Civ. C. Sec. 928; re-en. Sec. 7657, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-210.

70-6-106. Deposit for keeping defined. A deposit for keeping is one in which the depositary is bound to return the identical thing deposited.

History: En. Sec. 2444, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5137, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7640, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1817; Field Civ. C. Sec. 911; re-en. Sec. 7640, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-105.

70-6-107. Deposit for exchange defined. A deposit for exchange is one in which the depositary is only bound to return a thing corresponding in kind to that which is deposited.

History: En. Sec. 2445, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5138, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7641, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1818; Field Civ. C. Sec. 912; re-en. Sec. 7641, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-106.

70-6-108. Deposit for exchange — title passes. A deposit for exchange transfers to the depositary the title to the thing deposited and creates between the depositary and the depositor the relation of debtor and creditor.

History: En. Sec. 2540, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5187, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7701, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1878; Field Civ. C. Sec. 947; re-en. Sec. 7701, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-501; amd. Sec. 2076, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Rights and Duties of the Parties Generally

70-6-201. Depositary not to use or open thing deposited. A depositary may not use the thing deposited or permit it to be used for any purpose without the consent of the depositor. A depositary may not, if it is purposely fastened by the depositor, open it without the consent of the depositor, except in case of necessity.

History: En. Sec. 2462, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5147, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7650, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1835; Field Civ. C. Sec. 921; re-en. Sec. 7650, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-203; amd. Sec. 2077, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-202. Liability for damage from wrongful use. A depositary is liable for any damage happening to the thing deposited during the depositary's wrongful use of the thing unless the damage inevitably would have happened if the property had not been used.

History: En. Sec. 2463, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5148, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7651, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1836; Field Civ. C. Sec. 922; re-en. Sec. 7651, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-204; amd. Sec. 2078, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-203. Loss or injury of thing deposited. If a thing is lost during its deposit and the depositary refuses to inform the depositor of the circumstances under which the loss or injury occurred so far as the depositary has information concerning them or willfully misrepresents the circumstances to the depositor, the depositary is presumed to have willfully or by gross negligence permitted the loss or injury to occur.

History: En. Sec. 2465, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5150, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7653, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1838; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 924; re-en. Sec. 7653, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-206; amd. Sec. 2079, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

70-6-204. Extent of depositary's liability for negligence. The liability of a depositary for negligence cannot exceed the amount that the depositary is informed by the depositor or has reason to suppose the thing deposited to be worth.

History: En. Sec. 2467, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5152, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7655, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1840; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 926; re-en. Sec. 7655, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-208; amd. Sec. 2080, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

70-6-205. Sale of thing in danger of perishing. If a thing deposited is in actual danger of perishing before instructions can be obtained from the depositor, the depositary may sell it for the best price obtainable and retain the proceeds as a deposit, giving immediate notice of the proceedings to the depositor.

History: En. Sec. 2464, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5149, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7652, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1837; Field Civ. C. Sec. 923; re-en. Sec. 7652, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-205; amd. Sec. 2081, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-206. Duty of depositary of animals. A depositary of living animals must provide them with suitable food and shelter and treat them kindly.

History: En. Sec. 2461, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5146, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7649, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1834; Field Civ. C. Sec. 920; re-en. Sec. 7649, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-202.

Cross-References

Cruelty to animals — exception, 45-8-211.

70-6-207. Service rendered by depositary. So far as any service is rendered by a depositary or required from a depositary, the depositary's duties and liabilities are prescribed by the law on employment and service.

History: En. Sec. 2466, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5151, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7654, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1839; Field Civ. C. Sec. 925; re-en. Sec. 7654, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-207; amd. Sec. 2082, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-208. Notice to owner of adverse claim. A depositary shall give prompt notice to the person for whose benefit the deposit was made of any proceedings taken adversely to the person's interest in the thing deposited that may tend to excuse the depositary from delivering the thing to the person.

History: En. Sec. 2453, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5142, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7645, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1825; Field Civ. C. Sec. 916; re-en. Sec. 7645, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-110; amd. Sec. 2083, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-209. Notice to true owner of thing wrongfully detained. A depositary who believes that a thing deposited with the depositary is wrongfully detained from its true owner may give the owner notice of the deposit, and if within a reasonable time afterwards the owner does not claim it and sufficiently establish a right to the thing and indemnify the depositary against the claim of the depositor, the depositary is exonerated from liability to the person to whom the depositary gave the notice upon returning the thing to the depositor or assuming, in good faith, a new obligation changing the depositary's position in respect to the thing to the depositary's prejudice.

History: En. Sec. 2454, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5143, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7646, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1826; Field Civ. C. Sec. 917; re-en. Sec. 7646, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-111; amd. Sec. 2084, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-210. Depositor to indemnify depositary — damage — expenses. A depositor shall indemnify the depositary for:

(1) all damage caused to the depositary by the defects or vices of the thing deposited; and

(2) all expenses necessarily incurred by the depositary about the thing, other than expenses involved in the nature of the undertaking.

History: **En. Sec. 2460, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5145, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7648, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1833; Field Civ. C. Sec. 919; re-en. Sec. 7648, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-201; amd. Sec. 2085, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-6-211. Depositary to deliver on demand. A depositary shall deliver the thing to the person for whose benefit it was deposited, on demand, whether the deposit was made for a specified time or not, unless the depositary has a lien upon the thing deposited or has been forbidden or prevented from doing so by the real owner of the thing or by the act of the law and has given the notice required by 70-6-208.

History: **En. Sec. 2450, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5139, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7642, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1822; Field Civ. C. Sec. 913; re-en. Sec. 7642, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-107; amd. Sec. 2086, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

70-6-212. No duty to deliver without demand. A depositary is not bound to deliver a thing deposited without demand even where the deposit is made for a specified time.

History: **En. Sec. 2451, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5140, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7643, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1823; Field Civ. C. Sec. 914; re-en. Sec. 7643, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-108.**

70-6-213. Place of delivery. A depositary shall deliver the thing deposited at the depositary's residence or place of business as may be most convenient for the depositary.

History: **En. Sec. 2452, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5141, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7644, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1824; Field Civ. C. Sec. 915; re-en. Sec. 7644, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-109; amd. Sec. 2087, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-6-214. Delivery of thing owned jointly. If a thing deposited is owned jointly or in common by persons who cannot agree upon the manner of its delivery, the depositary may deliver to each person a proper share of the thing if it can be done without injury to the thing.

History: **En. Sec. 2455, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5144, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7647, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1827; Field Civ. C. Sec. 918; re-en. Sec. 7647, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-112; amd. Sec. 2088, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 3
Gratuitous Deposits

70-6-301. Gratuitous deposit defined. Gratuitous deposit is a deposit for which the depositary receives no consideration beyond the mere possession of the thing deposited.

History: **En. Sec. 2480, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5153, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7656, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1844; Field Civ. C. Sec. 927; re-en. Sec. 7656, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-209.**

70-6-302. Degree of care required of gratuitous depositary. A gratuitous depositary must use at least slight care for the preservation of the thing deposited.

History: **En. Sec. 2482, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5155, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7658, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1846; Field Civ. C. Sec. 929; re-en. Sec. 7658, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-211.**

70-6-303. When duties of gratuitous depositary cease. The duties of a gratuitous depositary cease upon the depositary's:

(1) restoring the thing deposited to its owner; or

(2) giving reasonable notice to the owner to remove it and the owner failing to do so within a reasonable time. However, an involuntary depositary under 70-6-103(2) may not give notice until the emergency that gave rise to the deposit is past.

History: **En. Sec. 2483, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5156, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7659, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1847; Field Civ. C. Sec. 930; re-en. Sec. 7659, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-212; amd. Sec. 2089, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 4
Deposit for Hire

70-6-401. Applicability — Uniform Commercial Code. The provisions of this part apply only to the extent not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Commercial Code.

History: En. 20-314 by Sec. 11-116, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 20-314.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code, Title 30, ch. 1 through 9A.

70-6-402. Deposit for hire defined. A deposit not gratuitous is called storage. The depositary in such case is called a depositary for hire.

History: En. Sec. 2490, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5157, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7660, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1851; Field Civ. C. Sec. 931; re-en. Sec. 7660, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-301.

Cross-References

U.C.C. — warehouse receipts, bills of lading, and other documents of title, Title 30, ch. 7.

70-6-403. Degree of care required of depositary for hire. A depositary for hire must use at least ordinary care for the preservation of the thing deposited.

History: En. Sec. 2491, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5158, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7661, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1852; Field Civ. C. Sec. 932; re-en. Sec. 7661, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-302.

70-6-404. Rate of compensation for fraction of week or half month. In the absence of a different agreement or usage, a depositary for hire is entitled to 1 week's hire for the sustenance and shelter of living animals during any fraction of a week and to half a month's hire for the storage of any other property during any fraction of a half month.

History: En. Sec. 2492, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5159, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7662, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1853; Field Civ. C. Sec. 933; re-en. Sec. 7662, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-303.

70-6-405. Termination of deposit. (1) In the absence of an agreement as to the length of time during which a deposit is to continue, it may be terminated by the depositor at any time and by the depositary upon a reasonable notice.

(2) Notwithstanding an agreement respecting the length of time during which a deposit is to continue, it may be terminated by the depositor on paying all that would become due to the depositary in case of the deposit so continuing.

History: En. Secs. 2493, 2494, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 5160, 5161, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 7663, 7664, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1854, 1855; Field Civ. C. Secs. 934, 935; re-en. Secs. 7663, 7664, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-304, 20-305.

70-6-406 through 70-6-410 reserved.

70-6-411. Sale to pay costs of storage. (1) Any storage or commission merchant receiving personal property from any person for storage and any common carrier of goods by whom any personal property is lawfully stored before or after the transportation thereof may, after keeping the same in store for 90 days, in default of the payment of the storage or freight money on such personal property, advertise and sell the same at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, first giving notice of the time, the terms, and place of sale and a description of the property to be sold by publication in some newspaper published in the county where the property may be stored. Said notice shall be published at least once a week for 4 weeks next previous to the day of sale and shall specify the amount due on the property to be sold. When a specified time has been agreed upon between the parties for the storage of said property, the same shall not be advertised until the expiration of the time agreed upon.

(2) Should there be no newspaper published in the county where such property is stored, then notice may be given in the newspaper published nearest thereto in some other county in this state.

(3) But no more of such property shall be sold than is necessary to pay the charges due, together with the costs.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 544, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 1179, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1983, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2495, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 153, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 5162, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7665, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1856, 1857; re-en. Sec. 7665, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-306.

Cross-References

U.C.C. — warehouse receipts, bills of lading, and other documents of title, Title 30, ch. 7.

Sale of unclaimed baggage — notice, 70-9-501.

70-6-412. Application of proceeds of sale. (1) After paying the expenses of sale, including the publication of notice, the storage or commission merchant or the carrier is authorized, out of the proceeds arising from the sale of the property, to retain the amount due the merchant or carrier for storage or freight, or both, due upon any property, and the excess, if any, must be paid over to the person entitled to the proceeds.

(2) All sales under this part vest the title to the property sold in the purchaser of the property.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 545, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 1181, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1895, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2496, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2, p. 153, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 5163, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7666, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7666, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-307; amd. Sec. 2090, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-413 through 70-6-419 reserved.

70-6-420. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 222, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2091, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 5
Innkeepers

70-6-501. Innkeeper's liability as to property of guests — dollar limitation. (1) An innkeeper is liable for all losses of or injuries to personal property placed by the guests under the innkeeper's care unless occasioned by an irresistible superhuman cause, by a public enemy, by the negligence of the owner, or by the act of someone whom the innkeeper brought into the inn.

(2) The liability provided for in subsection (1) may not exceed $500 for all personal property of each registered guest unless the innkeeper consents in writing with the guest to assume a greater liability. An innkeeper whose liability is limited shall notify the guest at the time of registration, in writing, that this limitation applies.

History: En. Sec. 2500, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5164, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7673, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1859; Field Civ. C. Sec. 936; re-en. Sec. 7673, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 34-101; amd. Sec. 2092, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-502. No liability without negligence. A hotelkeeper or innkeeper is not liable to any guest for the loss of wearing apparel, goods, or personal effects when it appears that the loss occurred without the fault or negligence of the hotelkeeper or the innkeeper or the hotelkeeper's or innkeeper's employees.

History: En. Sec. 2510, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5174, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7681, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7681, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-109; amd. Sec. 2093, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liability for negligence as well as willful acts, 27-1-701.

70-6-503. Loss or damage by fire — liability for negligence. All innkeepers or hotelkeepers coming within the provisions of this part shall be liable for loss of or damage to any baggage or other property of their guests caused by fire in every case where such loss or damage is the result of the negligence of such keepers or their servants.

History: En. Sec. 2509, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5173, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7680, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7680, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-108.

70-6-504. How exempted from liability — safe. If an innkeeper keeps a fireproof safe and gives notice to a guest, either personally or by placing a printed notice in a prominent place in the room occupied by the guest, that the innkeeper keeps a fireproof safe and will not be liable for any loss of or injury to money, jewelry, documents, or other articles of value and small size unless placed in the safe, the innkeeper is not liable, except so far as the innkeeper's own acts contribute to the loss of or injury to the articles not deposited with the innkeeper and not required by the guest for present use.

History: En. Sec. 2501, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5165, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7674, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1860; Field. Civ. C. Sec. 937; re-en. Sec. 7674, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-102; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2094, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-505. Storage of property in outbuilding — nonliability. An innkeeper is not liable for the loss or destruction by fire of the property received by the innkeeper from a guest that is stored or kept with the knowledge of the guest in a barn or other outbuilding if it appears that the loss or destruction is the work of an incendiary and occurred without the fault or negligence of the innkeeper or the innkeeper's servants.

History: En. Sec. 2508, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5172, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7679, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7679, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-107; amd. Sec. 2095, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-6-506 through 70-6-510 reserved.

70-6-511. Eviction of guests. (1) An innkeeper may evict a guest of a hotel, as defined in 50-51-102, who refuses or has otherwise failed to pay the bill when due. Before evicting a guest, the innkeeper shall demand payment of the bill and shall ask the guest to vacate the premises. If the guest does not pay the bill or leave following these requests, the innkeeper may lock the door to the guest's room, remove the guest's baggage and other personal property, or evict the guest by any other peaceful means. The innkeeper may hold the guest's baggage and other personal property but is subject to liability as provided in 70-6-501.

(2) An innkeeper may also evict a person, whether or not the person is a guest of the hotel, who:

(a) is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other intoxicating substance and acts in a disorderly fashion so as to disturb the peace of other guests or is not in compliance with state liquor laws;

(b) acts in a disorderly fashion so as to disturb the peace of other guests;

(c) seeks to use the hotel for an unlawful purpose;

(d) seeks to bring into the hotel:

(i) an unlawfully possessed firearm; or

(ii) something, including an explosive or a hazardous or toxic substance, that it is unlawful to possess and that may be dangerous to other persons;

(e) destroys, damages, defaces, or threatens harm to hotel property or guests;

(f) causes or permits persons to exceed the maximum allowable occupancy of a hotel room as established by the innkeeper;

(g) refuses to abide by reasonable standards or policies established by the innkeeper for operation and management of the hotel.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Roominghouse and transient guest defined, 50-51-102.

70-6-512. Innkeeper's responsibilities — limits. (1) An innkeeper may not be required to provide accommodations, facilities, or privileges of a hotel, as defined in 50-51-102, to a person who:

(a) is unwilling or unable to pay for the accommodations and services of the hotel. An innkeeper may require a prospective guest to demonstrate the ability to pay for the accommodations and services by paying a damage deposit in cash or with an accepted credit card.

(b) the innkeeper reasonably believes to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or another intoxicating substance or who acts in a disorderly fashion so as to disturb the peace of other guests;

(c) the innkeeper reasonably believes seeks to bring into the hotel :

(i) an unlawfully possessed firearm; or

(ii) something, including an explosive or a hazardous or toxic substance, that it is unlawful to possess and that may be dangerous to other persons;

(d) destroys, damages, defaces, or threatens harm to hotel property or guests;

(e) refuses to abide by reasonable standards or policies established by the innkeeper for operation and management of the hotel; or

(f) causes or permits persons to exceed the maximum allowable occupancy of a hotel room as established by the innkeeper.

(2) This section does not relieve an innkeeper from the responsibility to not engage in unlawful discriminatory practices as defined in 49-2-304 and other provisions of Title 49, chapter 2.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 1995.

70-6-513. Consumption or possession of alcohol — civil liability — licensure protection. The provisions of 27-1-710 apply to an innkeeper. A license to serve beer, wine, or liquor that is issued to an innkeeper may not be suspended, revoked, or refused renewal because of the unlawful consumption or possession of alcohol by a guest or occupant except under the provisions of Title 16, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 1995.

70-6-514. Liability of parent or guardian for minor's damage to public accommodation. If a minor willfully defaces or damages hotel property, the parent or guardian of the minor is liable for the cost of repair or replacement as provided in 40-6-237 and 40-6-238.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 335, L. 1995.

Part 6
Self-Storage Facilities Act

Part Cross-References

Self-Storage Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 24, part 3.

70-6-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Self-Storage Facilities Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 2017.

70-6-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commercially reasonable sale" means a sale that:

(a) is conducted at the self-storage facility, offsite at another location, or on a publicly accessible website that conducts lien sales; and

(b) is attended or viewed by at least three persons who appear personally or online, by telephone, or by any other method.

(2) "Default" means the failure to timely perform an obligation or duty set forth in a rental agreement or this part.

(3) "Electronic mail" means an electronic message or an executable program or computer file that contains an image that is transmitted between two or more computers or electronic terminals. The term includes an electronic message that is transmitted within or between computer networks.

(4) "Emergency" means a sudden, unexpected occurrence or circumstance at or near a self-storage facility that requires immediate action to avoid injury to persons or property at or near the self-storage facility. The term includes but is not limited to flood, fire, or any suspected use of the leased space for residential or other unlawful purposes.

(5) "Last-known address" means the postal address or electronic mail address provided in a rental agreement or the postal address or electronic mail address provided by the renter through subsequent written notice of a change of address.

(6) "Leased space" means the individual storage space at a self-storage facility that is rented to a renter pursuant to a rental agreement.

(7) "Operator" means the owner, operator, lessor, or sublessor of a self-storage facility or an agent or another person authorized to manage the facility or to receive rent from a renter under a rental agreement. The term does not include a warehouse operator if the warehouse operator issues a warehouse receipt, bill of lading, or other document of title for the personal property stored.

(8) "Personal property" means movable property not affixed to land. Personal property includes but is not limited to goods, wares, merchandise, motor vehicles, and other titled or otherwise registered vehicles or property.

(9) "Property that has no commercial value" means property offered for sale in a commercially reasonable sale that receives no bid or offer.

(10) "Rental agreement" means a written agreement or lease that establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, or rules concerning the use and occupancy of a leased space at a self-storage facility.

(11) "Renter" means a person entitled to the use of a leased space at a self-storage facility under a rental agreement or the person's successors or assigns.

(12) "Self-storage facility" means real property consisting of individual storage spaces in which a renter customarily stores and removes personal property on a self-service basis.

(13) "Verified mail" means:

(a) a method of mailing that is offered by the United States postal service or private delivery service and provides evidence of mailing; or

(b) a method of mailing that is accompanied by a certificate of mailing executed by the individual who caused the notice to be mailed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 222, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Self-Storage Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 24, part 3.

70-6-603. Self-storage use — prohibition on residential or other unlawful purposes. (1) An operator may not knowingly permit a leased space at a self-storage facility to be used for residential purposes.

(2) A renter may not use a leased space for residential or other unlawful purposes.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 222, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 67, L. 2019.

70-6-604. Operator inspection — repair — emergency. (1) An operator must notify the renter by telephone, regular mail, or electronic mail at least 3 days before entering a leased space for the purpose of inspection or repair. An operator shall disclose to the renter the nature of the inspection or repair.

(2) In the event of an emergency, an operator may enter a leased space for inspection or repair without notice to or consent from the renter. An operator who enters a leased space in the event of an emergency shall notify the renter by telephone, regular mail, or electronic mail within 48 hours after the incident:

(a) that the operator entered the leased space; and

(b) of the nature of the emergency.

(3) An operator shall maintain a record of instances of entering a leased space for inspection, repair, or emergency.

(4) A notice sent by regular mail is considered delivered when postmarked and properly addressed with postage paid. A notice sent by electronic mail is considered delivered on the date the electronic mail is sent to the last-known address provided by the renter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 222, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 67, L. 2019.

70-6-605. Renter's personal property — operator's lien — rental agreement — value of contents. (1) The operator of a self-storage facility shall have a lien on all of a renter's personal property located at the self-storage facility for rent, late fees, legal fees, labor, or other charges incurred pursuant to a rental agreement and for expenses incurred for preservation, sale, or disposition of the personal property. The lien established by this subsection has priority over all other liens except for liens that have been perfected and recorded on such personal property and tax liens.

(2) The lien in subsection (1) attaches on the date that the personal property is placed in a leased space.

(3) The rental agreement must contain a statement advising the renter:

(a) of the existence of the lien; and

(b) that personal property stored in the leased space may be sold to satisfy the lien if the renter is in default.

(4) If the rental agreement specifies a limit on the value of personal property that the renter may store in the leased space, the limit must be deemed to be the maximum value of the personal property in the renter's leased space.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 222, L. 2017.

70-6-606. Renter default — access restriction. (1) The operator has the right to deny the renter access to the leased space at the self-storage facility if:

(a) the rent or other charges due from the renter is delinquent and unpaid;

(b) the leased space is being used for residential or other unlawful purposes; or

(c) the renter fails to vacate the leased space after the rental agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms.

(2) A reasonable late fee may be imposed and collected by an operator for each period that a renter does not pay rent or other charges when due under the rental agreement if the amount of the late fee and the conditions for imposing the fee are stated in the rental agreement or in an

addendum to that agreement. A late fee of $20 or 20% of the monthly rent, whichever is greater, is a reasonable fee and may not be considered a penalty. Any reasonable expense incurred as a result of rent collection or lien enforcement by an operator may be charged to the renter in addition to late fees.

(3) A renter who purposely or knowingly accesses a leased space after having been in default of the rental agreement and denied access under subsection (1) may be prosecuted under Title 45, chapter 6.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 222, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 67, L. 2019.**

70-6-607. Renter default — personal property sale. (1) If a renter is in default for a period of more than 60 days, the operator may enforce the lien provided in 70-6-605 by selling the renter's stored personal property at a commercially reasonable sale. Personal property may be sold:

(a) as a unit or in parcels; or

(b) by way of one or more contracts.

(2) The operator may otherwise dispose of property that has no commercial value.

(3) Before conducting a sale under this section, the operator shall:

(a) at least 30 days before the sale, send notice of default to the renter. The notice of default must include:

(i) a statement that the contents of the renter's leased space are subject to the operator's lien;

(ii) a statement of the operator's claim, indicating the charges due on the date of the notice and that additional charges shall continue to accrue and become due;

(iii) a demand for payment of the charges due and a deadline for payment;

(iv) a statement that unless the claim is paid before the deadline, the contents of the renter's leased space will be sold or otherwise disposed of after a specified time; and

(v) the name, street address, and telephone number of the operator or a designated agent that the renter may contact to respond to the notice.

(b) at least 7 days before the sale, notify by verified mail or electronic mail, if provided by the renter, the date, time, and location of the sale;

(c) at least 7 days before the sale, advertise the time, place, and terms of the sale in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the sale is to be held. Alternatively, the operator may advertise the sale in any other commercially reasonable manner. The manner of advertisement is commercially reasonable if the sale is attended or viewed by at least three persons who appear personally or online, by telephone, or by any other method at the time and place advertised.

(4) If the personal property subject to the operator's lien is titled, registered, or owned by public record and if charges or rent remain unpaid for 60 days, the operator may have the personal property removed from the self-storage facility by a professional transfer or tow truck company, including but not limited to motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, and trailers. The operator is not liable for any damage to personal property under this subsection after the professional transfer or tow truck company takes possession of the property.

(5) At any time before a sale is held under this section or before a vehicle, watercraft, aircraft, or trailer is removed under this section, the renter may pay the amount necessary to satisfy the lien and access the renter's personal property.

(6) If a sale is held under this section, the operator shall:

(a) satisfy the lien with the proceeds of the sale; and

(b) send a check of the net proceeds to the renter at the renter's last-known address or to any other recorded lienholder. The operator is not liable to any party for excess proceeds paid to the renter. If the check has not been cashed after 1 year, any remaining proceeds are considered abandoned property and must be reported and paid to the department of revenue in accordance with the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act in Title 70, chapter 9, part 8.

(7) A purchaser in good faith of any personal property sold pursuant to this section to satisfy the lien granted in 70-6-605 takes the property free and clear of any rights of persons against whom the lien was valid, despite noncompliance by the operator with the requirements of this part.

(8) Notices to the renter under subsection (3) must be sent to the renter's last-known address by verified mail or electronic mail, if provided by the renter. Notices sent by verified mail are considered delivered when postmarked and properly addressed with postage paid. Notices sent by electronic mail are considered delivered on the date the electronic mail is sent to the last-known address provided by the renter.

(9) If the operator complies with the requirements of this section, the operator's liability:

(a) to the renter is limited to the net proceeds received from the sale of the renter's personal property until the proceeds escheat to the state according to subsection (6)(b); and

(b) to other lienholders is limited to the net proceeds received from the sale of any personal property covered by the other lienholder's lien property until the proceeds escheat to the state according to subsection (6)(b).

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 222, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 67, L. 2019.

70-6-608. Renter's rights. Unless the rental agreement specifically provides otherwise and until a lien sale under 70-6-607, the exclusive care, custody, and control of all personal property stored in a leased space remains vested in the renter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 222, L. 2017.

70-6-609. Rights of parties — rental agreements — compliance with Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. (1) This part does not impair the power of the parties to a rental agreement to create rights, duties, or obligations that do not arise from this part. The rights provided to an operator by this part are in addition to all other rights provided by law to a creditor against a debtor.

(2) If the rental agreement is with a service member, the operator shall comply with all terms of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. 3901, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 222, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 7
LOANS FOR USE OR EXCHANGE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Part 1 — Loan for Use

70-7-101. Optional loan — use or exchange — applicability of entire chapter.
70-7-102. Loan for use defined.
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Part 2 — Loan for Exchange

70-7-201. Certain sections of previous part applicable.
70-7-202. Loan for exchange defined.
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70-7-204. Contract not to be modified by lender.

Part 1
Loan for Use

70-7-101. Optional loan — use or exchange — applicability of entire chapter. A loan that the borrower is allowed by the lender to treat as a loan for use or for exchange, at the borrower's option, is subject to all of the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2571, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5202, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7716, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1903; Field Civ. C. Sec. 962; re-en. Sec. 7716, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-115; amd. Sec. 2096, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-102. Loan for use defined. A loan for use is a contract by which one gives to another the temporary use and possession of personal property and the latter agrees to return the same thing to the loaning person at a future time without reward for its use.

History: En. Sec. 2550, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5188, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7702, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1884; Field Civ. C. Sec. 948; re-en. Sec. 7702, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-101; amd. Sec. 2097, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Retail installment sales, Title 31, ch. 1, part 2.

70-7-103. Title not transferred — increase. A loan for use does not transfer the title to the thing, and all its increase during the period of the loan belongs to the lender.

History: En. Sec. 2551, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5189, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7703, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1885; Field Civ. C. Sec. 949; re-en. Sec. 7703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-102.

70-7-104. Care required of borrower generally. A borrower for use must use great care for the preservation in safety and in good condition of the thing lent.

History: En. Sec. 2552, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5190, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7704, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1886; Field Civ. C. Sec. 950; re-en. Sec. 7704, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-103.

70-7-105. Borrower of animal — care required. One who borrows a living animal for use must treat it with great kindness and provide everything necessary and suitable for it.

History: En. Sec. 2553, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5191, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7705, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1887; Field Civ. C. Sec. 951; re-en. Sec. 7705, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-104.

70-7-106. Skill required of borrower. A borrower for use is bound to have and to exercise skill in the care of the thing lent that the borrower causes the lender to believe that the borrower possesses.

History: En. Sec. 2554, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5192, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7706, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1888; Field Civ. C. Sec. 952; re-en. Sec. 7706, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-105; amd. Sec. 2098, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-107. Borrower to repair injuries. A borrower for use shall repair all deteriorations or injuries to the thing lent that are occasioned by the borrower's negligence, however slight.

History: En. Sec. 2555, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5193, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7707, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1889; Field Civ. C. Sec. 953; re-en. Sec. 7707, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-106; amd. Sec. 2099, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-108. Use of thing lent — what permitted. The borrower of a thing for use may use it for such purposes only as the lender might reasonably anticipate at the time of lending.

History: En. Sec. 2556, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5194, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7708, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1890; Field Civ. C. Sec. 954; re-en. Sec. 7708, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-107.

70-7-109. Relending forbidden. The borrower of a thing for use must not part with it to a third person without the consent of the lender.

History: En. Sec. 2557, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5195, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7709, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1891; Field Civ. C. Sec. 955; re-en. Sec. 7709, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-108.

70-7-110. Who to bear expenses. The borrower of a thing for use shall bear all its expenses during the loan except those that are necessarily incurred by the borrower to preserve it from unexpected and unusual injury. The borrower is entitled to compensation for those expenses from the lender, who may, however, be exonerated by surrendering the thing to the borrower.

History: En. Sec. 2558, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5196, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7710, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1892; Field Civ. C. Sec. 956; re-en. Sec. 7710, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-109; amd. Sec. 2100, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-111. Lender liable for concealed defects. The lender of a thing for use shall indemnify the borrower for damage caused by defects or vices in the thing that the lender knew at the time of lending and concealed from the borrower.

History: En. Sec. 2559, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5197, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7711, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1893; Field Civ. C. Sec. 957; re-en. Sec. 7711, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-110; amd. Sec. 2101, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-112. Right of lender to require return — indemnification of borrower. The lender of a thing for use may at any time require its return, even though the lender lent it for a specified time or purpose. However, if on the faith of an agreement the borrower has made arrangements that a return of the thing before the period agreed upon would cause the borrower loss exceeding the benefit derived by the borrower from the loan, the lender shall indemnify the borrower for the loss if the lender compels a return and the borrower has not in any manner violated the borrower's duty.

History: En. Sec. 2560, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5198, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7712, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1894; Field Civ. C. Sec. 958; re-en. Sec. 7712, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-111; amd. Sec. 2102, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-113. When returnable without demand. If a thing is lent for use for a specified time or purpose, it must be returned to the lender without demand as soon as the time has expired or the purpose has been accomplished. In other cases it need not be returned until demanded.

History: En. Sec. 2561, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5199, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7713, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1895; Field Civ. C. Sec. 959; re-en. Sec. 7713, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-112.

70-7-114. Place of return. The borrower of a thing for use must return it to the lender at the place contemplated by the parties at the time of lending or, if no particular place was so contemplated by them, then at the place where it was at that time.

History: En. Sec. 2562, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5200, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7714, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1896; Field Civ. C. Sec. 960; re-en. Sec. 7714, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-113.

Part 2
Loan for Exchange

70-7-201. Certain sections of previous part applicable. Sections 70-7-111, 70-7-112, and 70-7-113 apply to a loan for exchange.

History: En. Sec. 2574, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5205, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7719, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1906; Field Civ. C. Sec. 965; re-en. Sec. 7719, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-118.

70-7-202. Loan for exchange defined. A loan for exchange is a contract by which one delivers personal property to another and the latter agrees to return to the lender a similar thing at a future time, without reward for its use.

History: En. Sec. 2570, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5201, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7715, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1902; Field Civ. C. Sec. 961; re-en. Sec. 7715, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-114.

70-7-203. Title to property lent — expenses — increase. The title to the thing lent by a loan for exchange is transferred to the borrower, and the borrower shall bear all its expenses and is entitled to all its increase.

History: En. Sec. 2572, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5203, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7717, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1904; re-en. Sec. 7717, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-116; amd. Sec. 2103, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-7-204. Contract not to be modified by lender. A lender for exchange cannot require the borrower to fulfill the borrower's obligations at a time or in a manner different from that which was originally agreed upon.

History: En. Sec. 2573, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5204, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7718, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1905; Field Civ. C. Sec. 964; re-en. Sec. 7718, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 47-117; amd. Sec. 2104, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 8
RENTALS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Rental of Ships

70-8-201. Contract for letting of ship.

Part 1
General Provisions (Repealed)

70-8-101. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2640, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5236, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7751, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1955; Field Civ. C. Sec. 999; re-en. Sec. 7751, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-211.

70-8-102. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2641, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5237, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7752, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1956; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1000; re-en. Sec. 7752, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-212.

70-8-103. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2642, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5238, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7753, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1957; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1001; re-en. Sec. 7753, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-213.

70-8-104. Repealed. Sec. 230, Ch. 410, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 2643, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5239, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7754, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1958; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1002; re-en. Sec. 7754, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-214.

Part 2
Rental of Ships

70-8-201. Contract for letting of ship. The contract by which a ship is let is termed a charter party. As part of the contract, the owner may either let the capacity or burden of the ship, continuing the employment of the owner's master, crew, and equipments, or may surrender the entire ship to the charterer, who then provides them. The master or part owner may be a charterer.

History: En. Sec. 2644, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5240, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7755, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1959; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1003; re-en. Sec. 7755, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-215; amd. Sec. 2105, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 9
DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Presumption of Abandonment Kinds of Property (Repealed)

Part 3 — Procedure (Repealed)

Part 4 — Common Carriers, Commission Merchants, and Warehousemen

70-9-401. Applicability — Uniform Commercial Code.
70-9-402. Storage of unclaimed property.
70-9-403. Property unclaimed within 90 days to be sold — notice — surplus.
70-9-404. Surplus proceeds unclaimed — disposition.
70-9-405. Responsibility of carrier and bailee after storage.
70-9-406. Sale of property upon which advances are due.
70-9-407. Fees of officers.

Part 5 — Innkeepers

70-9-501. Sale of unclaimed baggage — notice.
70-9-502. Disposition of surplus proceeds.

Part 6 — Retail Launderers and Dry Cleaners

70-9-601. Disposal of property unclaimed within 180 days — notice — maintenance of records.

Part 7 — Foreign Capital Depositories (Repealed)

Part 8 — Uniform Unclaimed Property Act

70-9-801. Short title.
70-9-802. Definitions.
70-9-803. Presumptions of abandonment.
70-9-804. Contents of safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository.
70-9-805. Rules for taking custody.
70-9-806. Dormancy charge.
70-9-807. Burden of proof as to property evidenced by record of check or draft.
70-9-808. Report of abandoned property.
70-9-809. Payment or delivery of abandoned property to administrator.
70-9-810. Notice and publication of lists of abandoned property.
70-9-811. Custody by state — recovery by holder — defense of holder.
70-9-812. Public sale of abandoned property.
70-9-813. Deposit of funds.
70-9-814. Claim of another state to recover property.
70-9-815. Filing claim with administrator — handling of claims by administrator.
70-9-816. Action to establish claim.
70-9-817. Election to take payment or delivery.

70-9-818. Destruction or disposition of property having no substantial commercial value — immunity from liability.
70-9-819. Periods of limitation.
70-9-820. Requests for reports, examination of records, and confidentiality.
70-9-821. Retention of records.
70-9-822. Enforcement.
70-9-823. Interstate agreements and cooperation — joint and reciprocal actions with other states.
70-9-824. Interest and penalties.
70-9-825. Agreement to locate property.
70-9-826. Foreign transactions.
70-9-827. Transitional provisions.
70-9-828. Rules.
70-9-829. Uniformity of application and construction.
70-9-830. When security presumed abandoned.

Chapter Cross-References

State warrants — presentation and cancellation — failure to claim payment, 17-8-303.

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

70-9-101. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2230; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

70-9-102. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2201; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

70-9-103. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

History: En. Secs. 10, 27, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2210, 67-2227.

70-9-104. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2229.

70-9-105. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2226.

70-9-106. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 630, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-107 through 70-9-110 reserved.

70-9-111. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

70-9-112 through 70-9-120 reserved.

70-9-121. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

70-9-122. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

Part 2
Presumption of Abandonment Kinds of Property
(Repealed)

70-9-201. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2202; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1989.

70-9-202. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2203; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-203. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2204; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 5, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1993.

70-9-204. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2205; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 575, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-205. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2206; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 575, L. 1979.

70-9-206. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2207; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-207. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2208; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 575, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-208. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 244, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2209; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-209. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 5, L. 1987.

70-9-210. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 654, L. 1991.

Part 3
Procedure
(Repealed)

70-9-301. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 226, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2211(1) thru (6); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 5, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 654, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 263, L. 1993.

70-9-302. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 226, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2212; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 575, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 654, L. 1991.

70-9-303. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 226, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2213; (2), (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 654, L. 1991.

70-9-304. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2214(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 575, L. 1979.

70-9-305. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2214(part).

70-9-306. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2215.

70-9-307. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2216; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 654, L. 1991.

70-9-308. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2217; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 1979.

70-9-309. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2218; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 5, L. 1995.

70-9-310. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2219.

70-9-311. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 155, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2220.

70-9-312. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 155, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2221.

70-9-313. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 654, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2222.

70-9-314. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2223; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 269, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1989.

70-9-315. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2224.

70-9-316. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 244, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 216, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2225; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 269, L. 1983.

Part 4

Common Carriers, Commission Merchants, and Warehousemen

70-9-401. Applicability — Uniform Commercial Code. The provisions of this part apply only to the extent not otherwise provided for in the Uniform Commercial Code.

History: En. 20-314 by Sec. 11-116, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 20-314.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code, Title 30, ch. 1 through 9A.

U.C.C. — warehouse receipts, bills of lading, and other documents of title, Title 30, ch. 7.

70-9-402. Storage of unclaimed property. When goods, merchandise, or other property has been received by a railroad or express company or other common carrier, commission merchants, or warehouse operator for transportation or safekeeping and is not delivered to the owner, consignee, or other authorized person, the carrier, commission merchant, or warehouse operator may hold or store the goods, merchandise, or property with some responsible person until the freight and all just and reasonable charges are paid.

History: En. Sec. 2920, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2003, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7667, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3152; re-en. Sec. 7667, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-308; amd. Sec. 2106, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-9-403. Property unclaimed within 90 days to be sold — notice — surplus. (1) If a person does not call for the property within 90 days from the receipt of the property and pay freight and charges on the property, the carrier, commission merchant, or warehouse operator may sell the property or as much of the property, at auction to the highest bidder, as will pay freight and charges after giving 20 days' notice of the time and place of sale to the owner, consignee, or consignor, when known, and by advertisement in a daily paper for 10 days or in a weekly paper for 4 weeks, published where the sale is to take place.

(2) If any surplus is left after paying freight, storage, cost of advertising, and other reasonable charges, the surplus must be paid to the owner of the property at any time upon demand being made or within 60 days after the sale.

History: En. Sec. 2921, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2004, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7668, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3153; re-en. Sec. 7668, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-309; amd. Sec. 2107, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-9-404. Surplus proceeds unclaimed — disposition. If the owner or the owner's agent fails to demand the surplus within 60 days of the time of sale, then it must be paid into the county treasury, subject to the order of the owner.

History: En. Sec. 2922, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2005, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7669, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3154; re-en. Sec. 7669, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-310; amd. Sec. 2108, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-9-405. Responsibility of carrier and bailee after storage. After the storage of goods, merchandise, or property as provided in this part, the responsibility of the carrier ceases and the person with whom the goods, merchandise, or property is stored is not liable for any loss or damage on account of the storage unless the loss or damage results from the person's negligence or want of proper care.

History: **En. Sec. 2923, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2006, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7670, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. Sec. 3155; re-en. Sec. 7670, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-311; amd. Sec. 2109, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-9-406. Sale of property upon which advances are due. When a commission merchant or warehouse operator receives on consignment produce, merchandise, or other property and makes advances on the produce, merchandise, or property, either to the owner or for freight and charges, the person may, if the freight and charges are not paid within 90 days from the date of the advances, cause the produce, merchandise, or property on which the advances were made to be advertised and sold as provided in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2924, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2007, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7671, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3156; re-en. Sec. 7671, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-312; amd. Sec. 2110, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-9-407. Fees of officers. The fees of officers under this part are the same as allowed for similar services in other cases provided in this code to be paid by the taker-up or finder and recovered of the owner.

History: **En. Sec. 2925, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2008, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7672, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 3157; re-en. Sec. 7672, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 20-313.**

Part 5
Innkeepers

Part Cross-References

Performance to one of several joint creditors, 28-1-1103.

70-9-501. Sale of unclaimed baggage — notice. (1) Whenever any trunk, carpetbag, valise, box, bundle, or other baggage comes into the possession of the keeper of any hotel, inn, boardinghouse, or lodginghouse, as such, and remains unclaimed for the period of 6 months, such keeper may proceed to sell the same at public auction and out of the proceeds of such sale may retain the charges for storage, if any, and the expense of advertising and sale thereof.

(2) But no such sale shall be made until the expiration of 4 weeks from the first publication of notice of such sale in a newspaper published in or nearest the city, town, or place in which said hotel, inn, boardinghouse, or lodginghouse is situated.

(3) Said notice shall be published once a week for 4 successive weeks in some newspaper, daily or weekly, of general circulation and shall contain:

(a) a description of each trunk, carpetbag, valise, box, bundle, or other baggage, as near as may be;

(b) the name of the owner, if known;

(c) the name of said keeper and the time and place of sale.

(4) The expenses incurred for advertising shall be a lien upon such trunk, carpetbag, valise, box, bundle, or other baggage, in a ratable proportion, according to the value of such piece of property or thing or article sold.

History: **En. Sec. 2503, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5167, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7676, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1862; re-en. Sec. 7676, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-104(part).**

70-9-502. Disposition of surplus proceeds. If any balance arising from the sale is not claimed by the rightful owner within 1 week from the day of the sale, the balance must be paid into the treasury of the county in which the sale took place, and if the balance is not claimed by the owner or the owner's legal representatives within 1 year after the sale, the balance must be paid into the general fund of the county.

History: **En. Sec. 2503, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5167, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7676, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1862; re-en. Sec. 7676, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-104(part); amd. Sec. 2111, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 6
Retail Launderers and Dry Cleaners

70-9-601. Disposal of property unclaimed within 180 days — notice — maintenance of records. (1) A retail launderer or dry cleaner may dispose of an article, garment, or piece of clothing left with the launderer or dry cleaner for cleaning, laundering, repairing, or other service that is not redeemed by the customer within 180 days. A retail launderer or dry cleaner is not responsible or liable for an article, garment, or piece of clothing disposed of pursuant to this section.

(2) A retail launderer or dry cleaner subject to this section shall post a notice describing the provisions of this section in a conspicuous place on the premises of the retail launderer or dry cleaner. The notice must be substantially the same as the following language: "As provided in section 70-9-601, MCA, an article, garment, or piece of clothing accepted for cleaning, laundering, repairing, or other service by a launderer or dry cleaner must be claimed within 180 days after the date the item was received for service. If an article is not claimed within 180 days, the item may be disposed of by the launderer or dry cleaner."

(3) For any item that is disposed of as provided in this section, the retail launderer or dry cleaner shall maintain copies of all service tickets or other records showing the date the item was received and the date and manner of disposition. The records must be maintained for 1 year following disposal.

(4) Any balance in excess of the charges for cleaning, laundering, repairing, or other service arising from the sale of an item unclaimed by the owner must be paid to the general fund of the county in which the sale took place.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1995.

Part 7
Foreign Capital Depositories
(Repealed)

70-9-701. Repealed. Sec. 23, Ch. 163, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 64, Ch. 382, L. 1997.

Part 8
Uniform Unclaimed Property Act

70-9-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Unclaimed Property Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-802. Definitions. In this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrator" means the department of revenue provided for in 2-15-1301.

(2) "Apparent owner" means a person whose name appears on the records of a holder as the person entitled to property held, issued, or owing by the holder.

(3) "Business association" means a corporation, joint-stock company, investment company, partnership, unincorporated association, joint venture, limited liability company, business trust, trust company, land bank, safe deposit company, financial organization, insurance company, mutual fund, utility, or other business entity consisting of one or more persons, whether or not for profit.

(4) "Domicile" means the state of incorporation of a corporation and the state of the principal place of business of a holder other than a corporation.

(5) "Financial organization" means a savings and loan association, bank, banking organization, or credit union.

(6) "Gift certificate" has the meaning provided in 30-14-102.

(7) "Holder" means a person obligated to hold for the account of, or deliver or pay to, the owner property that is subject to this part.

(8) "Insurance company" means an association, corporation, or fraternal or mutual benefit organization, whether or not for profit, engaged in the business of providing life endowments, annuities, or insurance, including accident, burial, casualty, credit life, contract performance, dental, disability, fidelity, fire, health, hospitalization, illness, life, malpractice, marine, mortgage, surety, wage protection, and workers' compensation insurance.

(9) "Mineral" means gas; oil; coal; other gaseous, liquid, and solid hydrocarbons; oil shale; cement material; sand and gravel; road material; building stone; chemical raw material;

gemstone; fissionable and nonfissionable ores; colloidal and other clay; steam and other geothermal resource; or any other substance defined as a mineral by the law of this state.

(10) "Mineral proceeds" means amounts payable for the extraction, production, or sale of minerals or, upon the abandonment of those payments, all payments that become payable after abandonment. The term includes amounts payable:

(a) for the acquisition and retention of a mineral lease, including bonuses, royalties, compensatory royalties, shut-in royalties, minimum royalties, and delay rentals;

(b) for the extraction, production, or sale of minerals, including net revenue interests, royalties, overriding royalties, extraction payments, and production payments; and

(c) under an agreement or option, including a joint operating agreement, unit agreement, pooling agreement, and farmout agreement.

(11) (a) "Money order" includes an express money order and a personal money order, on which the remitter is the purchaser.

(b) The term does not include a bank money order or any other instrument sold by a financial organization if the seller has obtained the name and address of the payee.

(12) "Owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable interest in property subject to this part or the person's legal representative. The term includes a depositor in the case of a deposit, a beneficiary in the case of a trust other than a deposit in trust, and a creditor, claimant, or payee in the case of other property.

(13) "Person" means an individual, business association, financial organization, estate, trust, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity.

(14) "Personal information" means:

(a) information that identifies or reasonably can be used to identify an individual, such as a first and last name in combination with the individual's:

(i) social security number or other government-issued number or identifier;

(ii) date of birth;

(iii) home or physical address;

(iv) electronic mail address or other online contact information or internet provider address;

(v) financial account number or credit or debit card number;

(vi) biometric data, health or medical data, or insurance information; or

(vii) passwords or other credentials that permit access to an online account or other account; and

(b) personally identifiable financial or insurance information, including nonpublic personal information defined by applicable federal law.

(15) (a) "Property" means tangible property described in 70-9-804 or a fixed and certain interest in intangible property that is held, issued, or owed in the course of a holder's business or, except as provided in subsection (15)(b), by a government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality and all income or increments from the property. The term includes property that is referred to as or evidenced by:

(i) money, virtual currency, check, draft, deposit, interest, or dividend;

(ii) credit balance, customer's overpayment, gift certificate, security deposit, refund, credit memorandum, unpaid wage, unused ticket, mineral proceeds, or unidentified remittance;

(iii) stock or other evidence of ownership of an interest in a business association or financial organization;

(iv) bond, debenture, note, or other evidence of indebtedness;

(v) money deposited to redeem stocks, bonds, coupons, or other securities or to make distributions;

(vi) an amount due and payable under the terms of an annuity or insurance policy, including policies providing life insurance, property and casualty insurance, workers' compensation insurance, or health and disability insurance; and

(vii) an amount distributable from a trust or custodial fund that is established under a plan to provide health, welfare, pension, vacation, severance, retirement, death, stock purchase, profit sharing, employee savings, supplemental unemployment insurance, or similar benefits.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) property that is held, issued, or owed by a local government entity, as defined in 2-7-501;

(ii) property held in state and local government sponsored retirement plans governed by Title 19;

(iii) property held in a plan as described in section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, as amended.

(16) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and that is retrievable in perceivable form.

(17) "Security" means:

(a) a security as defined in 30-8-112;

(b) a security entitlement as defined in 30-8-112, including a customer security account held by a registered broker-dealer, to the extent the financial assets held in the security account are not:

(i) registered on the books of the issuer in the name of the person for which the broker-dealer holds the assets;

(ii) payable to the order of the person; or

(iii) specifically indorsed to the person; or

(c) an equity interest in a business association not included in subsection (17)(a) or (17)(b).

(18) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(19) "Utility" means a person who owns or operates for public use any plant, equipment, real property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale, delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water, steam, or gas.

(20) (a) "Virtual currency" means a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or store of value that does not have legal tender status recognized by the United States.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) the software or protocols governing the transfer of the digital representation of value;

(ii) game-related digital content; or

(iii) a loyalty card.

(21) "Worthless security" means a security whose cost of liquidation and delivery to the administrator would exceed the value of the security on the date a report is due under this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 480, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 331, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-803. Presumptions of abandonment. (1) Except as provided in subsection (6), property is presumed abandoned if it is unclaimed by the apparent owner during the time set forth below for the particular property:

(a) traveler's check, 15 years after issuance;

(b) money order, 7 years after issuance;

(c) debt of a business association or financial organization, other than a bearer bond or an original issue discount bond, 5 years after the date of the most recent interest payment that was unclaimed by the apparent owner;

(d) demand, savings, or time deposit, including a deposit that is automatically renewable, 5 years after the earlier of maturity or the date of the last indication by the owner of interest in the property; however, a deposit that is automatically renewable is considered matured for purposes of this section upon its initial date of maturity unless the owner has consented to a renewal at or about the time of the renewal and the consent is in writing or is evidenced by a memorandum or other record on file with the holder;

(e) money or credits owed to a customer as a result of a retail business transaction, 3 years after the obligation accrued;

(f) gift certificate, 3 years after December 31 of the year in which the certificate was sold, but if redeemable in merchandise only, the amount abandoned is considered to be 60% of the certificate's face value. A gift certificate is not presumed abandoned if the gift certificate was sold by a person who in the past fiscal year sold no more than $200,000 in gift certificates, which amount must be adjusted by November of each year by the inflation factor. The amount considered abandoned for a person who sells more than the amount that triggers presumption of abandonment is the value of gift certificates greater than that trigger.

(g) amount that is owed by an insurer on a life or endowment insurance policy or an annuity that has matured or terminated, 3 years after the obligation to pay arose or, in the case of a policy or annuity payable on proof of death, 3 years after the insured has attained, or would have attained if living, the limiting age under the mortality table on which the reserve is based;;

(h) property distributable by a business association or financial organization in a course of dissolution, 1 year after the property becomes distributable;

(i) property received by a court as proceeds of a class action and not distributed pursuant to the judgment, 1 year after the distribution date;

(j) property held by a court, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, 1 year after the property becomes distributable;

(k) wages or other compensation for personal services, 1 year after the compensation becomes payable;

(l) deposit or refund owed to a subscriber by a utility, 1 year after the deposit or refund becomes payable;

(m) property in an individual retirement account, defined benefit plan, or other account or plan that is qualified for tax deferral under the income tax laws of the United States, 3 years after the earliest of the date of the distribution or attempted distribution of the property, the date of the required distribution as stated in the plan or trust agreement governing the plan, or the date, if determinable by the holder, specified in the income tax laws of the United States by which distribution of the property must begin in order to avoid a tax penalty;

(n) a patronage refund owed to a member of a rural electric or telephone cooperative organized under Title 35, chapter 18, that is not used by the cooperative for educational purposes, 5 years after the distribution date;

(o) an unclaimed share in a cooperative that is not used for charitable or civic purposes in the community in which the cooperative is located, 5 years after the distribution date;

(p) a security, as provided in 70-9-830; and

(q) all other property, 5 years after the owner's right to demand the property or after the obligation to pay or distribute the property arises, whichever first occurs.

(2) At the time that an interest is presumed abandoned under subsection (1), any other property right accrued or accruing to the owner as a result of the interest, and not previously presumed abandoned, is also presumed abandoned.

(3) Property is unclaimed if, for the applicable period set forth in subsection (1), the apparent owner has not communicated in writing or by other means reflected in a contemporaneous record prepared by or on behalf of the holder with the holder concerning the property or the account in which the property is held and has not otherwise indicated an interest in the property. A communication with an owner by a person other than the holder or its representative who has not in writing identified the property to the owner is not an indication of interest in the property by the owner.

(4) An indication of an owner's interest in property includes:

(a) the presentment of a check or other instrument of payment of a dividend or other distribution made with respect to an account or underlying stock or other interest in a business association or financial organization or, in the case of a distribution made by electronic or similar means, evidence that the distribution has been received;

(b) owner-directed activity in the account in which the property is held, including a direction by the owner to increase, decrease, or change the amount or type of property held in the account;

(c) the making of a deposit to or withdrawal from an account in a financial organization; and

(d) the payment of a premium with respect to a property interest in an insurance policy; however, the application of an automatic premium loan provision or other nonforfeiture provision contained in an insurance policy does not prevent a policy from maturing or terminating if the insured has died or the insured or the beneficiary of the policy has otherwise become entitled to the proceeds before the depletion of the cash surrender value of a policy by the application of those provisions.

(5) Property is payable or distributable for purposes of this part notwithstanding the owner's failure to make demand or present an instrument or document otherwise required to obtain payment.

(6) The presumption provided in subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) unclaimed patronage refunds of a rural electric or telephone cooperative if the cooperative uses the refunds exclusively for educational purposes; or

(b) unclaimed shares in a nonutility cooperative if the cooperative uses the shares for charitable or civic purposes in the community in which the cooperative is located.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "inflation factor" means a number determined for each tax year by dividing the consumer price index for June of the previous tax year by the consumer price index for June 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 268, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 331, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 317, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 17, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 503, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-804. Contents of safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository. Tangible property held in a safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository in this state in the ordinary course of the holder's business and proceeds resulting from the sale of the property permitted by other law are presumed abandoned if the property remains unclaimed by the owner for more than 5 years after expiration of the lease or rental period on the box or other depository.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-805. Rules for taking custody. Except as otherwise provided in this part or by other statute of this state, property that is presumed abandoned, whether located in this or another state, is subject to the custody of this state if:

(1) the last-known address of the apparent owner, as shown on the records of the holder, is in this state;

(2) the records of the holder do not reflect the identity of the person entitled to the property and it is established that the last-known address of the person entitled to the property is in this state;

(3) the records of the holder do not reflect the last-known address of the apparent owner and it is established that:

(a) the last-known address of the person entitled to the property is in this state; or

(b) the holder is domiciled in this state or is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of this state and has not previously paid or delivered the property to the state of the last-known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property;

(4) the last-known address of the apparent owner, as shown on the records of the holder, is in a state that does not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property and the holder is domiciled in this state or is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of this state;

(5) the last-known address of the apparent owner, as shown on the records of the holder, is in a foreign country and the holder is domiciled in this state or is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of this state;

(6) the transaction out of which the property arose occurred in this state, the holder is domiciled in a state that does not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property, and the last-known address of the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property is unknown or is in a state that does not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property; or

(7) the property is a traveler's check or money order purchased in this state or the issuer of the traveler's check or money order has its principal place of business in this state and the issuer's records show that the instrument was purchased in a state that does not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property or do not show the state in which the instrument was purchased.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-806. Dormancy charge. A holder may deduct from property presumed abandoned a charge imposed by reason of the owner's failure to claim the property within a specified time only if there is a valid and enforceable written contract between the holder and the owner under which the holder may impose the charge and the holder regularly imposes the charge, which is not regularly reversed or otherwise canceled. The amount of the deduction is limited to an amount that is not unconscionable.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-807. Burden of proof as to property evidenced by record of check or draft. A record of the issuance of a check, draft, or similar instrument is prima facie evidence of an obligation. In claiming property from a holder that is also the issuer, the administrator's burden of proof as to the existence and amount of the property and its abandonment is satisfied by showing issuance of the instrument and passage of the requisite period of abandonment. Defenses of payment, satisfaction, discharge, and want of consideration are affirmative defenses that must be established by the holder.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-808. Report of abandoned property. (1) A holder of property presumed abandoned shall make a report to the administrator concerning the property.

(2) The report must be verified and must contain:

(a) a description of the property;

(b) except with respect to a traveler's check or money order, the name, if known, and last-known address, if any, and the social security number or taxpayer identification number, if readily ascertainable, of the apparent owner of property of the value of $50 or more;

(c) an aggregated amount of items valued under $50 each;

(d) in the case of an amount of $50 or more held or owing under an annuity or a life or endowment insurance policy, the full name and last-known address of the annuitant or insured and of the beneficiary;

(e) in the case of property held in a safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository, an indication of the place where it is held and where it may be inspected by the administrator and any amounts owing to the holder;

(f) the date, if any, on which the property became payable, demandable, or returnable and the date of the last transaction with the apparent owner with respect to the property; and

(g) other information that the administrator by rule prescribes as necessary for the administration of this part, including personal information as defined in 70-9-802 about the apparent owner or the apparent owner's property to the extent not otherwise prohibited by federal law.

(3) If a holder of property presumed abandoned is a successor to another person that previously held the property for the apparent owner or the holder has changed its name while holding the property, the holder shall file with the report its former names, if any, and the known names and addresses of all previous holders of the property.

(4) The report must be filed before November 1 of each year and cover the 12 months next preceding July 1 of that year, but a report with respect to a life insurance company must be filed before May 1 of each year for the calendar year next preceding.

(5) The holder of property that is presumed abandoned shall send written notice to the apparent owner, not more than 120 days or less than 60 days before filing the report, stating that the holder is in possession of property subject to this part if:

(a) the holder has in its records an address for the apparent owner that the holder's records do not disclose to be inaccurate;

(b) the claim of the apparent owner is not barred by a statute of limitations; and

(c) the value of the property is $50 or more.

(6) Before the date for filing the report, the holder of property presumed abandoned may request the administrator to extend the time for filing the report. The administrator may grant the extension for good cause. The holder, upon receipt of the extension, may make an interim payment on the amount the holder estimates will ultimately be due, which terminates the accrual of additional interest on the amount paid.

(7) The holder of property presumed abandoned shall file with the report an affidavit stating that the holder has complied with subsection (5).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-809. Payment or delivery of abandoned property. (1) Except for property held in a safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository, upon filing the report required by 70-9-808, the holder of property presumed abandoned shall pay, deliver, or cause to be paid or delivered to the administrator the property described in the report as unclaimed; however, if the property is an automatically renewable deposit and a penalty or forfeiture in the payment of interest would result, the time for compliance is extended until a penalty or forfeiture would no longer result. Tangible property held in a safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository may not be delivered to the administrator until 60 days after filing the report required by 70-9-808.

(2) If the property reported to the administrator is a security or security entitlement under Title 30, chapter 8, the administrator is an appropriate person to make an endorsement, instruction, or entitlement order on behalf of the apparent owner to invoke the duty of the issuer or its transfer agent or the securities intermediary to transfer or dispose of the security or the security entitlement in accordance with Title 30, chapter 8.

(3) If the property reported to the administrator is a virtual currency, the holder shall liquidate the virtual currency within 30 days of filing the report and remit the proceeds in United States currency to the administrator. The holder may not sell a virtual currency for less than the price prevailing on an established virtual currency exchange at the time of the sale. The holder may sell a virtual currency not listed on an established virtual currency exchange by any commercially reasonable method. Prior to selling a virtual currency, the holder shall send written notice to the apparent owner not less than 60 days before the sale that the virtual currency will be liquidated.

(4) An issuer, the holder, and any transfer agent or other person acting pursuant to the instructions of and on behalf of the issuer or holder in accordance with this section is not liable to the apparent owner and must be indemnified against claims of any person in accordance with 70-9-811.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-810. Notice and publication of lists of abandoned property. (1) The administrator shall publish every 3 months in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county in this state in which a newspaper is published an advertisement of property held by the administrator that:

(a) directs the public to the administrator's unclaimed property website provided in subsection (2);

(b) includes a telephone number and electronic mail address to contact the administrator to inquire about or claim property; and

(c) includes a statement that a person may access the internet by a computer to search for unclaimed property and a computer may be available as a service to the public at a local public library.

(2) The administrator shall maintain an unclaimed property website that can be accessed and is easily searchable by the public. The website must contain:

(a) the name of each person appearing to be the owner of the property, as set forth in the report filed by the holder;

(b) the last-known address or location of each person appearing to be the owner of the property, if an address or location is set forth in the report filed by the holder;

(c) a statement explaining that property of the owner is presumed to be abandoned and has been taken into the protective custody of the administrator; and

(d) a statement that information about the property and its return to the owner is available to a person having a legal or beneficial interest in the property, upon request to the administrator.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-811. Custody by state — recovery by holder — defense of holder. (1) In this section, payment or delivery is made in "good faith" if:

(a) payment or delivery was made in a reasonable attempt to comply with this part;

(b) the holder was not then in breach of a fiduciary obligation with respect to the property and had a reasonable basis for believing, based on the facts then known, that the property was presumed abandoned; and

(c) there is no showing that the records under which the payment or delivery was made did not meet reasonable commercial standards of practice.

(2) Upon payment or delivery of property to the administrator, the state assumes custody and responsibility for the safekeeping of the property. A holder that pays or delivers property to the administrator in good faith is relieved of all liability arising thereafter with respect to the property.

(3) A holder that has paid money to the administrator pursuant to this part may subsequently make payment to a person reasonably appearing to the holder to be entitled to payment. Upon a filing by the holder of proof of payment and proof that the payee was entitled to the payment, the administrator shall promptly reimburse the holder for the payment without imposing a fee or other charge. If reimbursement is sought for a payment made on a negotiable instrument, including a traveler's check or money order, the holder must be reimbursed upon filing proof that the instrument was duly presented and that payment was made to a person that reasonably appeared to be entitled to payment. The holder must be reimbursed for payment made even if the payment was made to a person whose claim was barred under 70-9-819.

(4) A holder that has delivered property other than money to the administrator pursuant to this part may reclaim the property if it is still in the possession of the administrator, without paying any fee or other charge, upon filing proof that the apparent owner has claimed the property from the holder.

(5) The administrator may accept a holder's affidavit as sufficient proof of the holder's right to recover money and property under this section.

(6) If a holder pays or delivers property to the administrator in good faith and thereafter another person claims the property from the holder or another state claims the money or property under its laws relating to escheat or abandoned or unclaimed property, the administrator, upon written notice of the claim, shall defend the holder against the claim and indemnify the holder against any liability on the claim resulting from payment or delivery of the property to the administrator.

(7) Property removed from a safe deposit box or other safekeeping depository is received by the administrator subject to the holder's right to be reimbursed for the cost of the opening and to any valid lien or contract providing for the holder to be reimbursed for unpaid rent or storage charges. The administrator shall reimburse the holder out of the proceeds remaining after deducting the expense incurred by the administrator in selling the property.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-812. Public sale of abandoned property. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the administrator, within 3 years after the receipt of abandoned property, shall sell it to the highest bidder at public sale at a location in the state, which in the judgment of the administrator affords the most favorable market for the property. The administrator may decline the highest bid and reoffer the property for sale if the administrator considers the bid to be insufficient. The administrator need not offer the property for sale if the administrator considers that the probable cost of sale will exceed the proceeds of the sale. A sale held under this section must be preceded by a single publication of notice, at least 3 weeks before sale, on the unclaimed property website maintained by the administrator.

(2) Securities listed on an established stock exchange must be sold at prices prevailing on the exchange at the time of sale. Other securities may be sold over the counter at prices prevailing at the time of sale or by any reasonable method selected by the administrator. If securities are sold by the administrator before the expiration of 3 years after their delivery to the administrator, a person making a claim under this part before the end of the 3-year period is entitled to the proceeds of the sale of the securities or the market value of the securities at the time the claim is made, whichever is greater, plus dividends, interest, and other increments up to the time the claim is made, less any deduction for expenses of sale. A person making a claim under this part after the expiration of the 3-year period is entitled to receive the securities delivered to the administrator by the holder, if they still remain in the custody of the administrator, or the net proceeds received from sale and is not entitled to receive any appreciation in the value of the property occurring after delivery to the administrator except in a case of intentional misconduct or malfeasance by the administrator.

(3) A purchaser of property at a sale conducted by the administrator pursuant to this part takes the property free of all claims of the owner or previous holder and of all persons claiming through or under them. The administrator shall execute all documents necessary to complete the transfer of ownership.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-813. Deposit of funds. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the administrator shall promptly deposit in the general fund of this state all funds received under this part, including the proceeds from the sale of abandoned property under 70-9-812. The administrator shall retain in a separate trust fund at least $100,000 from which the administrator shall pay claims allowed. The administrator shall record the name and last-known address of each person appearing from the holders' reports to be entitled to the property and the name and last-known address of each insured person or annuitant and beneficiary and, with respect to each policy or annuity listed in the report of an insurance company, its number, the name of the company, and the amount due.

(2) Before making a deposit to the credit of the general fund, the administrator may deduct:

(a) expenses of sale of abandoned property;

(b) costs of mailing and publication in connection with abandoned property;

(c) reasonable service charges; and

(d) expenses incurred in examining records of holders of property and in collecting the property from those holders.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-814. Claim of another state to recover property. (1) After property has been paid or delivered to the administrator under this part, another state may recover the property if:

(a) the property was paid or delivered to the custody of this state because the records of the holder did not reflect a last-known location of the apparent owner within the borders of the other state and the other state establishes that the apparent owner or other person entitled to the property was last known to be located within the borders of that state, and under the laws of that state, the property has escheated or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(b) the property was paid or delivered to the custody of this state because the laws of the other state did not provide for the escheat or custodial taking of the property, and under the laws of that state subsequently enacted, the property has escheated or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(c) the records of the holder were erroneous in that they did not accurately identify the owner of the property and the last-known location of the owner within the borders of another state, and under the laws of that state, the property has escheated or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state;

(d) the property was subjected to custody by this state under 70-9-805(6), and under the laws of the state of domicile of the holder, the property has escheated or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state; or

(e) the property is a sum payable on a traveler's check, money order, or similar instrument that was purchased in the other state and delivered into the custody of this state under 70-9-805(7), and under the laws of the other state, the property has escheated or become subject to a claim of abandonment by that state.

(2) A claim of another state to recover escheated or abandoned property must be presented in a form prescribed by the administrator, who shall decide the claim within 90 days after it is presented. The administrator shall allow the claim upon determining that the other state is entitled to the abandoned property under subsection (1).

(3) The administrator shall require another state, before recovering property under this section, to agree to indemnify this state and its officers and employees against any liability on a claim to the property.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-815. Filing claim with administrator — handling of claims by administrator. (1) A person, excluding another state, claiming property paid or delivered to the administrator may file a claim on a form prescribed by the administrator and verified by the claimant.

(2) Within 90 days after a claim is filed, the administrator shall allow or deny the claim and give written notice of the decision to the claimant. If the claim is denied, the administrator shall inform the claimant of the reasons for the denial and specify what additional evidence is required before the claim will be allowed. The claimant may then file a new claim with the administrator or maintain an action under 70-9-816.

(3) Within 30 days after a claim is allowed, the property or the net proceeds of a sale of the property must be delivered or paid by the administrator to the claimant, together with any dividend, interest, or other increment to which the claimant is entitled under 70-9-812.

(4) A holder that pays the owner for property that has been delivered to the state and that, if claimed from the administrator by the owner, would be subject to an increment under 70-9-812 may recover from the administrator the amount of the increment.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-816. Action to establish claim. A person aggrieved by a decision of the administrator or whose claim has not been acted upon within 90 days after its filing may maintain an original action to establish the claim in the district court, naming the administrator as a defendant. If the aggrieved person establishes the claim in an action against the administrator, the court may award the claimant reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-817. Election to take payment or delivery. (1) The administrator may decline to receive property reported under this part that the administrator considers to have a value less than the expenses of notice and sale.

(2) A holder, with the written consent of the administrator and upon conditions and terms prescribed by the administrator, may report and deliver property before the property is presumed abandoned. Property that is delivered must be held by the administrator and is not presumed abandoned until it otherwise would be presumed abandoned under this part.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-818. Destruction or disposition of property having no substantial commercial value — immunity from liability. If the administrator determines after investigation that property delivered under this part has no substantial commercial value, the administrator may destroy or otherwise dispose of the property at any time. An action or proceeding may not be maintained against the state or any officer or against the holder for or on account of an act of the administrator under this section except for intentional misconduct or malfeasance.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-819. Periods of limitation. (1) The expiration, before or after July 1, 1997, of a period of limitation on the owner's right to receive or recover property, whether specified by contract, statute, or court order, does not preclude the property from being presumed abandoned or affect a duty to file a report or to pay or deliver or transfer property to the administrator as required by this part.

(2) An action or proceeding may not be maintained by the administrator to enforce this part in regard to the reporting, delivery, or payment of property more than 10 years after the holder specifically identified the property in a report filed with the administrator or gave express notice to the administrator of a dispute regarding the property. In the absence of such a report or other express notice the period of limitation is tolled. The period of limitation is also tolled by the filing of a report that is fraudulent.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-820. Requests for reports, examination of records, and confidentiality. (1) The administrator may require a person that has not filed a report or a person that the administrator believes has filed an inaccurate, incomplete, or false report to file a verified report in a form specified by the administrator. The report must state whether the person is holding property reportable under this part, describe property not previously reported or as to which the administrator has made inquiry, and specifically identify and state the amounts of property that may be in issue.

(2) The administrator, at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, may examine the records of any person to determine whether the person has complied with this part. The administrator may conduct the examination even if the person believes it is not in possession of any property that must be reported, paid, or delivered under this part. The administrator may contract with any other person to conduct the examination on behalf of the administrator.

(3) The administrator, at reasonable times, may examine the records of an agent, including a dividend disbursing agent or transfer agent, of a business association or financial organization that is the holder of property presumed abandoned if the administrator has given the notice required by subsection (2) to both the association or organization and the agent at least 90 days before the examination.

(4) Documents and working papers obtained or compiled by the administrator, or the administrator's agents, employees, or designated representatives, in the course of conducting an examination and personal information obtained from a holder's reports, except for the personal information published pursuant to 70-9-810, are confidential and are not public records, but the documents and papers may be:

(a) used by the administrator in the course of an action to collect unclaimed property or otherwise enforce this part;

(b) used in joint examinations conducted with or pursuant to an agreement with another state, the federal government, or any other governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality;

(c) produced pursuant to subpoena or court order; or

(d) disclosed to the abandoned property office of another state for that state's use in circumstances equivalent to those described in this subsection (4) if the other state is bound to keep the documents and papers confidential.

(5) The administrator may only disclose confidential personal information to an apparent owner of unclaimed property, or the apparent owner's personal representative, power of attorney, attorney-in-fact, or agent, or a beneficiary of the apparent owner or the unclaimed property.

(6) If an examination of the records of a person results in the disclosure of property reportable under this part, the administrator may assess the cost of the examination against the holder at the rate of $200 a day for each examiner, or a greater amount that is reasonable and was incurred, but the assessment may not exceed the value of the property found to be reportable. The cost of an examination made pursuant to subsection (3) may be assessed only against the business association or financial organization.

(7) If, after July 1, 1997, a holder does not maintain the records required by 70-9-821 and the records of the holder available for the periods subject to this part are insufficient to permit the preparation of a report, the administrator may require the holder to report and pay to the

administrator the amount the administrator reasonably estimates, on the basis of any available records of the holder or by any other reasonable method of estimation, should have been but was not reported.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-821. Retention of records. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a holder required to file a report under 70-9-808 shall maintain the records containing the information required to be included in the report for 10 years after the holder files the report unless a shorter period is provided by rule of the administrator.

(2) A business association or financial organization that sells, issues, or provides to others for sale or issue in this state traveler's checks, money orders, or similar instruments other than third-party bank checks, on which the business association or financial organization is directly liable, shall maintain a record of the instruments while they remain outstanding, indicating the state and date of issue, for 3 years after the holder files the report.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-822. Enforcement. The administrator may maintain an action in this or another state to enforce this part. The court may award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-823. Interstate agreements and cooperation — joint and reciprocal actions with other states. (1) The administrator may enter into an agreement with another state to exchange information relating to abandoned property or its possible existence. The agreement may permit the other state, or another person acting on behalf of a state, to examine records as authorized in 70-9-820. The administrator by rule may require the reporting of information needed to enable compliance with an agreement made under this section and prescribe the form.

(2) The administrator may join with another state to seek enforcement of this part against any person that is or may be holding property reportable under this part.

(3) At the request of another state, the attorney general of this state may maintain an action on behalf of the other state to enforce, in this state, the unclaimed property laws of the other state against a holder of property subject to escheat or a claim of abandonment by the other state if the other state has agreed to pay expenses incurred by the attorney general in maintaining the action.

(4) The administrator may request that the attorney general of another state or another attorney commence an action in the other state on behalf of the administrator. With the approval of the attorney general of this state, the administrator may retain any other attorney to commence an action in this state on behalf of the administrator. This state shall pay all expenses, including attorney fees, in maintaining an action under this subsection. With the administrator's approval, the expenses and attorney fees may be paid from money received under this part. The administrator may agree to pay expenses and attorney fees based in whole or in part on a percentage of the value of any property recovered in the action. Any expenses or attorney fees paid under this subsection may not be deducted from the amount that is subject to the claim by the owner under this part.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-824. Interest and penalties. (1) A holder that fails to report, pay, or deliver property within the time prescribed by this part shall pay to the administrator interest at the annual rate of 12% on the property or value of the property from the date the property should have been reported, paid, or delivered.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), a holder that fails to report, pay, or deliver property within the time prescribed by this part, or fails to perform other duties imposed by this part, shall pay to the administrator, in addition to interest as provided in subsection (1), a civil penalty of $100 for each day the report, payment, or delivery is withheld, or the duty is not performed, up to a maximum of $2,500.

(3) A holder that willfully fails to report, pay, or deliver property within the time prescribed by this part, or willfully fails to perform other duties imposed by this part, shall pay to the

administrator, in addition to interest as provided in subsection (1), a civil penalty of $1,000 for each day the report, payment, or delivery is withheld, or the duty is not performed, up to a maximum of $25,000, plus 25% of the value of any property that should have been but was not reported.

(4) A holder that makes a fraudulent report shall pay to the administrator, in addition to interest as provided in subsection (1), a civil penalty of $1,000 for each day from the date a report under this part was due, up to a maximum of $25,000, plus 25% of the value of any property that should have been but was not reported.

(5) The administrator for good cause may waive, in whole or in part, interest under subsection (1) and penalties under subsections (2) and (3) and shall waive penalties if the holder acted in good faith and without negligence.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-825. Agreement to locate property. (1) An agreement by an owner, the primary purpose of which is to locate, deliver, recover, or assist in the recovery of property that is presumed abandoned, is void and unenforceable if it was entered into during the period commencing on the date the property was presumed abandoned and extending to a time that is 24 months after the date the property is paid or delivered to the administrator. This subsection does not apply to an owner's agreement with an attorney to file a claim as to identified property or contest the administrator's denial of a claim.

(2) An agreement by an owner, the primary purpose of which is to locate, deliver, recover, or assist in the recovery of property, is enforceable only if the agreement is in writing, clearly sets forth the nature of the property and the services to be rendered, is signed by the apparent owner, and states the value of the property before and after the fee or other compensation has been deducted.

(3) If an agreement covered by this section applies to mineral proceeds and the agreement contains a provision to pay compensation that includes a portion of the underlying minerals or any mineral proceeds not then presumed abandoned, the provision is void and unenforceable.

(4) An agreement covered by this section that provides for compensation that is unconscionable is unenforceable except by the owner. An owner who has agreed to pay compensation that is unconscionable, or the administrator on behalf of the owner, may maintain an action to reduce the compensation to a conscionable amount. The court may award reasonable attorney fees to an owner who prevails in the action.

(5) This section does not preclude an owner from asserting that an agreement covered by this section is invalid on grounds other than unconscionable compensation.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-826. Foreign transactions. This part does not apply to property held, due, and owing in a foreign country and arising out of a foreign transaction.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-827. Transitional provisions. (1) An initial report filed under this part for property that was not required to be reported before July 1, 1997, but that is subject to this part must include all items of property that would have been presumed abandoned during the 10-year period next preceding July 1, 1997, as if this part had been in effect during that period.

(2) This part does not relieve a holder of a duty that arose before July 1, 2023, to report, pay, or deliver property. Except as otherwise provided in 70-9-819(2), a holder that did not comply with the law in effect before July 1, 2023, is subject to the applicable provisions for enforcement and penalties that then existed, which are continued in effect for the purpose of this section.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 124, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 588, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-9-828. Rules. The administrator may adopt, pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, rules necessary to carry out this part.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-829. Uniformity of application and construction. This part must be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this part among states enacting it.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 124, L. 1997.

70-9-830. When security presumed abandoned. (1) A security is presumed abandoned 3 years after:

(a) except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the date a second consecutive communication sent by the holder by first-class United States mail to the apparent owner is returned to the holder undelivered by the United States postal service; or

(b) if the second communication is sent later than 30 days after the date the first communication is returned to the holder undelivered by the United States postal service, the date the first communication was returned to the holder undelivered by the United States postal service.

(2) If the holder does not send communications to the apparent owner of a security by first-class United States mail, the holder shall attempt to confirm the apparent owner's interest in the security by sending the apparent owner an electronic mail communication not later than 2 years after the apparent owner's last indication of interest in the security. However, the holder shall promptly attempt to contact the apparent owner by first-class United States mail if:

(a) the holder does not have the information needed to send the apparent owner an electronic mail communication or the holder believes that the apparent owner's electronic mail address in the holder's records is invalid;

(b) the holder receives notification that the electronic mail communication was not received; or

(c) the apparent owner does not respond to the electronic mail communication within 30 days after the communication was sent.

(3) If first-class United States mail sent under subsection (2) is returned to the holder undelivered by the United States postal service, the security is presumed abandoned 3 years after the date the mail is returned.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 588, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTERS 10 THROUGH 14
RESERVED

CHAPTER 15
DEFINITIONS AND KINDS OF ESTATES IN REAL PROPERTY

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Part 1
Real Property Defined Fixtures and Appurtenances

70-15-101. Real property defined. Real or immovable property consists of:

(1) land;
(2) that which is affixed to land;
(3) that which is incidental or appurtenant to land;
(4) that which is immovable by law.

History: En. Sec. 1074, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4425, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6667, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 658; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 163; re-en. Sec. 6667, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-207.

Cross-References

Real estate defined, 37-51-102.

70-15-102. Land defined. Land is the solid material of the earth, whatever may be the ingredients of which it is composed, whether soil, rock, or other substance.

History: En. Sec. 1075, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4426, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6668, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 659; Field Civ. C. Sec. 164; re-en. Sec. 6668, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-208.

70-15-103. Fixture defined. A thing is deemed to be affixed to land when it is:

(1) attached to it by roots, as in the case of trees, vines, or shrubs;
(2) imbedded in it, as in the case of walls;
(3) permanently resting upon it, as in the case of buildings; or
(4) permanently attached to what is thus permanent as by means of cement, plaster, nails, bolts, or screws.

History: En. Sec. 1076, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4427, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6669, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 660; Field Civ. C. Sec. 165; re-en. Sec. 6669, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-209.

70-15-104. Fixtures attached to mines. Sluice boxes, flumes, hose, pipes, railway tracks, cars, blacksmith shops, mills, and all other machinery or tools used in working or developing a mine are to be deemed affixed to the mine.

History: En. Sec. 1077, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4428, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6670, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 661; re-en. Sec. 6670, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-210.

70-15-105. Incident or appurtenance defined. A thing is deemed to be incidental or appurtenant to land when it is by right used with the land for its benefit, as in the case of a way or watercourse or of a passage for light, air, or heat from or across the land of another.

History: En. Sec. 1078, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4429, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6671, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 662; Field Civ. C. Sec. 166; re-en. Sec. 6671, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-211.

Part 2
Classification of Interests in Real Property

Part Cross-References

Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

70-15-201. Application of classifications. The names and classification of interests in real property have only such application to interests in personal property as is in this code expressly provided.

History: En. Sec. 1123, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4456, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6698, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 702; Field Civ. C. Sec. 194; re-en. Sec. 6698, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-328.

70-15-202. Enumeration of estates. Estates in real property, in respect to the duration of their enjoyment, are either:

(1) estates of inheritance or perpetual estates;

(2) estates for life;

(3) estates for years;

(4) estates from year to year, quarter to quarter, month to month, week to week, day to day, and for other indefinite and unascertained durations of enjoyment whatsoever, except estates or tenancies at will; or

(5) estates at will.

History: En. Sec. 1210, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4481, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6723, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 761; Field Civ. C. Sec. 218; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6723, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-502.

Cross-References

Quieting title to real property, Title 70, ch. 28.

70-15-203. Fee simple. Every estate of inheritance is a fee, and such estate, when not defeasible or conditional, is a fee simple or an absolute fee.

History: En. Sec. 1211, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4482, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6724, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 762; Based on Field Civ. Sec. 219; re-en. Sec. 6724, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-503.

70-15-204. Estates tail abolished — considered fee simple. Estates tail are abolished, and every estate which would be at common law adjudged to be a fee tail is a fee simple and, if no valid remainder is limited thereon, is a fee simple absolute.

History: En. Sec. 1212, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4483, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6725, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 763; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 220; re-en. Sec. 6725, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-504.

70-15-205. Remainder limited upon fee tail valid — vesting. When a remainder in fee is limited upon any estate that would by the common law be adjudged a fee tail, the remainder is valid as a contingent limitation upon a fee and vests in possession on the death of the first taker without issue living at the time of the first taker's death.

History: En. Sec. 1213, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4484, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6726, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 764; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 221; re-en. Sec. 6726, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-505; amd. Sec. 2112, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-15-206. Freehold estates — chattels real — chattel interests. Estates of inheritance and for life are called estates of freehold; estates for years and estates embraced by the provisions of 70-15-202(4) are chattels real; and estates at will are chattel interests but are not liable as such to sale on execution.

History: En. Sec. 1214, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4485, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6727, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 765; Field Civ. C. Sec. 222; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6727, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-506.

70-15-207. Estate for life of third person — freehold. An estate during the life of a third person, whether limited to heirs or otherwise, is a freehold.

History: En. Sec. 1215, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4486, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6728, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 766; re-en. Sec. 6728, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-507.

70-15-208. Term of years — suspension of absolute ownership. The absolute ownership of a term of years cannot be suspended for a longer period than the absolute power of alienation can be suspended in respect to a fee.

History: En. Sec. 1219, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4490, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6732, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 770; re-en. Sec. 6732, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-511.

Cross-References

Conditions and limitations of ownership, Title 70, ch. 1, part 4.

70-15-209. Future estate — right of possession at future day. A future estate may be limited by the act of the party to commence in possession at a future day, either without the intervention of a precedent estate or on the termination by lapse of time or otherwise of a precedent estate created at the same time.

History: En. Sec. 1216, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4487, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6729, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 767; Field Civ. C. Sec. 224; re-en. Sec. 6729, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-508.

Cross-References

Future interest — to what entitles owner, 70-1-317.

70-15-210. Reversion. A reversion is the residue of an estate left by operation of law in the grantor or the grantor's successors or in the successors of a testator, commencing in possession on the determination of a particular estate granted or devised.

History: En. Sec. 1217, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4488, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6730, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 768; Field Civ. C. Sec. 225; re-en. Sec. 6730, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-509; amd. Sec. 2113, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-15-211. Remainder. When a future estate, other than a reversion, is dependent on a precedent estate, it may be called a remainder and may be created and transferred by that name.

History: En. Sec. 1218, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4489, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6731, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 769; Field Civ. C. Sec. 226; re-en. Sec. 6731, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-510.

70-15-212. Future and contingent estates — how created. Subject to the rules of parts 1, 3, and 4 of chapter 1, parts 1 and 2 of this chapter, and part 1 of chapter 17:

(1) a freehold estate, as well as a chattel real, may be created to commence at a future day;

(2) an estate for life may be created in a term of years and a remainder limited thereon;

(3) a remainder of a freehold or chattel real, either contingent or vested, may be created, expectant on the determination of a term of years; and

(4) a fee may be limited on a fee upon a contingency which, if it should occur, must happen within the period prescribed in this code.

History: En. Sec. 1222, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4493, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6735, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 773; Field Civ. C. Sec. 230; re-en. Sec. 6735, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-514.

70-15-213. Remainder upon a contingency. A remainder may be limited on a contingency which, in case it should happen, will operate to abridge or determine the precedent estate, and every such remainder is to be deemed a conditional limitation.

History: En. Sec. 1227, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4498, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6740, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 778; Field Civ. C. Sec. 236; re-en. Sec. 6740, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-519.

70-15-214. Remainder not upon a contingency — when to take effect. When a remainder of an estate for life or for years is not limited on a contingency defeating or avoiding such precedent estate, it is to be deemed intended to take effect only on the death of the first taker or the expiration by lapse of time of such term of years.

History: En. Sec. 1229, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4500, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6742, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 780; Field Civ. C. Sec. 238; re-en. Sec. 6742, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-521.

70-15-215. Remainder to heirs of tenant for life — effect of. When a remainder is limited to the heirs or heirs of the body of a person to whom a life estate in the same property is given, the persons who on the termination of the life estate are the successors or heirs of the body of the owner for life are entitled to take by virtue of the remainder so limited to them and not as mere successors of the owner for life.

History: En. Sec. 1228, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4499, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6741, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 779; Field Civ. C. Sec. 237; re-en. Sec. 6741, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-520.

70-15-216. When vesting of future estate not prevented by power of appointment. A general or special power of appointment does not prevent the vesting of a future estate limited to take effect in case such power is not executed.

History: En. Sec. 1230, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4501, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6743, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 781; Field Civ. C. Sec. 239; re-en. Sec. 6743, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-522.

Part 3
Powers

70-15-301. Power defined. A "power", as the term is used in this part, is an authority to do some act in relation to real property or to the creation or revocation of an estate in or a charge on the real property that the owner granting or reserving the power might personally perform for any purpose.

History: En. Sec. 1330, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4551, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6798, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 302; re-en. Sec. 6798, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-901; amd. Sec. 2114, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-15-302. Who may not execute power. A power cannot be executed by any person not capable of disposing of real property.

History: En. Sec. 1331, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4552, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6799, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 319; re-en. Sec. 6799, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-902.

70-15-303. Married persons — execution. A married person may execute a power during marriage without the concurrence of the spouse unless otherwise prescribed by the terms of the power.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1332, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4553, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6800, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 320; re-en. Sec. 6800, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 67-903, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1333, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4554, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6801, R.C.M. 1921; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 321; re-en. Sec. 6801, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 535, L. 1975; Sec. 67-904, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 67-903, 67-904; amd. Sec. 2115, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-15-304. Power — how executed. A power can be executed only by a written instrument which would be sufficient to pass the estate or interest intended to pass under the power if the person executing the power were the actual owner.

History: En. Sec. 1334, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4555, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6802, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 322; re-en. Sec. 6802, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-905.

Cross-References

What contracts must be in writing, 28-2-903.

CHAPTER 16

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS INCIDENTAL TO OWNERSHIP IN REAL PROPERTY

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70-16-702. Definitions.
70-16-703. Mold disclosure statement on real estate documents — disclosure of prior testing — immunity from liability.

Chapter Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-16-101. Rights of owner in fee — above and below surface. The owner of land in fee has the right to the surface and to everything permanently situated beneath or above it.

History: En. Sec. 1290, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4528, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6770, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 829; Field Civ. C. Sec. 266; re-en. Sec. 6770, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-711.

70-16-102. Rights of life tenant. The owner of a life estate may use the land in the same manner as the owner of a fee simple, except that the owner of the life estate may not do an act to the injury of the inheritance.

History: En. Sec. 1270, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4518, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6760, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Sec. 818; Field Civ. C. Sec. 257; re-en. Sec. 6760, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-701; amd. Sec. 2116, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-103. Duties of life tenant. The owner of a life estate must keep the buildings and fences in repair from ordinary waste and must pay the taxes and other annual charges and a just proportion of extraordinary assessments benefiting the whole inheritance.

History: En. Sec. 1300, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4534, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6776, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 840; Field Civ. C. Sec. 272; re-en. Sec. 6776, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-801.

70-16-104. Rights of tenant for years or at will. (1) A tenant for years or at will, unless the tenant is a wrongdoer by holding over, may occupy the buildings, take the annual products of the soil, and work mines and quarries open at the commencement of the tenancy. A tenant at will or for an indefinite term may cultivate and harvest the crops growing at the end of the tenancy.

(2) A tenant for years or at will has no other rights to the property than those given to the tenant by the agreement or instrument by which the tenancy is acquired or by subsection (1).

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to arrangements governed by Title 70, chapter 24.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1271, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4519, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6761, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 819; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 258; re-en. Sec. 6761, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-702, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1272, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4520, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6762, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 820; Field Civ. C. Sec. 259; re-en. Sec. 6762, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-703, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 67-702, 67-703; (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2117, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

The Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, Title 70, ch. 24.
Landlord and tenant — supplementary provisions, Title 70, ch. 26.
Forcible entry and detainer — unlawful detainer, Title 70, ch. 27.

70-16-105. Remedy of person having remainder or reversion. A person having an estate in fee in remainder or reversion may maintain an action for any injury done to the inheritance, notwithstanding an intervening estate for life or years and although, after its commission, the person's estate is transferred and the person does not have an interest in the property at the commencement of the action.

History: En. Sec. 1278, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4526, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6768, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 826; Field Civ. C. Sec. 265; re-en. Sec. 6768, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-709; amd. Sec. 2118, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-106. Action for waste — treble damages. If a guardian, tenant for life or years, joint tenant, or tenant in common of real property commits waste of the property, any person aggrieved by the waste may bring an action against that person. The judgment in the action may be for treble damages.

History: En. Sec. 229, p. 91, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 250, p. 187, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 299, p. 93, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 350, p. 137, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 350, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 362, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1301, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6866, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9475, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 732; re-en. Sec. 9475, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6102; amd. Sec. 2119, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Statutes of limitation, Title 27, ch. 2, part 2.
Action by or against joint tenants or tenants in common, 70-1-310.
Abuse of property held jointly or in common — mining property, 70-19-202.

70-16-107. Trespass for taking timber. A person who cuts down or carries off any wood, underwood, tree, or timber or girdles or otherwise injures any tree or timber on the land of another person, on the street or highway in front of any person's house or town or city lot, on cultivated grounds or on the commons or public grounds of any city or town, or on the street or highway of any city or town, without lawful authority, is liable to the owner of the land or to the city or town for:

(1) the amount of the damages incurred if the trespass was casual and inadvertent or committed under the belief that the land belonged to the trespasser or if the wood was taken by the authority of state or local government officers or employees for the purposes of a highway; or

(2) treble the amount of damages incurred if the trespass was willful, wanton, or malicious.

History: (1)En. Sec. 230, p. 91, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 251, p. 187, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 300, p. 93, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 351, p. 137, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 351, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 363, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1302, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6867, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9476, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 733; re-en. Sec. 9476, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6103, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 231, p. 91, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 252, p. 187, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 301, p. 93, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 352, p. 137, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 352, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 364, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1303, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6868, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9477, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 734; re-en. Sec. 9477, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6104, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6103, 93-6104; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2005.

70-16-108. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 4352, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6078, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8696, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3346; Field. Civ. C. Sec. 1871; re-en. Sec. 8696, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 17-503.

70-16-109. Summary proceedings for possession — where provisions found. Summary proceedings for obtaining possession of real property forcibly entered or forcibly and unlawfully detained are provided for in chapter 27.

History: En. Sec. 1243, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4505, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6747, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 792; re-en. Sec. 6747, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-526.

Cross-References

Wrongful occupation of real property, 27-1-318.

70-16-110 reserved.

70-16-111. Entry to property by professional land surveyor or other qualified person — trespass exception — notice — liability. (1) Subject to the conditions and restrictions of this section, the provisions of 45-6-203 do not apply to a person who is licensed or registered under Title 37, chapter 67, part 3, as a professional land surveyor, as defined in 37-67-101, or to a person acting under the direct supervision of a professional land surveyor as an employee, agent, or representative.

(2) A person qualified under subsection (1) may enter public or private land to investigate and use boundary evidence and perform boundary surveys if the notice requirements of subsection (3) are met.

(3) (a) At least 15 days before the desired date of entry to land, a professional land surveyor shall give notice to the owner of the land, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice must contain the following information:

(i) the identity of the person for whom the survey is being performed;

(ii) the purpose for which the survey is being performed;

(iii) the name of the employer of the professional land surveyor;

(iv) the identity of the professional land surveyor;

(v) the dates, times, and location of entry to the land, including the estimated number of entries;

(vi) a timetable for completion of the survey, including an estimated completion date; and

(vii) a statement requesting the landowner to provide the surveyor with the name of each person who occupies the land as a tenant or lessee.

(b) A landowner may waive the notice requirement of this subsection (3), either orally or in writing.

(c) This section does not impose liability upon a landowner who fails or refuses to provide the requested entry.

(4) (a) If a landowner does not acknowledge receipt of the notice within 15 days, a person qualified under subsection (1) may enter the land pursuant to the specifications given in the notice.

(b) If a landowner acknowledges receipt of the notice within 15 days, the landowner may modify the access provisions of the notice, as long as the modifications do not unreasonably restrict completion of the survey.

(5) Persons qualified under subsection (1) who enter land pursuant to this section shall carry on their person identification sufficient to identify themselves and their employer or principal and shall present the identification upon request.

(6) Vehicular access to perform surveys is limited to established roads and trails, unless approval for other vehicular access is granted by the landowner.

(7) Approval of the landowner is required for the clearing of trees, brush, or other vegetation.

(8) A landowner may request a person qualified under subsection (1) who enters land pursuant to this section to wash any vehicle prior to entry in order to remove mud and debris that might carry noxious weeds or noxious weed seeds. The person may request that the landowner be present at the time of any entry to inspect the vehicle under the terms of this subsection.

(9) Entry upon land for survey purposes by a person qualified under subsection (1) creates a rebuttable presumption that the landowner or lessee properly protected the person against personal injury or property damage while the person was on the land.

(10) As an act of good will and in order to keep the landowner informed, a professional land surveyor shall supply the landowner with information on located, established, or reestablished corners that lie on the land or that may affect the boundaries of the land. Upon request, the professional land surveyor shall provide the landowner with a copy of any relevant survey filed or recorded.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 604, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Limitations on actions arising out of work on improvements to real property, 27-2-208.
Professional land surveyor defined, 37-67-101.
Criminal trespass to property, 45-6-203.
Surveying — actions arising from, 70-28-113.

Part 2
Adjoining Landowners and Boundaries — Fences

Part Cross-References

Fences, Title 81, ch. 4, part 1.

70-16-201. Owner of land bounded by water. Except where the grant under which the land is held indicates a different intent, the owner of the land, when it borders upon a navigable lake or stream, takes to the edge of the lake or stream at low-water mark; when it borders upon any other water, the owner takes to the middle of the lake or stream.

History: En. Sec. 1291, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4529, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6771, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 830; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 267; re-en. Sec. 6771, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-712.

Cross-References

Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Access to surface waters by public bridge or county road right-of-way, 23-2-312.
Public ways, 85-1-111.
Navigable waters, 85-1-112.

70-16-202. Owner of land bounded by road. An owner of land bounded by a road or street is presumed to own to the center thereof, but the contrary may be shown.

History: En. Sec. 1292, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4530, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6772, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 831; Field Civ. C. Sec. 268; re-en. Sec. 6772, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-713.

70-16-203. Adjoining owner's right to lateral and subjacent support — excavations. Each coterminous owner is entitled to the lateral and subjacent support that the owner's land receives from the adjoining land, subject to the right of the owner of the adjoining land to make proper and usual excavations on the adjoining land for the purposes of construction, on using ordinary care and skill and taking reasonable precautions to sustain the land of the other and giving previous reasonable notice to the other of the intention to make the excavations.

History: En. Sec. 1293, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4531, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6773, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 832; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 269; re-en. Sec. 6773, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-714; amd. Sec. 2120, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-204. Trees on or near boundary. (1) Trees whose trunks stand partly on the land of two or more coterminous owners belong to them in common.

(2) Trees whose trunks stand wholly upon the land of one owner belong exclusively to that landowner, although their roots grow into the land of another.

History: En. Secs. 1294, 1295, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 4532, 4533, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 6774, 6775, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 833, 834; Field Civ. C. Secs. 270, 271; re-en. Secs. 6774, 6775, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-715, 67-716; amd. Sec. 2121, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-205. Monuments and fences — mutual obligation of adjoining owners. (1) Coterminous owners are mutually bound equally to maintain:

(a) the boundaries and monuments between them;

(b) the fences between them, unless one of them chooses to let that owner's land lie without fencing, in which case if that owner afterwards encloses it, that owner shall refund to the other owner a just proportion of the value, at that time, of any division fence made by the other owner. However, using land for grazing or pasturage of any kind must be considered a usage of the land, and the land may not be considered as lying idle under the provisions of this section.

(2) Except as provided by prescription, custom, or agreement between coterminous owners, each coterminous owner shall maintain all fencing to the right of the midpoint of the common boundary line as viewed from the owner's land. If the land of one owner is entirely surrounded by the land of another, each owner shall maintain all fencing to the right, as viewed from the owner's land, of the northeastern corner of the surrounded land or, if there is more than one northeastern corner, then from the northernmost northeastern corner to a point midway around the surrounded land. If there is a substantial difference in terrain or topographical features of the land between the coterminous owners, responsibility for maintaining the fence must be determined by mutual agreement with consideration given to factors such as cost and time.

History: En. Sec. 1301, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4535, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 6777, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 841; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 273; re-en. Sec. 6777, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-802; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 402, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2122, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-206. Partition fences required — adjoining lands previously enclosed. The occupants of adjoining lands enclosed with fences must build and maintain partition fences between their own and the next adjoining enclosure in equal shares so long as both continue to enclose the same, and such partition fence must be kept in good repair throughout the year unless the occupants otherwise mutually agree.

History: En. Sec. 1114, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3253, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2085, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6778, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6778, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-803.

70-16-207. Occupant of land adjoining enclosure of another — when required to share expense of partition fence. If any occupant of land adjoining the enclosure of another encloses the land, upon the enclosure of the other person, the occupant shall within 3 months build the occupant's proportion of the partition fence or refund to the owner of the fence an equal proportion of the value, at that time, of any partition fence of the adjoining occupant.

History: En. Sec. 1115, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3254, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2086, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6779, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6779, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-804; amd. Sec. 2123, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-208. Partition fence when common occupancy ceases. Whenever any lands belonging to different persons in severalty have been enclosed and occupied in common or without a partition fence between them and one of the occupants desires to occupy that occupant's part in severalty, the other occupant shall, within 6 months after being notified in writing, build and maintain the other occupant's proportion of the partition fence as may be necessary for that purpose, and in case of neglect or refusal so to do, the person giving the notice may build the fence at the expense of the person neglecting or refusing. The amount expended may be recovered in an action, together with all damages that person may sustain on account of the neglect or refusal.

History: En. Sec. 1116, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3255, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2087, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6780, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6780, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-805; amd. Sec. 2124, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-16-209. Repair or rebuilding of partition fences. If a person neglects or refuses to repair or rebuild any partition fence that by law the person ought to build or maintain, the occupant of the adjoining land may, after giving 60 days' notice that a new fence should be erected or 5 days' notice in writing that the repairing of the fence is necessary, build or repair the fence at the expense of the party neglecting or refusing. The amount expended may be recovered from the neglecting or refusing party after receipt of the notice, and the neglecting or refusing party is liable to the party injured for all damages sustained by the neglect or refusal.

History: **En. Sec. 1118, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3257, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2089, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6782, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6782, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-807; amd. Sec. 2125, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-16-210. Removal of partition fence. If the occupants of adjoining lands build their respective portions of a partition fence and either of them at any time desires to let the land occupied by that person lie open, that person may, after having given to the occupants of the adjoining land at least 6 months' notice of the intention so to do, remove that person's proportion of the partition fence unless the adjoining occupant pays or tenders to that person the value of the fence. If the fence is removed without notice or after payment or tender of the value, the person removing the fence is liable to the person injured for all damages the injured person may sustain.

History: **En. Sec. 1117, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3256, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2088, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6781, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6781, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-806; amd. Sec. 2126, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 3
Gratuitous Permittee for Recreation

Part Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Restriction on liability of landowner and supervisor, 23-2-321.
Smith River Management Act, Title 23, ch. 2, part 4.
Liability, Title 27, ch. 1, part 7.

70-16-301. Recreational purposes defined. "Recreational purposes", as used in this part, includes hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, waterskiing, camping, picnicking, pleasure driving, biking, winter sports, hiking, touring or viewing cultural and historical sites and monuments, spelunking, or other pleasure expeditions. The term includes the private, noncommercial flying of aircraft in relation to private land.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-809; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 531, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 264, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Recreational use defined, 23-2-301.

70-16-302. *(Temporary)* **Restriction on liability of landowner — definitions.** (1) A person who uses property, including property owned or leased by a public entity, for recreational purposes, with or without permission, does so without any assurance from the landowner that the property is safe for any purpose if the person does not give a valuable consideration to the landowner in exchange for the recreational use of the property. The landowner owes the person no duty of care with respect to the condition of the property, except that the landowner is liable to the person for any injury to person or property for an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. For purposes of this section, valuable consideration does not include the state land recreational use license fee imposed under 77-1-802 or other funds provided under 77-1-815.

(2) As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) (i) "Airstrip" means improved or unimproved landing areas on private land used by pilots to land, park, take off, unload, load, and taxi aircraft.

(ii) The term does not include municipal airports governed under Title 67, chapter 10, part 1.

(b) "Flying of aircraft" means the operation of aircraft, including but not limited to landing, parking, taking off, unloading, loading, and taxiing of aircraft at an airstrip.

(c) "Landowner" means a person or entity of any nature, whether private, governmental, or quasi-governmental, and includes the landowner's agent, tenant, lessee, occupant, grantee of conservation easement, water users' association, irrigation district, drainage district, and persons or entities in control of the property or with an agreement to use or occupy property.

(d) "Property" means land, roads, airstrips, water, watercourses, and private ways. The term includes any improvements, buildings, structures, machinery, and equipment on property.

(3) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks, when operating under an agreement with a landowner or tenant to provide recreational snowmobiling opportunities, including but not limited to a snowmobile area, subject to the provisions of subsection (1), on the landowner's property and when not also acting as a snowmobile area operator on the property, does not extend any assurance that the property is safe for any purpose, and the department, the landowner, or the landowner's tenant may not be liable to any person for any injury to person or property resulting from any act or omission of the department unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

70-16-302. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Restriction on liability of landowner — definitions.** (1) A person who uses property, including property owned or leased by a public entity, for recreational purposes, with or without permission, does so without any assurance from the landowner that the property is safe for any purpose if the person does not give a valuable consideration to the landowner in exchange for the recreational use of the property. The landowner owes the person no duty of care with respect to the condition of the property, except that the landowner is liable to the person for any injury to person or property for an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. For purposes of this section, valuable consideration does not include the state land recreational use license fee imposed under 77-1-802.

(2) As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) (i) "Airstrip" means either improved or unimproved landing areas on private land used by pilots to land, park, take off, unload, load, and taxi aircraft.

(ii) The term does not include municipal airports governed under Title 67, chapter 10, part 1.

(b) "Flying of aircraft" means the operation of aircraft, including but not limited to landing, parking, taking off, unloading, loading, and taxiing of aircraft at an airstrip.

(c) "Landowner" means a person or entity of any nature, whether private, governmental, or quasi-governmental, and includes the landowner's agent, tenant, lessee, occupant, grantee of conservation easement, water users' association, irrigation district, drainage district, and persons or entities in control of the property or with an agreement to use or occupy property.

(d) "Property" means land, roads, airstrips, water, watercourses, and private ways. The term includes any improvements, buildings, structures, machinery, and equipment on property.

(3) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks, when operating under an agreement with a landowner or tenant to provide recreational snowmobiling opportunities, including but not limited to a snowmobile area, subject to the provisions of subsection (1), on the landowner's property and when not also acting as a snowmobile area operator on the property, does not extend any assurance that the property is safe for any purpose, and the department, the landowner, or the landowner's tenant may not be liable to any person for any injury to person or property resulting from any act or omission of the department unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-808; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 209, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 440, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 303, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 596, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 353, L. 2007.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

Cross-References

Responsibility and liability of snowmobile area operators, 23-2-651 through 23-2-655.

Part 4
Right of Reentry

70-16-401. Reentry — when and how to be made. Whenever the right of reentry is given to the grantor or lessor in any grant or lease or otherwise, such reentry may be made at any time after the right has accrued, upon 3 days' notice, as provided in chapter 27.

History: En. Sec. 1242, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4504, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6746, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 791; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 243; re-en. Sec. 6746, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-525.

Cross-References

Forcible entry and detainer — unlawful detainer, Title 70, ch. 27.

70-16-402. Action for possession under right of reentry — notice not required. An action for the possession of real property leased or granted with a right of reentry may be maintained at any time in the district court, after the right to reenter has accrued, without the notice prescribed in 70-16-401.

History: En. Sec. 1244, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4506, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6748, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 793; Field Civ. C. Sec. 244; re-en. Sec. 6748, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-527.

Parts 5 and 6 reserved

Part 7
Montana Mold Disclosure Act

70-16-701. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Mold Disclosure Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 584, L. 2003.

70-16-702. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Inhabitable real property" means any real property that includes a building affixed to land. The building must be designed to be primarily occupied by humans, either as a dwelling or as a place of business.

(2) "Mold" means any mold, fungus, mildew, or spores.

(3) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, consultant, state or municipal agency, political subdivision of the state, or any other entity.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 584, L. 2003.

70-16-703. Mold disclosure statement on real estate documents — disclosure of prior testing — immunity from liability. (1) A mold disclosure statement may be provided on at least one document, form, or application executed prior to or contemporaneously with an offer for the purchase and sale, rental, or lease of inhabitable real property. The seller, landlord, seller's agent, buyer's agent, or property manager may provide the following disclosure statement to the buyer or tenant, and the buyer or tenant shall acknowledge receipt of this disclosure statement by signing a copy of the disclosure statement:

"MOLD DISCLOSURE: There are many types of mold. Inhabitable properties are not, and cannot be, constructed to exclude mold. Moisture is one of the most significant factors contributing to mold growth. Information about controlling mold growth may be available from your county extension agent or health department. Certain strains of mold may cause damage to property and may adversely affect the health of susceptible persons, including allergic reactions that may include skin, eye, nose, and throat irritation. Certain strains of mold may cause infections, particularly in individuals with suppressed immune systems. Some experts contend that certain strains of mold may cause serious and even life-threatening diseases. However, experts do not agree about the nature and extent of the health problems caused by mold or about the level of mold exposure that may cause health problems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is studying the link between mold and serious health conditions. The seller, landlord, seller's agent, buyer's agent, or property manager cannot and does not represent or warrant the absence of mold. It is the buyer's or tenant's obligation to determine whether a mold problem is present. To do so, the buyer or tenant should hire a qualified inspector and make any contract to purchase, rent, or lease contingent upon the results of that inspection. A seller, landlord, seller's agent, buyer's agent, or property manager who provides this mold disclosure statement, provides for the disclosure of any prior testing and any subsequent mitigation or treatment for mold, and discloses any knowledge of mold is not liable in any action based on the presence of or propensity for mold in a building that is subject to any contract to purchase, rent, or lease."

(2) Whenever a seller or landlord or an agent of either has knowledge that a building has mold present, the seller, landlord, or agent of either shall, prior to or upon entry into a contract for the purchase, rent, or lease, disclose to the buyer or renter the presence of the mold. Whenever a seller or landlord knows that a building has been tested for mold, the seller or landlord, prior to or upon entry into a contract for the purchase, rent, or lease of that building, shall advise the buyer or tenant that testing has occurred and shall provide to the buyer or tenant a copy of the results of that test, if available to the seller or landlord, and evidence of any subsequent mitigation or treatment. A prospective buyer or tenant who contracts for the testing may receive the results of that testing and shall provide a copy of the results of that test, if available, to the seller or landlord. The furnishing of test results and evidence of mitigation or treatment is not to be construed as a promise, warranty, or representation of any sort by the seller, landlord, seller's agent, buyer's agent, or property manager that the test results are accurate or that the mitigation or treatment is effective. This section does not create a contingency on the purchase of the property or any right to rescind a contract for purchase unless the contingency or right to rescind is an express term of the applicable contract.

(3) A seller, landlord, seller's agent, buyer's agent, or property manager who provides the disclosure in subsection (1) and complies with subsection (2) is not liable in any action based on the presence of or propensity for mold in the building.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 584, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 17
SERVITUDES, EASEMENTS, AND COVENANTS RUNNING WITH THE LAND

Part 1 — Servitudes — Easements

70-17-101. Servitudes attached to land.
70-17-102. Servitudes not attached to land.
70-17-103. Dominant and servient tenement.
70-17-104. Who may grant servitude.
70-17-105. Who may not hold servitude.
70-17-106. Extent of servitude.
70-17-107. Apportionment of burden upon partition of dominant tenement.
70-17-108. Rights of owner of future estate in dominant tenement.
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Part 2 — Covenants Running With the Land

70-17-201. Nature and effect.
70-17-202. Covenants specified in this part as exclusive.
70-17-203. Covenants that run with land.
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70-17-210. Covenant enforcement and abandonment.

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70-17-216. Home-based child care.

Part 3 — Solar Easements

70-17-301. Creation of solar easements.
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Part 4 — Wind Energy Easements

70-17-401. Short title.
70-17-402. Definitions.
70-17-403. Wind easement creation — terms.
70-17-404. Severance of wind energy rights limited.
70-17-405. Wind option agreements — contents and requirements — notarization.
70-17-406. Wind energy agreement — contents and requirements — notarization.
70-17-407. Wind energy agreements — grandfather clause.
70-17-408. Preservation of property rights.

Parts 5 through 8 reserved

Part 9 — Restrictions Pertaining to Homeowners' Associations

70-17-901. Homeowners' association restrictions — real property rights.

Part 1
Servitudes — Easements

Part Cross-References

Implied covenants — free from encumbrance, 70-20-304.
Easements to pass with property, 70-20-308.
Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

70-17-101. Servitudes attached to land. The following land burdens or servitudes upon land may be attached to other land as incidents or appurtenances and are then called easements:

(1) the right of pasture;
(2) the right of fishing;
(3) the right of taking game;
(4) the right-of-way;
(5) the right of taking water, wood, minerals, and other things;
(6) the right of transacting business upon land;
(7) the right of conducting lawful sports upon land;
(8) the right of receiving air, light, or heat from or over or discharging the same upon or over land;
(9) the right of receiving water from or discharging the same upon land;
(10) the right of flooding land;
(11) the right of having water flow without diminution or disturbance of any kind;
(12) the right of using a wall as a party wall;
(13) the right of receiving more than natural support from adjacent land or things affixed thereto;
(14) the right of having the whole of a division fence maintained by a coterminous owner;
(15) the right of having public conveyances stopped or of stopping the same on land;
(16) the right of a seat in church;
(17) the right of burial;
(18) the right of conserving open space to preserve park, recreational, historic, aesthetic, cultural, and natural values on or related to land;
(19) the right of receiving sunlight or wind for recognized nonfossil forms of energy generation; and
(20) the right of using land adjacent to a firearms shooting range as a range safety zone.

History: En. Sec. 1250, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4507, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6749, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 801; Field Civ. C. Sec. 245; re-en. Sec. 6749, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 67-601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Covenants running with land, Title 70, ch. 17, part 2.

70-17-102. Servitudes not attached to land. The following land burdens or servitudes upon land may be granted and held though not attached to land:

(1) the right of pasture and of fishing and taking game;
(2) the right of a seat in church;
(3) the right of burial;
(4) the right of taking rents and tolls;
(5) the right-of-way;
(6) the right of taking water, wood, minerals, or other things;
(7) the right of conserving open space to preserve park, recreational, historic, aesthetic, cultural, and natural values on or related to land.

History: En. Sec. 1251, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4508, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6750, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 802; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 246; re-en. Sec. 6750, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 67-602.

70-17-103. Dominant and servient tenement. The land to which an easement is attached is called the dominant tenement. The land upon which a burden or servitude is held is called the servient tenement.

History: En. Sec. 1252, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4509, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6751, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 803; Field Civ. C. Sec. 247; re-en. Sec. 6751, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-603.

70-17-104. Who may grant servitude. A servitude can be created only by one who has a vested estate in the servient tenement.

History: En. Sec. 1253, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4510, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6752, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 804; Field Civ. C. Sec. 248; re-en. Sec. 6752, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-604.

70-17-105. Who may not hold servitude. A servitude thereon cannot be held by the owner of the servient tenement.

History: En. Sec. 1254, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4511, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6753, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 805; Field Civ. C. Sec. 249; re-en. Sec. 6753, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-605.

70-17-106. Extent of servitude. (1) Except as otherwise provided in 23-2-312, 23-2-322, and this section, the extent of a servitude is determined by the terms of the grant or the nature of the enjoyment by which it was acquired.

(2) A servitude granted, either by the terms of the grant or by the nature of the enjoyment, to a local, state, or federal government body for administrative purposes does not create a right to use the servitude for any other purpose unless specifically provided for in writing in the grant.

(3) The holder of a written servitude may not use the servitude to grant additional rights and privileges to a successor or assignee unless the successor or assignee is specifically provided for in writing in the grant.

History: En. Sec. 1255, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4512, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6754, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 806; Field Civ. C. Sec. 250; re-en. Sec. 6754, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-606; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 453, L. 2021.

70-17-107. Apportionment of burden upon partition of dominant tenement. In case of partition of the dominant tenement, the burden must be apportioned according to the division of the dominant tenement but not in such a way as to increase the burden upon the servient tenement.

History: En. Sec. 1256, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4513, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6755, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 807; Field Civ. C. Sec. 251; re-en. Sec. 6755, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-607.

70-17-108. Rights of owner of future estate in dominant tenement. The owner of a future estate in a dominant tenement may use easements attached thereto for the purpose of viewing waste, demanding rent, or removing an obstruction to the enjoyment of such easements although such tenement is occupied by a tenant.

History: En. Sec. 1257, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4514, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6756, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 808; Field Civ. C. Sec. 252; re-en. Sec. 6756, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-608.

70-17-109. Who may bring action to enforce easement. The owner of any estate in a dominant tenement or the occupant of such tenement may maintain an action for the enforcement of an easement attached thereto.

History: En. Sec. 1258, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4515, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6757, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 809; Field Civ. C. Sec. 253; re-en. Sec. 6757, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-609, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 62-617 by Sec. 15, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-617.

70-17-110. Action by owner of servient tenement for possession. The owner in fee of a servient tenement may maintain an action for the possession of the land against any one unlawfully possessed thereof though a servitude exists thereon in favor of the public.

History: En. Sec. 1259, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4516, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6758, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 810; Field Civ. C. Sec. 254; re-en. Sec. 6758, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-610.

70-17-111. How servitude extinguished. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a servitude is extinguished:

(a) by the vesting of the right to the servitude and the right to the servient tenement in the same person;

(b) by the destruction of the servient tenement;

(c) by the performance of any act upon either tenement by the owner of the servitude or with the owner's assent that is incompatible with its nature or exercise; or

(d) when the servitude was acquired by enjoyment, by disuse of the servitude by the owner of the servitude for the period prescribed for acquiring title by enjoyment.

(2) A conservation easement may not be extinguished by taking fee title to the land to which the conservation easement is attached.

History: En. Sec. 1260, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4517, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6759, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 811; Field Civ. C. Sec. 255; re-en. Sec. 6759, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-611; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 352, L. 2007.

70-17-112. Interference with canal or ditch easements prohibited. (1) A person with a canal or ditch easement has a secondary easement to enter, inspect, repair, and maintain a canal or ditch or to operate the appropriation works.

(2) A person may not encroach upon or otherwise impair any easement for a canal or ditch used for irrigation or any other lawful domestic or commercial purpose, including carrying return water.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) do not apply if the holder of the canal or ditch easement consents in writing to the encroachment or impairment.

(4) Each canal or ditch easement obtained by prescription or conveyance is included within the scope of this section. Nothing in this section establishes a secondary easement where none existed prior to April 14, 1981. This section does not affect contracts or agreements concluded prior to April 14, 1981.

(5) If a legal action is brought to enforce the provisions of this section, the prevailing party is entitled to costs and reasonable attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Obstruction as nuisance, 27-30-101.

70-17-113. Prohibited easement. If an existing road or road easement provides access to a lot in a platted residential subdivision, the owner of a lot or parcel in a platted residential subdivision may not obtain a prescriptive easement for ingress or egress to the lot if the prescriptive easement crosses other lots or parcels in the platted residential subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 2021.

70-17-114. Easement signage. The owner of a servient tenement may place private property signage along the servitude boundary to ensure those persons or entities using the servitude understand the servitude boundary.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 2021.

70-17-115. State acquisition of land subject to prescriptive easement. Acquisition by the state of land subject to a prescriptive easement does not terminate the prescriptive easement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Covenants Running With the Land

Part Cross-References
Breach of covenants in grants of estates in real property, 27-1-316.
Joint obligations and covenants to be taken as joint and several, 28-1-302.
What included in authority to sell real property, 28-10-422.
Usual common-law covenants required by such contracts — when, 30-11-109.
Form of covenants, 30-11-110.

70-17-201. Nature and effect. Certain covenants contained in grants of estates in real property are appurtenant to such estates and pass with them so as to bind the assigns of the covenantor and to vest in the assigns of the covenantee in the same manner as if they had personally entered into them. Such covenants are said to run with the land.

History: En. Sec. 1983, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4914, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7416, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1460; Field Civ. C. Sec. 691; re-en. Sec. 7416, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-304.

70-17-202. Covenants specified in this part as exclusive. The only covenants which run with the land are those specified in this part and those which are incidental thereto.

History: En. Sec. 1984, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4915, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7417, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1461; Field Civ. C. Sec. 692; re-en. Sec. 7417, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-305.

Cross-References
Easements to run with land, 76-6-209.

70-17-203. Covenants that run with land. (1) Except as provided in 70-1-522 and 70-17-212, every covenant contained in a grant of an estate in real property that is made for the direct benefit of the property or some part of the property then in existence runs with the land.

(2) Subsection (1) includes:

(a) covenants of warranty, for quiet enjoyment, or for further assurance on the part of the grantor and covenants for the payment of rent or of taxes or assessments upon the land on the part of a grantee;

(b) conservation easements pursuant to 76-6-209;

(c) a dedication of open space as provided in 76-3-509; and

(d) wind easements pursuant to Title 70, chapter 17, part 4.

(3) A covenant for the addition of some new thing to real property or for the direct benefit of some part of the property not then in existence or annexed to the property, when contained in a grant of an estate in the property and made by the covenantor expressly for the covenantor's assigns or to the assigns of the covenantee, runs with the land so far as the assigns mentioned are concerned.

History: En. Secs. 1985, 1986, 1987, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 4916, 4917, 4918, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 7418, 7419, 7420, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1462, 1463, 1464; Field Civ. C. Secs. 693, 694, 695; re-en. Secs. 7418, 7419, 7420, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-306, 58-307, 58-308; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 352, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 307, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 249, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 259, L. 2011.

Cross-References
Easements to run with land, 76-6-209.

70-17-204. Who bound by covenant. Except as provided in 70-1-522, a covenant running with the land binds only those who acquire the whole estate of the covenantor in some part of the property.

History: En. Sec. 1988, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4919, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7421, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1465; Field Civ. C. Sec. 696; re-en. Sec. 7421, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-309; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-17-205. Nonliability for prior or subsequent breach. A person, merely by reason of having acquired an estate subject to a covenant running with the land, is not liable for a breach of the covenant before the person acquired the estate or after the person has parted with the estate or ceased to enjoy its benefits.

History: En. Sec. 1989, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4920, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7422, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1466; Field Civ. C. Sec. 697; re-en. Sec. 7422, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-310; amd. Sec. 2127, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-17-206. Apportionment of burdens and benefits. Except as provided in 70-1-522, if several persons holding by several titles are subject to the burden or entitled to the benefits of a covenant running with the land, the covenant must be apportioned among them according to the value of the property subject to it held by them respectively if the value can be ascertained and, if not, then according to their respective interests in point of quantity.

History: **En. Sec. 1990, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4921, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7423, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1467; Field Civ. C. Sec. 698; re-en. Sec. 7423, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 58-311; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 307, L. 2009.**

70-17-207 through 70-17-209 reserved.

70-17-210. Covenant enforcement and abandonment. (1) Only the governing body of a development or a parcel owner within a development can initiate a legal action to enforce covenants, conditions, or restrictions.

(2) A covenant, condition, or restriction is deemed abandoned for purposes of enforcement if no enforcement action has been undertaken for the prescribed period in 27-2-202. Once a covenant, condition, or restriction is abandoned pursuant to this section, the governing body is precluded from undertaking a different interpretation or enforcement action against a similarly situated parcel owner in the same development.

(3) When the governing body formed within covenants, conditions, or restrictions has not met for a period of 15 years, it constitutes substantial noncompliance, and the governing body is prohibited from taking any enforcement action regarding the covenants, conditions, or restrictions recorded against the land to the extent the covenants, conditions, or restrictions are not otherwise necessary to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 665, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 665, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 19, 2023.

70-17-211. Findings — purpose. The legislature finds and declares that transfer fee covenants, as defined in 70-17-212, impair the marketability and transferability of real property by constituting an unreasonable restraint on alienation regardless of the duration of the covenants or the amount of the transfer fees. The purpose of 70-17-212 and this section is to prohibit transfer fee covenants from running with the title to real property or binding subsequent owners of the property under common law or equitable principles.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 2011.**

70-17-212. Transfer fee covenants — void. (1) A transfer fee covenant or any lien that is recorded or filed to enforce a transfer fee under a transfer fee covenant does not run with the title to real property and is not binding upon or enforceable at law or in equity against any subsequent owner, purchaser, or mortgagee of any interest in the real property as a covenant, an equitable servitude, or otherwise.

(2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Transfer" has the meaning provided in 70-1-501.

(b) "Transfer fee" means a fee or charge payable upon the transfer of legal or equitable title to an interest in real property regardless of whether the fee or charge is a fixed amount or is determined as a percentage of the value of the real property, the purchase price, or other consideration given for the transfer. For purposes of this section, a transfer fee does not include the following:

(i) consideration payable by the transferee to the transferor for the interest in real property being transferred, including any subsequent additional consideration for the property payable by the transferee based upon any subsequent appreciation, development, or sale of the property, if the additional consideration is payable on a one-time basis only and the obligation to make the payment does not bind the original transferee's successors in interest to the property;

(ii) a commission payable to a licensed real estate salesperson or broker for the transfer of real property pursuant to an agreement between the broker and the transferor or the transferee, including any subsequent additional commission for the transfer payable by the transferor or the transferee based upon any subsequent appreciation, development, or sale of the property;

(iii) interest, charges, fees, or other amounts payable by a borrower to a lender pursuant to a loan secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, trust indenture, or other security interest against real property, including but not limited to a fee payable to the lender for consenting to an assumption of the loan or a transfer of the real property subject to the mortgage or other security interest, fees, or charges payable to the lender;

(iv) consideration payable by a buyer under a contract for deed as a condition of allowing a buyer to acquire equitable title to the real property described in the contract for deed;

(v) any fee, charge, assessment, dues, contribution, or other amount payable to:

(A) an association of unit owners as defined in 70-23-102 or any association of homeowners, mobile home owners, townhouse owners, or other property owners created pursuant to a recorded declaration that has the power to require owners to pay the costs and expenses incurred in the performance of the association's obligations; or

(B) a nonprofit corporation as provided in Title 35, chapter 2, that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 528 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(c) "Transfer fee covenant" means a covenant or declaration recorded or filed against the title to real property that requires the payment of a transfer fee to the declarant or other person specified in the covenant or declaration or to the declarant's or other person's successors or assigns upon each subsequent transfer of a legal or equitable interest in the real property.

(3) This section does not apply to any easement granted pursuant to Title 77.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 259, L. 2011.

70-17-213 through 70-17-215 reserved.

70-17-216. Home-based child care. For residential property subject to a covenant, providing child care in a family day-care home as defined in 52-2-703 or a group day-care home as defined in 52-2-703 is a residential use of property and is a residential purpose.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 169, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 19, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability — Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 169, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to covenants on residential property in existence before [the effective date of this act] [April 19, 2023] that do not clearly and expressly address child care."

Section 6, Ch. 169, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to covenants on residential property adopted on or after [the effective date of this act] [April 19, 2023] that do not clearly and expressly address child care."

Part 3
Solar Easements

Part Cross-References

Right of receiving sunlight or wind as servitude creating easement, 70-17-101.

70-17-301. Creation of solar easements. An easement obtained for the purpose of exposure of a solar energy device must be created in writing and is subject to the same conveyancing and instrument recording requirements as other easements on real property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1979.

70-17-302. Content of solar easements. An instrument creating a solar easement must specify at least:

(1) the vertical and horizontal angles, expressed in degrees, at which the solar easement extends over the real property subject to the solar easement; and

(2) any terms or conditions under which the solar easement is granted or will be terminated.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 524, L. 1979.

70-17-303. Repealed. Sec. 10, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 1983.

Part 4
Wind Energy Easements

70-17-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Wind Energy Rights Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Wind easement" means the right granted by the owner of real property to a wind energy developer guaranteeing the developer the right to use the real property legally described

in a wind energy agreement and the wind resource located on and flowing over its surface to develop a wind energy project. A wind easement is an interest in real property.

(2) "Wind energy agreement" means any wind energy lease or license or any other written document entered into between the owner of the real property and the wind energy developer that contains the wind easement.

(3) "Wind energy developer" means the person that enters into a wind option agreement or wind energy agreement with the owner of the real property for the purpose of developing a wind energy project.

(4) "Wind energy right" means an interest in real property on and over which the wind resource is located and flows that is appurtenant to the real property.

(5) "Wind option agreement" means a written agreement in which the owner of real property grants a wind energy developer an exclusive right to obtain a wind easement through a wind energy agreement.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-403. Wind easement creation — terms. (1) A property owner may grant a wind easement in the same manner and with the same effect as the conveyance of an interest in real property.

(2) The wind easement runs with the real property on and over which the wind resource flows.

(3) A wind easement terminates under the terms and conditions outlined in the wind easement.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-404. Severance of wind energy rights limited. (1) A wind energy right in the wind resource located on and flowing over the real property, including without limitation a royalty, if applicable, associated with the production of wind energy may not be severed from the real property even though a wind easement may be created pursuant to this part.

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or limit the right of a seller of the real property to retain any payments associated with an existing wind option agreement or wind energy agreement.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-405. Wind option agreements — contents and requirements — notarization. (1) A wind option agreement executed after April 21, 2011, must contain but is not limited to:

(a) the names and addresses of the parties to the wind option agreement;

(b) a legal description of the real property subject to the wind option agreement;

(c) the specified term beyond which the wind option agreement terminates and the real property is released from the obligations outlined in the wind option agreement;

(d) compensation for the owner of the real property on and over which the wind resource flows; and

(e) other terms and conditions agreed upon by the owner of the real property and the wind energy developer.

(2) A wind option agreement must be notarized.

(3) A wind option agreement may not exceed 20 years unless extended by agreement of the parties.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-406. Wind energy agreement — contents and requirements — notarization. (1) A wind energy agreement executed after April 21, 2011, must contain but is not limited to:

(a) the names and addresses of the parties to the wind energy agreement;

(b) a legal description of the real property subject to the wind easement and contained in the wind energy agreement;

(c) the obligations of the owner of the real property to ensure the undisturbed flow of wind on and over the real property, including restrictions placed upon vegetation, structures, and other objects that would impair or obstruct the wind flow on and over the real property. Structures do not include equipment necessary to access minerals as they relate to the rights belonging to or the dominance of the mineral estate pursuant to 70-17-408.

(d) a specified term including the date on which the wind energy agreement or wind easement terminates;

(e) provisions to compensate the owner of the real property for the wind easement;

(f) provisions ensuring that the owner of the real property is not liable for any property tax associated with the wind energy project or other equipment related to the development of the wind energy project during the term of the wind energy agreement;

(g) provisions addressing property owner and wind energy developer liability during the construction and operation of the wind energy project and equipment;

(h) provisions obligating the wind energy developer to comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and

(i) conditions upon which the wind energy agreement may be terminated prior to its termination date.

(2) A wind energy agreement must be notarized.

(3) If the terms of the wind energy agreement do not contain the requirements listed in subsection (1), a court may void the wind energy agreement or order any relief allowed by law.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-407. Wind energy agreements — grandfather clause. This part may not be construed to alter, amend, diminish, or invalidate wind energy rights acquired by contract, agreement, or lease prior to April 21, 2011.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

70-17-408. Preservation of property rights. This part may not be construed to:

(1) change or alter common law in accordance with 1-1-108 as it relates to the rights belonging to or the dominance of the mineral estate; or

(2) change or alter common law or statutory provisions regarding the ownership of surface or subsurface rights.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this part or a wind energy agreement, the real property owner retains the right to grant easements or rights-of-way for all electric power lines to be located on the property.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 249, L. 2011.

Parts 5 through 8 reserved

Part 9

Restrictions Pertaining to Homeowners' Associations

70-17-901. Homeowners' association restrictions — real property rights. (1) (a) A homeowners' association may not enter into, amend, or enforce a covenant, condition, or restriction in such a way that imposes more onerous restrictions on the types of use of a member's real property than those restrictions that existed when the member acquired the member's interest in the real property, unless the member who owns the affected real property expressly agrees in writing at the time of the adoption or amendment of the covenant, condition, or restriction.

(b) When a member claims the benefit of this subsection (1), the member shall request that the homeowners' association record, or allow recording of, the exception applicable to the member. Upon request by the member, the homeowners' association, the member, or a designee shall record the member's exception with the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the real property is situated. The member shall provide the homeowners' association with the date the real property was conveyed to the member and shall pay the recording fees for the document setting forth the exception.

(2) A successor-in-interest to a member's real property may not claim the benefit of subsection (1) to the extent that the homeowners' association entered into, amended, or enforced a covenant, condition, or restriction before the successor-in-interest purchased the real property, even if the covenant, condition, or restriction was not enforceable against the previous owner pursuant to subsection (1), unless the successor-in-interest is owned by or shares ownership with the previous member or unless the successor-in-interest is a lender that acquired the real property through foreclosure.

(3) This section does not apply to a covenant, condition, or restriction:

(a) that is not subject to enforcement by a homeowners' association; or

(b) that is required in order to comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the enforcement of a covenant, condition, or restriction limiting the types of use of a member's real property as long as the covenant, condition, or restriction applied to the real property at the time the member acquired the member's interest in the real property.

(5) Nothing in this section invalidates existing covenants of a homeowners' association or creates a private right of action for actions or omissions occurring before May 9, 2019. However, after May 9, 2019, unless the member has consented as provided by subsection (1), a homeowners' association may not enforce a covenant, condition, or restriction in such a way that limits the types of use of a member's real property that were allowed when the member acquired the affected real property.

(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Homeowners' association" means:

(i) an association of all the owners of real property within a geographic area defined by physical boundaries which:

(A) is formally governed by a declaration of covenants, bylaws, or both;

(B) may be authorized to impose assessments that, if unpaid, may become a lien on a member's real property; and

(C) may enact or enforce rules concerning the operation of the community or subdivision; or

(ii) an association of unit owners as defined by 70-23-102 subject to the Unit Ownership Act.

(b) "Member" means a person that belongs to a homeowners' association and whose real property is subject to the jurisdiction of the homeowners' association.

(c) "Person" means one or more individuals or a legal or commercial entity.

(d) "Real property" has the meaning provided in 70-1-106, except that it is limited to real property governed by a homeowners' association.

(e) "Types of use" means the following lawful types of use of the real property:

(i) use for residential, agricultural, or commercial purposes, unless the use was impermissible according to the written or recorded restrictions;

(ii) the ability to rent the real property, including the land and structures on the real property, for any amount of time; and

(iii) the ability to otherwise develop the real property in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, unless the ability was impermissible according to the written or recorded restrictions.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Unit Ownership Act, Title 70, ch. 23.

Restriction on covenants by association of unit owners, 70-23-507.

CHAPTER 18
REAL PROPERTY — ACCESSION FIXTURES AND WATERCOURSES

Part 1 — Fixtures

70-18-101. Fixture attached by other — accession by owner.
70-18-102. Removal of fixture by tenant.

Part 2 — Watercourses

70-18-201. Alluvion or accretion — increase of bank.
70-18-202. Repealed.
70-18-203. Island formed in navigable stream.
70-18-204. Island formed in nonnavigable stream.
70-18-205. Island formed by division of stream.
70-18-206. Sudden change in river or stream.

Part 1
Fixtures

70-18-101. Fixture attached by other — accession by owner. When a person affixes the person's property to the land of another without an agreement permitting the person to remove it, the thing affixed, except as provided in 70-18-102 and in the Uniform Commercial Code, belongs to the owner of the land unless the owner of the land chooses to require the person to remove it.

History: En. Sec. 1400, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4572, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6819, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1013; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 442; re-en. Sec. 6819, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-146, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1301; amd. Sec. 2128, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code, Title 30, ch. 1 through 9A.

70-18-102. Removal of fixture by tenant. A tenant may remove from the demised premises, any time during the continuance of the tenant's term, anything affixed to the premises for purposes of trade, manufacture, ornament, or domestic use if the removal can be effected without injury to the premises unless the thing has, by the manner in which it is affixed, become an integral part of the premises.

History: En. Sec. 1406, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4578, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6825, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1019; re-en. Sec. 6825, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1307; amd. Sec. 2129, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Watercourses

70-18-201. Alluvion or accretion — increase of bank. Where from natural causes land forms by imperceptible degrees upon the bank of a river or stream, navigable or not navigable, either by accumulation of material or by the recession of the stream, such land belongs to the owner of the bank, subject to any existing right-of-way over the bank.

History: En. Sec. 1401, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4573, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6820, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1014; Field Civ. C. Sec. 443; re-en. Sec. 6820, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1302.

70-18-202. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 210, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 1402, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4574, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6821, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1015; Field Civ. C. Sec. 444; re-en. Sec. 6821, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1303.

70-18-203. Island formed in navigable stream. Islands and accumulations of land formed in the beds of streams which are navigable belong to the state if there is no title or prescription to the contrary.

History: En. Sec. 1403, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4575, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6822, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1016; Field Civ. C. Sec. 445; re-en. Sec. 6822, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1304.

70-18-204. Island formed in nonnavigable stream. An island or accumulation of land formed in a stream which is not navigable belongs to the owner of the shore on that side where the island or accumulation is formed or, if not formed on one side only, to the owners of the shore on the two sides, divided by an imaginary line drawn through the middle of the river.

History: En. Sec. 1404, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4576, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6823, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1017; Field Civ. C. Sec. 446; re-en. Sec. 6823, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1305.

70-18-205. Island formed by division of stream. If a stream navigable or not navigable, in forming itself a new arm, divides itself and surrounds land belonging to the owner of the shore and thereby forms an island, the island belongs to such owner.

History: En. Sec. 1405, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4577, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6824, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1018; Field Civ. C. Sec. 447; re-en. Sec. 6824, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1306.

70-18-206. Sudden change in river or stream. (1) If a river or stream abandons its channel and forms a new channel as a result of an avulsion and if the segment of the river or stream where the avulsion occurred has been adjudicated as navigable for title purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction, the land constituting the old channel belongs to the owner of the shores through which the old channel flowed or, if the shores are owned by different owners, to the owners on two sides, divided by an imaginary line drawn through the middle of the old river or stream channel.

(2) An affected owner seeking title to the land described in subsection (1) shall notify the department of natural resources and conservation and describe with particularity the event that resulted in the formation of the new channel. The affected owner shall also provide the department with a survey and any other information the department considers necessary.

(3) Upon receiving the information from the affected owner, the department shall verify the information and determine whether the new channel was created by an avulsion. If the department determines that the new channel was formed by an avulsion and the old channel is abandoned, the department shall recommend to the board of land commissioners that the state and the affected owner exchange quitclaim deeds for the properties affected by the avulsion.

(4) Upon approval by the board and the exchange of quitclaim deeds, the affected owner shall notify the department of revenue and the clerk and recorder of the county in which the affected property is located of the change in ownership and submit any information necessary to update the applicable ownership records.

(5) The land constituting the old channel is subject to property taxation payable by the affected owner from the date the quitclaim deeds are exchanged.

(6) The department of natural resources and conservation and the department of revenue may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

(7) Ownership remains unchanged for land that constituted an island before the avulsion occurred and that is not wholly surrounded by water after the river abandoned the old channel.

(8) (a) If an avulsion occurs on a segment of a river or stream that has not been adjudicated as navigable for title purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction, an owner may seek to clarify title to the property affected by the avulsion.

(b) To seek title clarification, the affected owner shall submit the information to the department as required by subsection (2).

(c) If the department determines that the new channel was formed by an avulsion and that the old channel is abandoned, the department shall recommend to the board that the board issue a disclaimer of interest for the abandoned channel.

(d) Upon approval by the board, the affected owner may cite the disclaimer of interest to support an ownership claim in a quiet title action filed in a district court.

(e) Upon obtaining a quiet title judgment on the abandoned channel, the affected owner shall notify the department of revenue and the clerk and recorder of the county in which the affected property is located of the change in ownership and submit any information necessary to update the applicable ownership records.

(f) The land constituting the old channel is subject to property taxation payable by the affected owner from the date of the quiet title judgment.

(9) For purposes of this section:

(a) "abandoned bed" means a riverbed, streambed, or lakebed with no water over it at the low-water mark;

(b) "avulsion" means a sudden and perceptible change in the course of a river or stream that creates a new river or stream channel and that results in an abandoned bed along the course of the old channel.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 2013.

CHAPTER 19

REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS GENERALLY LIMITATIONS AND ADVERSE POSSESSION

Part 1 — General Provisions

70-19-101. Action defined.
70-19-102. Action affecting title or possession — filing as constructive notice.
70-19-103. Action for recovery of possession not prejudiced by alienation.

Part 2 — Actions Relating to Mining Claims

70-19-201. Actions concerning mining claims governed by local rules.
70-19-202. Abuse of property held jointly or in common — action — mining property.
70-19-203. Adverse claims under acts of congress.
70-19-204. Order for inspection or survey.

Part 3 — Provisions and Limitations Relating to the State of Montana

70-19-301. Application to lands conveyed by state.
70-19-302. Statute of limitations for state actions concerning real property.
70-19-303. Statute of limitations for actions by grantee — joinder of state.
70-19-304. Statute of limitations for action for recovery of property under void conveyance from state.
70-19-305. Certificate of purchase from state or United States prima facie evidence of ownership.

Part 4 — Limitations and Adverse Possession

70-19-401. Action for recovery — possession within 5 years required.
70-19-402. Action or defense arising out of title to property or profits — possession within 5 years required.
70-19-403. When action on claim by entry must be commenced.
70-19-404. Presumption of possession within prescribed period — adverse possession as exception.
70-19-405. Title by prescription.
70-19-406. Simple occupancy.
70-19-407. Occupancy under claim founded on instrument or judgment — when considered adverse.
70-19-408. Claim founded on instrument or judgment — what considered possession and occupation.
70-19-409. Actual occupancy under claim of title not founded on instrument or judgment — adverse.
70-19-410. Claim of title not founded on instrument or judgment — what considered occupation.
70-19-411. Occupancy and payment of taxes necessary to prove adverse possession.
70-19-412. Relation of landlord and tenant as affecting adverse possession.
70-19-413. Certain disabilities to suspend running of statutory period.
70-19-414. Right of possession not affected by descent cast.
70-19-415 through 70-19-420 reserved.
70-19-421. Action to recover royalty interest in land sold for taxes.
70-19-422 through 70-19-425 reserved.
70-19-426. Residential construction disputes — definitions.
70-19-427. Residential construction disputes — limitation on consumer protection actions — notice and opportunity to repair — tolling of statute of limitations — presumption of compliance with construction standards.
70-19-428. Construction defect disputes — damages.

Chapter Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-19-101. Action defined. The word "action", as used in parts 3 and 4, is to be construed, whenever it is necessary so to do, as including a special proceeding of a civil nature.

History: En. Sec. 559, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6476, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9066, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 363; re-en. Sec. 9066, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2720.

Cross-References

Actions and special proceedings defined, 27-1-102.

70-19-102. Action affecting title or possession — filing as constructive notice. (1) In an action affecting the title or right of possession of real property or in an action between husband and wife, the plaintiff, at the time of filing the complaint, and the defendant, at the time of filing the answer, when affirmative relief is claimed in the answer, or at any time afterward may file in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county in which the property is situated a notice of the pendency of the action containing the names of the parties and the object of the action or defense and a description of the property in that county affected by the action or defense.

(2) From the time of filing of the notice only is a purchaser or encumbrancer of the property affected considered to have constructive notice of the pendency of the action and only of its pendency against parties designated by their real names.

History: En. Sec. 27, p. 48, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 27, p. 139, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 33, p. 33, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 70, p. 55, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 70, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 70, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 634, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6517, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9109, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 409; re-en. Sec. 9109, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-3005; amd. Sec. 2130, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Quieting title to real property — notice of action to be filed with Clerk and Recorder, 70-28-106.
Quieting title to real property — recording of notice by plaintiff and defendant, 70-28-213.
Partition of real property — notice of action to be filed with Clerk and Recorder — lis pendens, 70-29-109.

70-19-103. Action for recovery of possession not prejudiced by alienation. An action for the recovery of real property against a person in possession cannot be prejudiced by any alienation made by such person, either before or after the commencement of the action.

History: En. Sec. 241, p. 93, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 263, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 312, p. 95, L. 1871; re-en. Sec. 362, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 362, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 374, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1320, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6880, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9498, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 747; re-en. Sec. 9498, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6222.

Part 2
Actions Relating to Mining Claims

Part Cross-References

Mining generally, Title 82, ch. 2.

70-19-201. Actions concerning mining claims governed by local rules. In actions respecting mining claims, proof must be admitted of the customs, usages, or regulations established and in force at the bar or diggings embracing such claim; and such customs, usages, or regulations, when not in conflict with the laws of this state or the United States, must govern the decision of the action.

History: En. Sec. 363, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 363, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 375, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1321, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6881, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9499, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 748; re-en. Sec. 9499, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6223.

70-19-202. Abuse of property held jointly or in common — action — mining property. If a person assumes and exercises exclusive ownership over or takes away, destroys, lessens in value, or otherwise injures or abuses any property held in joint tenancy or tenancy in common, the party aggrieved has action for the injury in the same manner as the aggrieved party would have if the joint tenancy or tenancy in common did not exist. However, this section does not prevent one cotenant or joint tenant or any number of cotenants or joint tenants acting together from entering on the common property at any point or points not then in the actual occupancy of the nonjoining cotenants or joint tenants and enjoying all rights of occupancy of the property, without waste and, in the case of mining property, from mining the property in a minerlike manner and extracting, milling, and disposing of the ore from the common property, paying its or their own expenses and subject to accounting to the nonjoining cotenant or joint tenant for the net profits of the mining operations. All liens for labor and materials incurred in the mining attach only to the undivided interest or interests of the working cotenants or joint tenants, but nothing in this section prevents or precludes the cotenant or joint tenant, not joining in the operation of the mining property, from receiving the cotenant's or joint tenant's proportionate share of all ore or ores on the dump upon payment or tendering payment of the actual cost of mining the property.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 454, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 2, p. 504, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 771, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1285, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 592, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; en. Sec. 1, p. 134, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 6499, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9091, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9091, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2829; amd. Sec. 2131, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-19-203. Adverse claims under acts of congress. In an action brought to determine the respective rights of claimants to the possession of a mining claim or quartz lode under the provisions of the acts of congress of the United States, it is immaterial which party is in possession, and it is sufficient to confer jurisdiction upon the court if it appears from the pleadings that the application for a patent has been made and an adverse claim thereto filed and allowed in the proper land office, and the verdict or decision must find which party is entitled to the possession of the premises in dispute.

History: En. Sec. 1322, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6882, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9500, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9500, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6224.

Cross-References

Quieting title — cost if defendant disclaims, 70-28-112.

70-19-204. Order for inspection or survey. (1) Whenever a person has any right to or interest in any lead, lode, or mining claim that is in the possession of another person and it is necessary for the ascertainment, enforcement, or protection of that right or interest that an inspection, examination, or survey of the lead, mine, lode, or mining claim should be made or whenever any inspection, examination, or survey of the lead, mine, lode, or mining claim is necessary to protect, ascertain, or enforce the right or interest of any person in another lead, mine, lode, or mining claim and the person in possession of the other lead, mine, lode, or mining claim refuses for a period of 3 days after demand in writing to allow the inspection, examination, or survey to be had or made, the demanding party may present to the district court of the county in which the lead, mine, lode, or mining claim is located a petition under oath setting out the party's interest in the premises, describing the premises, setting out that the premises are in the possession of a party, naming the party, setting out the reason why the examination, inspection, or survey is necessary, and setting out the demand made on the person in possession to permit the examination, inspection, or survey and the person's refusal.

(2) The court or judge shall appoint a time and place for hearing a petition and shall order notice to be served upon the adverse party. The notice must be served at least 1 day before the day of hearing. At the hearing, either party may read affidavits or produce oral testimony, and if the judge is satisfied that the facts stated in the petition are true, the judge shall make an order for an inspection, examination, or survey of the lead, mine, lode, or mining claim in question in a manner, at a time, and by persons that are mentioned in the order. Upon the order the person shall have free access to the lead, mine, lode, or mining claim for the purpose of making the inspection, examination, or survey, and any interference with the person while acting under the order is contempt of court.

(3) If the order of the court is made while an action is pending between the parties to the order, the costs of obtaining the order must await the result of the action, but all costs of making the examination or survey must be paid by the petitioner.

History: En. Sec. 8, p. 10, L. 1881; re-en. Sec. 376, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1317, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6876, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9494, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9494, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6218; amd. Sec. 2132, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 3
Provisions and Limitations Relating to the State of Montana

Part Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Sales of state lands, Title 77, ch. 2, part 3.

70-19-301. Application to lands conveyed by state. The provisions of parts 3 and 4 apply to all lands sold and conveyed before July 1, 1955, by the state of Montana for which a valid consideration was received by the state, provided that the state, at the time of the sale or conveyance, was not precluded by the constitution of Montana or by the terms of the grant of the lands by the United States from selling and disposing of the land. An occupant of a public way or other ground dedicated or appropriated by the state to public use and not subject to sale may not acquire by reason of the occupancy any title to the public way or ground.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2516; amd. Sec. 2133, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-19-302. Statute of limitations for state actions concerning real property. The state will not sue any person for or in respect to any real property or the issues or profits thereof by reason of the right or title of the state to the same unless:

(1) such right or title shall have accrued within 10 years before any action or other proceeding for the same is commenced; or

(2) the state or those from whom it claims shall have received the rents and profits of such real property or of some part thereof within the space of 10 years.

History: En. Sec. 480, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6429, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9012, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 315; re-en. Sec. 9012, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2501.

70-19-303. Statute of limitations for actions by grantee — joinder of state. (1) An action may not be brought for or in respect to real property by any person claiming under letters patent or grants from this state unless the plaintiff or the plaintiff's ancestor, predecessor, or grantor was seized or possessed of the property in question within 10 years before the commencement of the action.

(2) In an action described in subsection (1), the state of Montana may be made a party defendant and has only the defenses that are available to other parties defendant to the action,

provided that a judgment in any action may not include damages, attorney fees, or court costs against the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 481, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6430, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9013, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 316; re-en. Sec. 9013, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2502; amd. Sec. 2134, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-19-304. Statute of limitations for action for recovery of property under void conveyance from state. When letters patent or grants of real property issued or made by the state are declared void by the determination of a competent court, an action for the recovery of the property conveyed may be brought, either by the state or by any subsequent patentee or grantee of the property or the patentee's or grantee's heirs or assigns only within 10 years after the determination.

History: En. Sec. 482, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6431, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9014, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 317; re-en. Sec. 9014, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2503; amd. Sec. 2135, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Actions arising from seizure or sale of property for taxes, 27-2-210.

70-19-305. Certificate of purchase from state or United States prima facie evidence of ownership. A certificate of purchase or of location of any lands in this state issued or made in pursuance of any law of the United States or of this state is prima facie evidence that the holder or assignee of the certificate is the owner of the land described in the certificate, but this evidence may be overcome by proof that at the time of the location or time of filing a preemption claim on which the certificate may have been issued, the land was in the adverse possession of the adverse party or those under whom the adverse party claims or that the adverse party is holding the land for mining purposes.

History: En. Sec. 3213, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7931, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10575, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10575, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1001-37; amd. Sec. 2136, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Limitations and Adverse Possession

Part Cross-References

Wrongful occupation of real property, 27-1-318.

Actions arising from seizure or sale of property for taxes, 27-2-210.

70-19-401. Action for recovery — possession within 5 years required. An action for the recovery of real property or for the possession of real property may not be maintained unless it appears that the plaintiff or the plaintiff's ancestor, predecessor, or grantor was seized or possessed of the property in question within 5 years before the commencement of the action.

History: En. Sec. 29, p. 45, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 29, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 29, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd Sec. 483, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6432, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9015, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 318; re-en. Sec. 9015, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2504; amd. Sec. 2137, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-19-402. Action or defense arising out of title to property or profits — possession within 5 years required. No cause of action or defense to an action, arising out of the title to real property or to rents or profits out of the same, can be effectual unless it appear that the person prosecuting the action or making the defense or under whose title the action is prosecuted or the defense is made or the ancestor, predecessor, or grantor of such person was seized or possessed of the premises in question within 5 years before the commencement of the act in respect to which such action is prosecuted or defense made.

History: En. Sec. 30, p. 45, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 30, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 30, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 484, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6433, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9016, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 319; re-en. Sec. 9016, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2505.

70-19-403. When action on claim by entry must be commenced. No entry upon real estate is deemed sufficient or valid as a claim unless an action be commenced thereupon within 1 year after making such entry and within 5 years from the time when the right to make it descended or accrued.

History: En. Sec. 3, p. 466, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 3, p. 515, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 31, p. 46, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 31, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 31, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 485, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6434, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9017, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 320; re-en. Sec. 9017, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2506.

70-19-404. Presumption of possession within prescribed period — adverse possession as exception. In every action for the recovery of real property or the possession thereof, the person establishing a legal title to the property is presumed to have been possessed thereof within the time required by law, and the occupation of the property by any other person is deemed to have been under and in subordination to the legal title unless it appear that the property has been held and possessed adversely to such legal title for 5 years before the commencement of the action.

History: En. Sec. 4, p. 466, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 4, p. 515, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 32, p. 46, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 32, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 32, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 486, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6435, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9018, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 321; re-en. Sec. 9018, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2507.

70-19-405. Title by prescription. Except as provided in 23-2-322, occupancy for the period prescribed by this chapter as sufficient to bar an action for the recovery of the property confers a title thereto, denominated a title by prescription, which is sufficient against all.

History: En. Sec. 1391, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4571, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6818, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1007; Field Civ. C. Sec. 441; re-en. Sec. 6818, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1203; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 556, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Prescriptive easement not acquired by recreational use of surface waters, 23-2-322.

70-19-406. Simple occupancy. Occupancy for any period confers a title sufficient against all except the state and those who have title by prescription, accession, transfer, will, or succession.

History: En. Sec. 1390, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4570, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6817, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1006; Field Civ. C. Sec. 440; re-en. Sec. 6817, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1202.

70-19-407. Occupancy under claim founded on instrument or judgment — when considered adverse. When it appears that the occupant or those under whom the occupant claims entered into the possession of the property under claim of title, exclusive of other right, founding the claim upon a written instrument as being a conveyance of the property in question or upon the decree or judgment of a competent court and that there has been a continued occupation and possession of the property included in the instrument, decree, or judgment or of some part of the property under the claim for 5 years, the property included is considered to have been held adversely, except that when the property consists of a tract divided into lots, the possession of one lot is not considered a possession of any other lot of the same tract.

History: En. Sec. 33, p. 46, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 33, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 33, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 487, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6436, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9019, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 322; re-en. Sec. 9019, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2508; amd. Sec. 2138, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-19-408. Claim founded on instrument or judgment — what considered possession and occupation. (1) For the purpose of constituting an adverse possession by any person claiming a title founded upon a written instrument or a judgment or decree, land is deemed to have been possessed and occupied in the following cases:

(a) where it has been usually cultivated or improved;

(b) where it has been protected by a substantial enclosure;

(c) where although not enclosed it has been used for the supply of fuel or of fencing timber, either for the purpose of husbandry or for pasturage or for the ordinary use of the occupant.

(2) Where a known farm or a single lot has been partly improved, the portion of such farm or lot that has been left not cleared or not enclosed, according to the usual course and custom of the adjoining country, shall be deemed to have been occupied for the same length of time as the part improved and cultivated.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 466, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 5, p. 516, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 34, p. 46, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 34, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 34, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 488, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6437, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9020, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 323; re-en. Sec. 9020, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2509.

70-19-409. Actual occupancy under claim of title not founded on instrument or judgment — adverse. Where it appears that there has been an actual continued occupation of land under a claim of title, exclusive of any other right, but not founded upon a written instrument, judgment, or decree, the land so actually occupied and no other is deemed to have been held adversely.

History: En. Sec. 6, p. 467, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 6, p. 516, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 35, p. 46, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 35, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 35, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 489, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6438, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9021, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 324; re-en. Sec. 9021, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2510.

70-19-410. Claim of title not founded on instrument or judgment — what considered occupation. For the purpose of constituting an adverse possession by a person claiming title not founded upon a written instrument, judgment, or decree, land is deemed to have been possessed and occupied in the following cases only:

(1) where it has been protected by a substantial enclosure;
(2) where it has been usually cultivated or improved.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 467, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 7, p. 516, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 36, p. 47, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 36, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 36, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 490, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6439, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9022, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 325; re-en. Sec. 9022, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2511.

70-19-411. Occupancy and payment of taxes necessary to prove adverse possession. In no case shall adverse possessions be considered established under this code unless it shall be shown that the land has been occupied and claimed for a period of 5 years continuously and the party or persons, their predecessors, and grantors have during such period paid all the taxes, state, county, or municipal, which have been legally levied and assessed upon said land.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 9024, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9024, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2513.

70-19-412. Relation of landlord and tenant as affecting adverse possession. When the relation of landlord and tenant has existed between any persons, the possession of the tenant is considered the possession of the landlord until the expiration of 5 years from the termination of the tenancy or, when there has been no written lease, until the expiration of 5 years from the time of the last payment of rent, notwithstanding that the tenant may have acquired another title or may have claimed to hold adversely to the landlord. However, the enumerated presumptions may not be made after the periods prescribed in this section.

History: En. Sec. 37, p. 47, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 37, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 37, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 491, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6440, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9023, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 326; re-en. Sec. 9023, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2512; amd. Sec. 2139, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

The Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, Title 70, ch. 24.

70-19-413. Certain disabilities to suspend running of statutory period. (1) Subsection (2) applies if a person entitled to commence an action for the recovery of real property or for the recovery of the possession of real property or to make any entry or defense founded on the title to real property or to rents or services out of the same is, at the same time the title first descends or accrues:

(a) under the age of majority;
(b) committed pursuant to 53-21-127; or
(c) imprisoned on a criminal charge or in execution upon conviction of a criminal offense for a term of less than for life.

(2) The time during which disability continues is not considered any portion of the time in this chapter limited for the commencement of the action or the making of the entry or defense. The action may be commenced or entry or defense made within the period of 5 years after the disability ceases or after the death of the person entitled who dies under the disability, but the action may not be commenced or entry or defense made after that period.

History: En. Sec. 39, p. 48, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 39, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 39, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 493, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6442, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9026, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 328; re-en. Sec. 9026, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 224, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2515; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 181, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

70-19-414. Right of possession not affected by descent cast. The right of a person to the possession of real property is not impaired or affected by a descent being cast in consequence of the death of a person in possession of such property.

History: En. Sec. 38, p. 48, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 38, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 38, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 492, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6441, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9025, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 327; re-en. Sec. 9025, R.C.M 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2514.

70-19-415 through 70-19-420 reserved.

70-19-421. Action to recover royalty interest in land sold for taxes. An action against a county to recover a royalty interest in land acquired by the county by tax deed must be brought within the period prescribed in 27-2-210.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 458, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Deed of conveyance — reservation of mineral royalty interest, 7-8-2305.

70-19-422 through 70-19-425 reserved.

70-19-426. Residential construction disputes — definitions. As used in 70-19-427, 70-19-428, and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Action" means any civil lawsuit or action in contract or tort for damage or indemnity brought against a construction professional to assert a claim, whether by complaint, counterclaim, or cross-claim, for damage or the loss of use of real or personal property caused by a defect in the construction or remodeling of a residence.

(b) The term does not include a civil action in tort alleging personal injury or wrongful death to a person or persons resulting from a construction defect.

(2) "Association" means a unit owners' organization or a nonprofit corporation created to own and operate portions of a planned community that has the power to require unit owners to pay the costs and expenses incurred in the performance of the association's obligations.

(3) "Claimant" means a home owner or association that asserts a claim against a construction professional concerning a defect in the construction or remodeling of a residence.

(4) "Construction defect" means a deficiency in or arising out of the supervision, construction, or remodeling of a residence that results from any of the following:

(a) defective materials, products, or components used in the construction or remodeling of a residence;

(b) violation of the applicable building, plumbing, or electrical codes in effect at the time of the construction or remodeling of a residence;

(c) failure to construct or remodel a residence in accordance with contract specifications or accepted trade standards.

(5) "Construction professional" means a builder, builder vendor, contractor, or subcontractor performing or furnishing the supervision of the construction or remodeling of any improvement to real property, whether operating as a sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, or other business entity.

(6) (a) "Home owner" means:

(i) any person, company, firm, partnership, corporation, or association who contracts with a construction professional for the remodeling, construction, or construction and sale of a residence; or

(ii) an association as defined in this section.

(b) The term home owner includes but is not limited to a subsequent purchaser of a residence from any home owner.

(7) "Residence" means a single-family house or a unit in a multiunit residential structure in which title to each individual unit is transferred to the owner under a condominium or cooperative system.

(8) "Serve" or "service" means personal service or delivery by certified mail to the last-known address of the addressee.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 2003.

70-19-427. Residential construction disputes — limitation on consumer protection actions — notice and opportunity to repair — tolling of statute of limitations — presumption of compliance with construction standards. (1) Prior to commencing an action against a construction professional for a construction defect, the claimant shall serve written notice of claim on the construction professional. The notice of claim must state that the claimant asserts a construction defect claim against the construction professional and must describe the claim in reasonable detail sufficient to determine the general nature of the defect. If a written notice of claim is served under this section within the time prescribed for the filing of an action under 27-2-208, the statute of limitations for construction defect claims is tolled. Assertion of a claim under this section precludes a claimant from bringing or maintaining an action under 30-14-133.

(2) Within 21 days after service of the notice of claim, the construction professional shall serve a written response on the claimant. The written response must:

(a) propose to inspect the residence that is the subject of the claim and to complete the inspection within a specified timeframe. The proposal must include the statement that the construction professional shall, based on the inspection, offer to remedy the defect, compromise by payment, or dispute the claim;

(b) offer to compromise and settle the claim by monetary payment without inspection; or

(c) state that the construction professional disputes the claim and will neither remedy the construction defect nor compromise and settle the claim.

(3) (a) If the construction professional disputes the claim or does not respond to the claimant's notice of claim within the time stated in subsection (2), the claimant may bring an action against the construction professional for the claim described in the notice of claim without further notice.

(b) If the claimant rejects the inspection proposal or the settlement offer made by the construction professional pursuant to subsection (2), the claimant shall serve written notice of the claimant's rejection on the construction professional. After service of the notice of rejection, the claimant may bring an action against the construction professional for the construction defect claim described in the notice of claim. If the construction professional has not received from the claimant, within 30 days after the claimant's receipt of the construction professional's response, either an acceptance or rejection of the inspection proposal or settlement offer, then at any time after that date the construction professional may terminate the proposal or offer by serving written notice on the claimant. The claimant may, after service, bring an action against the construction professional for the construction defect claim described in the notice of claim.

(4) (a) If the claimant elects to allow the construction professional to inspect in accordance with the construction professional's proposal pursuant to subsection (2)(a), the claimant shall provide the construction professional and its contractors or other agents reasonable access to the claimant's residence, as agreed by the parties, to inspect the premises and the claimed defect.

(b) Within 14 days following completion of the inspection, the construction professional shall serve on the claimant:

(i) a written offer to remedy the construction defect at no cost to the claimant, including a report of the scope of the inspection, the findings and results of the inspection, a description of the additional construction necessary to remedy the defect described in the claim, and a timetable for the completion of the construction;

(ii) a written offer to compromise and settle the claim by monetary payment pursuant to subsection (2)(b);

(iii) a written offer to remedy the claim through a combination of repair and monetary payment pursuant to subsection (2)(b); or

(iv) a written statement setting forth the reasons why the construction professional will not proceed further to remedy the alleged defect.

(c) If the construction professional does not proceed further to remedy the alleged construction defect within the agreed-upon time or if the construction professional fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (4)(b), the claimant may bring an action against the construction professional for the claim described in the notice of claim without further notice.

(d) If the claimant rejects the offer made by the construction professional pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(i) or (4)(b)(ii) to either remedy the construction defect or to compromise and settle the claim by monetary payment, the claimant shall serve written notice of the claimant's rejection on the construction professional. After service of the rejection notice, the claimant may bring an action against the construction professional for the construction defect claim described in the notice of claim. If the construction professional has not received from the claimant, within 30 days after the claimant's receipt of the construction professional's response, either an acceptance or rejection of the offer made pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(i) or (4)(b)(ii), then at any time after that date the construction professional may terminate the offer by serving written notice on the claimant.

(5) (a) Any claimant accepting the offer of a construction professional to remedy the construction defect pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(i) or (4)(b)(iii) shall do so by serving the construction professional with a written notice of acceptance within 30 days after receipt of the offer. The claimant shall provide the construction professional and its contractors or other agents reasonable access to the claimant's residence during normal working hours to perform and complete the construction according to the timetable stated in the offer.

(b) The claimant and construction professional may, by written mutual agreement, alter the extent of construction or the timetable for completion of construction stated in the offer, including but not limited to repair of additional defects.

(6) Subsequently discovered claims of construction defects must be administered separately under 70-19-428 and this section, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

(7) This section may not be construed to prevent a claimant from commencing an action on the construction defect claim described in the notice of claim if the construction professional fails to perform the construction agreed upon, fails to remedy the defect, or fails to perform within the time agreed upon pursuant to subsection (4)(b) or (5)(b).

(8) This section may not be enforced unless the home owner has been given written notice of the requirements of 70-19-426, 70-19-428, and this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 46, L. 2021.

70-19-428. Construction defect disputes — damages. (1) In a suit subject to 70-19-427 and this section, the claimant may recover only the following damages proximately caused by a construction defect:

(a) the reasonable cost of repairs necessary to cure any construction defect, including any reasonable and necessary engineering or consulting fees required to evaluate and cure the construction defect, that the contractor is responsible for repairing under 70-19-427;

(b) the reasonably necessary expenses of temporary housing during the repair period;

(c) the reduction in market value, if any, to the extent the reduction is due to a construction defect; and

(d) reasonable costs and attorney fees.

(2) Sections 70-19-426, 70-19-427, and this section do not supersede contractual alternative dispute resolution procedures contained in a contract between a claimant and a construction professional.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 20
TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY

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Chapter Cross-References

Breach of agreement to convey real property, 27-1-314.
Breach of agreement to buy real property, 27-1-315.
Breach of covenants in grants of estates in real property, 27-1-316.
Montana Title Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 25.
Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.
Transfer of property — grants and their interpretation, Title 70, ch. 1, part 5.
Small tract financing — trust indentures, Title 71, ch. 1, part 3.

Part 1
Method of Transfer

70-20-101. Transfer to be in writing — statute of frauds. An estate or interest in real property, other than an estate at will or for a term not exceeding 1 year, may not be created, granted, assigned, surrendered, or declared otherwise than by operation of law or a conveyance or other instrument in writing, subscribed by the party creating, granting, assigning, surrendering, or declaring it or by the party's lawful agent authorized by writing.

History: En. Sec. 6, p. 393, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 160, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 217, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3274, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7967, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10611, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1971; re-en. Sec. 10611, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1401-5; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 218, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2140, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

What contracts must be in writing, 28-2-903.
Contract for sale of real property, 30-11-111.
Unrecorded instruments valid between parties, 70-21-102.

70-20-102. Exceptions to statute of frauds. Section 70-20-101 may not be construed to:

(1) affect the power of a testator in the disposition of the testator's real property by a last will and testament;

(2) prevent any trust from arising or being extinguished by implication or operation of law; or

(3) abridge the power of any court to compel the specific performance of an agreement, in case of partial performance of the agreement.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 393, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 161, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 218, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3275, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7968, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10612, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1972; re-en. Sec. 10612, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1401-6; amd. Sec. 2141, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Specific and preventive relief, Title 27, ch. 1, part 4.
Wills, will contracts, and custody and deposit of wills, Title 72, ch. 2, part 5.
Judicial proceedings concerning trusts, Title 72, ch. 38, part 2.

70-20-103. Form of grant. A grant of an estate in real property may be made in substance as follows:

"I, A.B., in consideration of .... dollars paid, grant to C.D. all the real property situated in (insert name of county) County, state of Montana, described as follows: (Here insert description, or if the land sought to be conveyed has a descriptive name, it may be described by the name as, for instance, "the Norris ranch".)

Witness my hand this (insert day) day of (insert month), 20...

....
A.B."

History: En. Sec. 1501, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4613, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6860, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1092; re-en. Sec. 6860, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1602; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

70-20-104. Words of inheritance unnecessary. Words of inheritance or succession are not requisite to transfer a fee in real property.

History: En. Sec. 1476, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4608, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6855, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1072; Field Civ. C. Sec. 478; re-en. Sec. 6855, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1521.

70-20-105. Joint tenancy — how created. (1) A joint tenancy as to any interest in real property may be established by the owner of the interest by designating in the instrument of conveyance or transfer the names of the joint tenants, including the person's own, without the necessity of any transfer or conveyance to or through a third person.

(2) All joint tenancies created in this manner prior to July 1, 1963, are sufficient in law to create a joint tenancy.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1602.1; amd. Sec. 2142, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Ownership by several persons — types, 70-1-306.

70-20-106. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1502, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4614, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6861, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1093; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 486; re-en. Sec. 6861, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1603.

70-20-107. Repealed. Sec. 22, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1503, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4615, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6862, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1094; re-en. Sec. 6862, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1604; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-20-108. Attorney-in-fact — how to execute for principal. When an attorney-in-fact executes an instrument transferring an estate in real property, the attorney-in-fact shall subscribe the name of the principal to it and the attorney-in-fact's own name as attorney-in-fact.

History: En. Sec. 1504, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4616, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6863, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1095; re-en. Sec. 6863, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1605; amd. Sec. 2143, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

70-20-109. Change of owner's name after acquisition — later conveyance to include former name. A person in whom the title of real estate is vested, who afterwards from any cause has the person's name changed, shall, in any conveyances of the real estate, set forth the name in which the person derived title to the real estate, and a failure to comply with the provisions of this section subjects the person to a penalty of $50, to be collected by the county attorney of the county in which the real estate is situated and paid by the person into the treasury of the county for the benefit of the common schools of the county.

History: En. Sec. 1505, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4617, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6864, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1096; re-en. Sec. 6864, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1606; amd. Sec. 2144, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-110. Redelivery or cancellation of grant — no retransfer. Redelivering a grant of real property to the grantor or canceling it does not operate to retransfer the title.

History: En. Sec. 1456, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4600, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6847, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1058; Field Civ. C. Sec. 469; re-en. Sec. 6847, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1513.

70-20-111 and 70-20-112 reserved.

70-20-113. Notice of presence of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors upon sale of dwelling — definitions. (1) Upon the sale or transfer of ownership of a dwelling not otherwise required to have a carbon monoxide detector and a smoke detector, the seller shall provide a written notice to the buyer in a buy-sell agreement or at the time of the sale to the buyer that the dwelling is equipped or is not equipped with a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detectors or other fire detection devices.

(2) Neither the seller nor the seller's agent nor the buyer's agent is liable in a civil action for failure to comply with or for negligence in complying with the requirements of subsection (1). Evidence of failure to comply with or of negligence in complying with subsection (1) is not admissible in a civil action.

(3) In this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Carbon monoxide detector" means a device that detects the presence of carbon monoxide and emits an alarm at elevated levels of carbon monoxide.

(b) "Dwelling" means a building or portion of a building, including a mobile home or housetrailer, that contains not more than two dwelling units.

(c) "Dwelling unit" means a building or portion of a building that contains living facilities with provision for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation for not more than one family.

(d) "Smoke detector" means a device that detects visible or invisible particles or combustion.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2145, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-114 reserved.

70-20-115. Notice to purchaser of property under contract for deed. (1) As used in this section, "purchaser under contract for deed" means:

(a) any person who:

(i) has entered into a contract with the record owner of real property in which it was agreed that the record owner will deliver the deed to the property to the purchaser when certain conditions have been met, such as completion of payments by the purchaser; and

(ii) has recorded the contract or an abstract of the contract in accordance with Title 70, chapter 21;

(b) any assignee or successor of a person included under subsection (1)(a), if such assignee or successor has also recorded the contract or an abstract of the contract in accordance with Title 70, chapter 21.

(2) When it is required by statute that legal notice be given to the owner of real property, the same notice must be given to a purchaser of that property under a contract for deed.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Resolution of intent by first-class city — notice, 7-2-4312.
Division of assessment, 7-3-1309.
Department of finance, 7-3-4431.
Vacating or changing of street name, 7-3-4448.
Notice of intention to levy tax, 7-13-2304.
Power to order certain improvements without creation of SID, 7-14-4109.
Notice of hearing on urban renewal plan, 7-15-4215.
Notice of hearing on petition to create mosquito district, 7-22-2406.
Notice of tax classification, market value, and taxable value to owners — appeals, 15-7-102.
Reclassification of land by Department, 15-7-208.
Realty Transfer Act, Title 15, ch. 7, part 3.
County Tax Appeal Board — meetings and compensation, 15-15-101.
Independent appraisal option — notice of assessment — opportunity for conference — appeal, 15-23-102.
Notice defined, 25-3-101.
Service of order to repair hazardous condition or demolish structure, 50-62-103.
Conversion of facilities on public property — notice to landowners, 69-4-353.
Contents of complaint, 70-30-203.
Hearing on preliminary plat, 76-3-605.
Removal of infected nursery stock — assessment of costs, 80-7-110.

Notice of condemnation — filing of plat, 82-2-224.
Permit application, 82-4-222.
Reclamation by Board or Department, 82-4-239.
Notice of drilling operations, 82-10-503.

Part 2
Construction of Grant

Part Cross-References
Interpretation of contracts, Title 28, ch. 3.

70-20-201. Rules for construing description. The following are the rules for construing the descriptive part of a conveyance of real property when the construction is doubtful and there are no other sufficient circumstances to determine it:

(1) Where there are certain definite and ascertained particulars in the description, the addition of others which are indefinite, unknown, or false does not frustrate the conveyance, but it is to be construed by the first mentioned particulars.

(2) When permanent and visible or ascertained boundaries or monuments are inconsistent with the measurement, either of lines, angles, or surfaces, the boundaries or monuments are paramount.

(3) Between different measurements which are inconsistent with each other, that of angles is paramount to that of surfaces and that of lines paramount to both.

(4) When a road or stream of water not navigable is the boundary, the rights of the grantor to the middle of the road or the thread of the stream are included in the conveyance, except where the road or thread of the stream is held under another title.

(5) When a navigable lake, where there is no tide, is the boundary, the rights of the grantor to low watermark are included in the conveyance.

(6) When the description refers to a map and that reference is inconsistent with other particulars, it controls them if it appears that the parties acted with reference to the map; otherwise, the map is subordinate to other definite and ascertained particulars.

History: En. Sec. 3413, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 8039, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10683, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 2077; re-en. Sec. 10683, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2201-4.

70-20-202. Extrinsic evidence not to be considered in construction of deed — exceptions. (1) When the terms of an agreement have been reduced to writing by the parties, it is to be considered as containing all those terms, and therefore there can be between the parties and their representatives or successors in interest no evidence of the terms of the agreement other than the contents of the writing except in the following cases:

(a) where a mistake or imperfection of the writing is put in issue by the pleadings;

(b) where the validity of the agreement is the fact in dispute.

(2) But this section does not exclude other evidence of the circumstances under which the agreement was made or to which it relates, as defined in 1-4-102, or to explain an extrinsic ambiguity or to establish illegality or fraud.

(3) The term "agreement" includes deeds and wills as well as contracts between parties.

History: En. Sec. 610, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 610, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 628, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3132, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7873, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10517, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1856; re-en. Sec. 10517, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-13.

Cross-References
When extrinsic evidence concerning written agreement may be considered, 28-2-905.

Part 3
Effect of Transfer

70-20-301. Fee simple presumed to pass. A fee simple title is presumed to be intended to pass by a grant of real property unless it appears from the grant that a lesser estate was intended.

History: En. Sec. 1511, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4619, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6866, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1105; re-en. Sec. 6866, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1608.

70-20-302. After-acquired title to pass by operation of law. When a person purports by proper instrument to grant real property in fee simple and subsequently acquires any title or claim of title to the real property, the real property passes by operation of law to the grantee or the grantee's successors.

History: En. Sec. 32, p. 401, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 209, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 267, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1512, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4620, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6867, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1106; re-en. Sec. 6867, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1609; amd. Sec. 2146, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-303. Grant conclusive — exception for good faith purchaser. A grant of an estate in real property is conclusive against the grantor and against every one subsequently claiming under the grantor except a purchaser or encumbrancer who in good faith and for a valuable consideration acquires a title or lien by an instrument that is first duly recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1513, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4621, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6868, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1107; Field Civ. C. Sec. 490; re-en. Sec. 6868, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1610; amd. Sec. 2147, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-304. Implied covenants — free from encumbrance. (1) The use of the word "grant" in any conveyance by which an estate of inheritance or fee simple or possessory title is to be passed implies only the following covenants and none other on the part of the grantor for the grantor and the grantor's heirs to the grantee and the grantee's heirs and assigns unless restrained by express terms contained in the conveyance:

(a) that prior to the time of the execution of the conveyance the grantor has not conveyed the same estate or any right, title, or interest in that estate to any person other than the grantee; and

(b) that the estate is at the time of the execution of the conveyance free from encumbrances done, made, or suffered by the grantor or any person claiming under the grantor.

(2) The enumerated covenants may be sued upon in the same manner as if they had been expressly inserted in the conveyance.

History: En. Sec. 50, p. 487, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 50, p. 404, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 227, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 285, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1519, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4627, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6874, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1113; re-en. Sec. 6874, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1616; amd. Sec. 2148, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Breach of covenants in grants of estates in real property, 27-1-316.
Form of covenants, 30-11-110.

70-20-305. Encumbrance defined. The term "encumbrances" includes taxes, assessments, and all liens upon real property.

History: En. Sec. 1520, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4628, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6875, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1114; re-en. Sec. 6875, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1617.

70-20-306. Responsibility of heirs of covenantor — certain warranties abolished. Lineal and collateral warrants, with all their incidents, are abolished, but the heirs and devisees of every person who has made any covenant or agreement in reference to the title of, in, or to any real property are, except as provided in 70-1-522, answerable upon the covenant or agreement to the extent of the land descended or devised to them in the cases and in the manner prescribed by law.

History: En. Sec. 49, p. 487, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 49, p. 403, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 226, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 284, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1521, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4629, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6876, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1115; re-en. Sec. 6876, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1618; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-20-307. Transfer of land bounded by highway — what passes. A transfer of land bounded by a highway passes the title of the person whose estate is transferred to the soil of the highway in front of the center thereof unless a different intent appears from the grant.

History: En. Sec. 1518, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4626, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6873, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1112; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 492; re-en. Sec. 6873, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1615.

70-20-308. Easements to pass with property. A transfer of real property passes all easements attached thereto and creates in favor thereof an easement to use other real property of the person whose estate is transferred in the same manner and to the same extent as such property was obviously and permanently used by the person whose estate is transferred for the benefit thereof at the time when the transfer was agreed upon or completed.

History: En. Sec. 1510, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4618, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6865, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1104; Field Civ. C. Sec. 488; re-en. Sec. 6865, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1607.

70-20-309. Transfer of owner ousted of possession — effect. Any person claiming title to real property in the adverse possession of another may transfer it with the same effect as if in actual possession.

History: En. Sec. 1443, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4593, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6840, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1047; re-en. Sec. 6840, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1506.

70-20-310. Conveyance in joint tenancy — right of survivorship. In all conveyances of real property made in joint tenancy where the right of survivorship is contained in the grant of such conveyance, the right of survivorship exists by virtue of such grant.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 118, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 67-310; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-20-311. Grant on condition subsequent. When a grant is made upon condition subsequent and is subsequently defeated by the nonperformance of the condition, the person otherwise entitled to hold under the grant shall reconvey the property to the grantor or the grantor's successors by grant duly acknowledged for the record.

History: En. Sec. 1515, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4623, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6870, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1109; re-en. Sec. 6870, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1612; amd. Sec. 2149, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Condition subsequent defined, 28-1-405.

70-20-312. Grant on condition precedent. An instrument purporting to be a grant of real property to take effect upon condition precedent passes the estate upon the performance of the condition.

History: En. Sec. 1516, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4624, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6871, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1110; re-en. Sec. 6871, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1613.

Cross-References

Condition precedent defined, 28-1-403.

70-20-313. Grant by owner for life or years. A grant made by an owner of an estate for life or years, purporting to transfer a greater estate than the owner could lawfully transfer, does not work a forfeiture of the owner's estate but passes to the grantee all the estate that the grantor could lawfully transfer.

History: En. Sec. 1514, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4622, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6869, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1108; Field Civ. C. Sec. 491; re-en. Sec. 6869, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1611; amd. Sec. 2150, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-314. Grant of property occupied by tenant. When real property is occupied by a tenant, a grant of any estate in the property by the tenant's landlord is valid without an agreement to continue the tenancy by the tenant to the grantee. However, the payment of rent to the grantor by the tenant before notice of the grant is binding upon the grantee, and the tenant is not liable to the grantee for any breach of the condition of the lease until the tenant has had notice of the grant.

History: En. Sec. 1517, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4625, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6872, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1111; Field Civ. C. Sec. 493; re-en. Sec. 6872, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1614; amd. Sec. 2151, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-315. Validation of unacknowledged deeds. All deeds to real property executed prior to January 1, 1983, in this state or any state or territory of the United States, provided no action is pending on October 1, 1983, to set aside any such deed, which shall have been signed by the grantors in due form, shall be sufficient in law to convey the legal title to the premises therein described from the grantors to the grantees, without any other execution or acknowledgment or witnesses thereto whatever; and such deeds so executed shall be received in evidence in all courts in this state and be conclusive evidence of the title to the lands therein described against the grantors, their heirs, and assigns.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 39-139; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 1983.

70-20-316. Deeds made prior to 1900 — presumption grantor had no wife. When a deed to real property has been made, executed, and acknowledged prior to the year 1900 by a grantor without recital in the body of the deed or acknowledgment as to whether or not the grantor is married or single and the wife of the grantor, if any, not joining in the conveyance or otherwise releasing or conveying the wife's dower, the presumption is that the person conveying the land had no wife living at the date of conveyance and that the land was conveyed free of all right of dower, inchoate or vested.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 39-131; amd. Sec. 2152, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Fraudulent Conveyances

Part Cross-References

Condition concurrent defined, 28-1-404.
Condition subsequent defined, 28-1-405.
What conditions must be performed before requiring performance by another, 28-1-406.

70-20-401. Instrument made with intent to defraud — void. Every instrument, other than a will, affecting an estate in real property, including every charge upon real property or upon its rents or profits, made with intent to defraud prior or subsequent purchasers thereof or encumbrancers thereon is void as against every purchaser or encumbrancer for value of the same property or the rents or profits thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 492, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 1, p. 392, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 155, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 212, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1650, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4688, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6939, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1227; Field Civ. C. Sec. 535; re-en. Sec. 6939, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 29-201.

70-20-402. Instrument not void as to purchaser with notice — exception. An instrument is not to be avoided under 70-20-401 in favor of a subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer having notice at the time the purchase was made or the lien was acquired unless the person in whose favor the instrument was made was a privy to the fraud intended.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 492, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 2, p. 392, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 156, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 213, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1651, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4689, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6940, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1228; Field Civ. C. Sec. 536; re-en. Sec. 6940, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 29-202; amd. Sec. 2153, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-403. Grant by person with power to revoke — power executed. (1) When a power to revoke or modify an instrument affecting the title to or enjoyment of an estate in real property is reserved to the grantor or given to any other person, a subsequent grant of or charge upon the estate by the person having the power of revocation in favor of a purchaser or encumbrancer for value operates as a revocation of the original instrument, to the extent of the power, in favor of the purchaser or encumbrancer.

(2) When a person having a power of revocation within the provisions of subsection (1) is not entitled to execute it until after the time at which the person makes the grant or charge as described in that subsection, the power is considered to be executed as soon as the person is entitled to execute it.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, p. 492, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 3, p. 392, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 157, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 214, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1652, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4690, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6941, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1229; Field Civ. C. Sec. 537; re-en. Sec. 6941, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 29-203, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1653, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4691, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6942, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1230; Field Civ. C. Sec. 538; re-en. Sec. 6942, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 29-204, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 29-203, 29-204; amd. Sec. 2154, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-20-404. Purchaser in good faith not affected. The rights of a purchaser or encumbrancer in good faith and for value are not to be impaired by any of the foregoing provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1654, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4692, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6943, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 539; re-en. Sec. 6943, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 29-205.

70-20-405. Other provisions on unlawful transfers — where found. Other provisions concerning unlawful transfers are contained in Title 31, chapter 2, part 3, concerning the special relations of debtor and creditor.

History: En. Sec. 1655, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4693, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6944, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1231; Field Civ. C. Sec. 541; re-en. Sec. 6944, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 29-206; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

Part 5
Residential Real Property Disclosure Requirements

Part Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Codification Change: Section 7, Ch. 375, L. 2023, provided that this part was to be codified as an integral part of Title 70, chapter 1. The Code Commissioner has codified this part in Title 70, chapter 20, to more closely reflect the subject matter.

70-20-501. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adverse material fact" means a condition, malfunction, or problem that would have a materially adverse effect on the monetary value of real property, that affects the structural integrity of any improvements located on the real property, or that presents a documented health risk to occupants of the real property or would impair the health or safety of future occupants of the real property.

(2) "Buyer" means one or more persons who are attempting to acquire an ownership interest in real property.

(3) "Contract" means a real estate purchase contract between a buyer and a seller for the sale, conveyance, or exchange of real property, the option to purchase real property, or a lease with an option to purchase real property.

(4) "Disclosure statement" means the statement described in 70-20-502(1).

(5) "Offer to purchase" means an offer to transfer real property made by a buyer pursuant to a written contract.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, trust, or other legal entity or any combination of these.

(7) "Residential real property" means real property that is improved by a building or other structure designed or intended for occupancy as a residence and that has one to four dwelling units or an individually owned unit in a structure of any size and includes:

(a) real property that has a combined residential and commercial use;

(b) a manufactured home that has been declared an improvement to real property under 15-1-116; and

(c) a condominium as defined in 70-23-102(7).

(8) "Seller" means one or more persons who are attempting to transfer an ownership interest in real property.

(9) "Transfer" means a sale or conveyance of, exchange of, or option to purchase by written instrument an ownership interest in real property for consideration.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 2023.

70-20-502. Seller disclosure — statement. (1) In any transfer of residential real property in the state, the seller shall provide a disclosure statement to a buyer disclosing any adverse material facts that concern the residential real property and of which the seller has actual knowledge. The disclosure statement must be provided by the seller prior to or contemporaneously with the execution of a contract, either directly or via the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller, and must be provided to the buyer or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the buyer. The disclosure statement must contain, at a minimum, any of the following information of which the seller has actual knowledge:

(a) matters affecting legal ownership or title to the residential real property or the seller's ability to transfer the residential real property;

(b) matters affecting water service to the residential real property or the water source serving the residential real property;

(c) matters affecting the system for wastewater treatment that serves the residential real property;

(d) information concerning utility connections for the residential real property;

(e) matters affecting the buildings or other structures designed or intended for occupancy as a residence, including water intrusion, and problems or other issues related to any structural system or improvement, including any well, septic system, roof, foundation, plumbing, electrical system, heating system, windows, doors, or appliances;

(f) whether any substantial additions or alterations have been made to the residential real property without a building permit;

(g) whether there are any hazardous materials or pest infestations located on the residential real property or in the immediate area;

(h) whether there are any problems with settling, soil, standing water, or drainage on the residential real property or in the immediate area;

(i) whether any portion of the residential real property has been tested or treated for asbestos, radon gas, lead-based paint, mold, methamphetamine, fuel or chemical storage tanks, or contaminated soil or water; and

(j) any other adverse material fact, including environmental issues, structural system issues, mechanical issues, legal issues, physical issues, or others not listed above of which the seller has actual knowledge concerning the residential real property.

(2) The disclosure statement must also include statements substantially similar to the following:

(a) that the disclosure statement constitutes a statement of the conditions of the residential real property and information concerning the residential real property actually known by the seller;

(b) that the seller or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller is not obligated to investigate the residential real property in preparing the disclosure statement and that unless the buyer is otherwise advised in writing, the seller, other than having lived at or owning the property, possesses no greater knowledge than that which could be obtained by a careful inspection of the property by the buyer;

(c) that unless the buyer and seller have otherwise agreed in writing, any contract is not effective until 3 days after the buyer has received the disclosure statement, and during that delay the prospective buyer may withdraw or rescind any contract to purchase the residential real property without penalty;

(d) that the disclosure statement is not a warranty of any kind by the seller or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller in the transaction involving the transfer of the residential real property; and

(e) that the disclosure statement is not a substitute for any inspections conducted by or for the buyer and that the buyer is encouraged to consult independent inspectors to aid in the buyer's due diligence process prior to the purchase of the residential real property.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 375, L. 2023.

70-20-503. Exempt transactions. The written disclosure statement set forth in 70-20-502(1) is not required for the following transfers of residential real property:

(1) transfers pursuant to a court order, including but not limited to a transfer ordered by a probate court during the administration of a decedent's estate, a transfer pursuant to a writ of execution, a transfer by a trustee in bankruptcy, a transfer as a result of the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or a transfer that results from an order for specific performance of a contract or other agreement between persons;

(2) transfers between spouses resulting from a decree of dissolution of marriage or a decree of legal separation or from a property settlement agreement incidental to this decree;

(3) transfers to a mortgagee by a mortgagor or successor in interest who is in default, sales to a beneficiary of a deed of trust by a trustor or successor in interest who is in default, any foreclosure sale after default, any foreclosure sale after default in an obligation secured by a mortgage, a sale under a power of sale or any foreclosure sale under a decree of foreclosure after default in an obligation secured by a deed of trust or secured by any other instrument containing a power of sale, sales by a mortgagee or a beneficiary under a deed of trust who has acquired the residential real property at a sale conducted pursuant to a power of sale under a mortgage or deed of trust or a sale pursuant to a decree of foreclosure or has acquired the residential real property by a deed in lieu of foreclosure, sales to the legal owner or lienholder of a manufactured home or mobile home by a registered owner or successor in interest who is in default, or sales by reason of any foreclosure of a security interest in a manufactured home or mobile home;

(4) transfers from one co-owner to one or more other co-owners;

(5) transfers to a person who is a spouse, child by blood or adoption, or parent of the seller or any other owner of the residential real property; and

(6) transfers when in the contract the buyer has waived the right to receive a disclosure statement at the time of submitting the offer to purchase to the seller.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 375, L. 2023.

70-20-504. Buyer's right to rescind. (1) Unless otherwise agreed to by the buyer and the seller in writing, if a disclosure statement is provided by a seller to a buyer after the execution of a contract, the buyer shall have 3 days from the day the seller or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller delivers the disclosure statement to rescind the contract by delivering a separately signed written statement of rescission to the seller or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller.

(2) The buyer may waive the right to rescind in any offer to purchase.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 375, L. 2023.

70-20-505. Purpose of disclosure statement. (1) A disclosure statement as provided in 70-20-502 does not constitute a warranty of any kind by the seller or the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller.

(2) The disclosure statement must be considered a disclosure by the seller only and not the real estate agent or other authorized representative of the seller.

(3) The seller may not be responsible for misstatements or errors in a disclosure statement that are based on information a seller obtained from a reliable third-party, including a local governing agency.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 375, L. 2023.

CHAPTER 21
RECORDING TRANSFERS AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY

Part 1 — General Provisions

70-21-101. Instrument defined — abstract.
70-21-102. Unrecorded instruments valid between parties.
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70-21-210. Clerk to endorse fee.
70-21-211. Record books to be separate.
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70-21-213. Taxes paid before recording division or merger of real property.

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70-21-301. Conveyance defined.
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70-21-303. After-acquired interest — effect on notice.
70-21-304. Conveyance void as against other conveyance recorded first.
70-21-305. Abstract of conveyance — effect of recording.
70-21-306. Recording judgments to impart notice.
70-21-307. Effect of conveyance to grantee as trustee when no trust conditions provided.
70-21-308. Power of attorney contained in recorded instrument — how revoked.
70-21-309. Validation of conveyances recorded after defective execution — notice imparted.
70-21-310. Validation of recorded instruments omitting address of grantee — notice imparted.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-21-101. Instrument defined — abstract. For the purposes of Title 1, chapter 5; part 2 of this chapter; and 70-21-310, the word instrument includes an abstract of an instrument that must be executed and acknowledged or proved by all parties executing the abstracted document and contains:

(1) the names and addresses of the parties to the instrument;
(2) a description of the real property affected;
(3) a statement that this is an abstract of another document;
(4) a short statement of the effect of the document abstracted;
(5) the name and address of the person who will provide a full and complete copy of the document abstracted, without cost, upon request of any person.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 73-101.1; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 192, L. 1993.

70-21-102. Unrecorded instruments valid between parties. An unrecorded instrument is valid as between the parties and those who have notice thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1644, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4687, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6938, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1217; re-en. Sec. 6938, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-205.

70-21-103. Unrecorded deeds — to whom belong. Instruments essential to the title of real property and which are not kept in a public office as a record pursuant to law belong to the person in whom, for the time being, such title may be vested and pass with the title.

History: En. Sec. 1373, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4568, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6815, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 994; Field Civ. C. Sec. 438; re-en. Sec. 6815, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1113.

70-21-104. Removal of records prohibited — exceptions. The record of a conveyance of real property or any other record, a transcript of which is admissible in evidence, must not be removed from the office where it is kept, except upon the order of a court or judge in cases where the inspection of the record is shown to be essential to the just determination of the cause or proceeding pending or where the court is held in the same building with such office.

History: En. Sec. 3240, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7953, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10597, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1950; re-en. Sec. 10597, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-1101-20.

Part 2
Recording — Procedure

Part Cross-References

Documents subject to recording, 7-4-2613.
Procedure to record documents, 7-4-2617.

70-21-201. What may be recorded — recording copy in another county. (1) Any instrument or judgment affecting the title to or possession of real property may be recorded under this part.

(2) When any instrument or judgment affecting the title to or possession of real property situated in more than one county in this state has been recorded in either of such counties, a copy thereof, certified to by the county clerk of the county in which it has been recorded, may be recorded in any other county in this state wherein any portion of the real property affected by such instrument or judgment is situated, and such records will have the same effect as if the original instrument or judgment had been so recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1570, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4643, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6890, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1158; Field Civ. C. Sec. 508; re-en. Sec. 6890, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-101.

Cross-References

Documents subject to recording, 7-4-2613.

70-21-202. Certain transfers in trust — mortgages — when to be recorded. Transfers of property in trust for the benefit of creditors and transfers or liens on property by way of mortgage or abstract of such document are required to be recorded in the cases specified in Title 31, chapter 2, on the special relation of debtor and creditor and Title 71 on mortgages, respectively.

History: En. Sec. 1575, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4648, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6895, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1164; Field Civ. C. Sec. 511; re-en. Sec. 6895, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 218, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 73-107.

Cross-References

Recording of mortgages and assignments, 71-1-207.

70-21-203. Acknowledgment of instruments required — exceptions. Unless an instrument belongs to a class provided for in either 70-21-205 or 70-21-207, before the instrument can be recorded, its execution must be acknowledged as provided in subsection (1) or proved as provided in subsection (2).

(1) Execution of the instrument must be acknowledged, as acknowledgment is defined in 1-5-602:

(a) by the person executing it; or

(b) if executed by a corporation, by its president, vice president, secretary, or assistant secretary or by any other person duly authorized by resolution by the corporation to act on behalf of the corporation.

(2) Execution of the instrument must be proved by a subscribing witness or as provided in 1-5-302 and 1-5-303. Proof of execution as provided for in this subsection must be notarized as provided in Title 1, chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 1573, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4646, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6893, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1161; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 509; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6893, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 73-105; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 192, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

70-21-204. Proof of handwriting acceptable for recording — when. An instrument proved and certified pursuant to 1-5-302 and 1-5-303 may be recorded in the proper office if the original is at the same time deposited therein to remain for public inspection, but not otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 1574, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4647, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6894, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1162; Field Civ. C. Sec. 510; re-en. Sec. 6894, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-106.

70-21-205. Acknowledgment unnecessary for recording judgments. Judgments affecting the title to or possession of real property, authenticated by the certificate of the clerk of the court in which such judgments were rendered, may be recorded without acknowledgment or further proof.

History: En. Sec. 1571, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4644, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6891, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1159; re-en. Sec. 6891, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-102.

70-21-206. Recording of return of sale under court decree. Where real estate is sold under a decree of court, return of such sale shall be made and filed in the office of the clerk of court. The clerk shall record the return so made the same as if it were to an execution wherein a levy upon real estate had been made, provided that where the return contains a true copy of the decree of court under which such sale was made, the clerk shall record all of the return except such copy of the decree and, in lieu of recording such copy, shall insert in the record the following:

"The original judgment and decree, the true copy which is set forth in this return, is recorded in judgment book ...., at pages .... to ...., inclusive, thereof."

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 6891.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-103.

70-21-207. Letters patent and other federal and state documents — recording without acknowledgment. Letters patent from the United States or from the state of Montana or other documents and instruments or duly certified copies thereof issued by or pursuant to the authority of the United States or the state of Montana which evidence title to land or affect the title thereof, executed and authenticated pursuant to existing law, may be recorded without acknowledgment or further proof; and where letters patent have been lost or are beyond the control of any party deraigning title therefrom or for any reason they remain unrecorded, any person claiming title thereunder may cause a transcript of the copy of such letters patent kept by the government issuing the same, duly certified by the officer or individual having lawful custody of such copy, to be recorded in lieu of the original; and such recorded copy shall have prima facie the same force and effect as the original for title or for evidence until the original letters patent be recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1572, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4645, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6892, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1160; re-en. Sec. 6892, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 73-104.

70-21-208. In what county to be recorded. Instruments entitled to be recorded must be recorded by the county clerk of the county in which the real property affected thereby is situated.

History: En. Sec. 1590, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4650, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6898, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1169; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 512; re-en. Sec. 6898, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-110.

70-21-209. When instrument considered recorded. An instrument is deemed to be recorded when, being duly acknowledged or proved and certified, it is deposited in the county clerk's office with the proper officer for record.

History: En. Sec. 1591, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4651, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6899, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1170; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 513; re-en. Sec. 6899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-111.

70-21-210. Clerk to endorse fee. The county clerk shall in all cases endorse the amount of the fee for recording on the instrument recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1576, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4649, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6896, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1165; re-en. Sec. 6896, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-108; amd. Sec. 2155, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-21-211. Record books to be separate. Grants absolute in terms are to be recorded in one set of books and mortgages and securities in the nature of mortgages in another.

History: En. Sec. 1592, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4652, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6900, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1171; re-en. Sec. 6900, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-112.

70-21-212. Other duties of recorder — where found. The duties of county clerks in respect to recording instruments are prescribed by Title 7, chapter 4, part 26.

History: En. Sec. 1593, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4653, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6901, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1172; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 514; re-en. Sec. 6901, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-113.

70-21-213. Taxes paid before recording division or merger of real property. An instrument or deed evidencing either a division of real property or a merger of real property may not be accepted for recordation unless accompanied by a certification from the county treasurer that taxes and special assessments that have been assessed and levied have been paid.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 366, L. 1993.

Part 3
Effect of Recording

70-21-301. Conveyance defined. The term "conveyance", as used in 70-21-302 through 70-21-304, embraces every instrument in writing by which any estate or interest in real property is created, aliened, mortgaged, or encumbered or by which the title to real property may be affected, except wills.

History: En. Sec. 1642, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4685, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6936, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1215; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 531; re-en. Sec. 6936, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-203.

70-21-302. Recording as constructive notice — effect of recording copy in other county. (1) Every conveyance of real property acknowledged or proved and certified and recorded as prescribed by law, from the time it is filed with the county clerk for record, is constructive notice of the contents thereof to subsequent purchasers and mortgagees.

(2) A certified copy of any such recorded conveyance may be recorded in any other county, and when so recorded the record thereof shall have the same force and effect as though it was of the original conveyance.

History: En. Sec. 259, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1640, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4683, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6934, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1213, 1218; re-en. Sec. 6934, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 73-201(part).

70-21-303. After-acquired interest — effect on notice. Further, every conveyance and/or encumbrance of real property acknowledged or proved and certified and recorded as prescribed by law and which is executed by one who thereafter acquires an interest in the real property by a conveyance which said conveyance is constructive notice as aforesaid is, from the time such latter conveyance is filed with the county clerk for record, constructive notice of the contents of such earlier conveyance and/or encumbrance to subsequent takers, purchasers, mortgagees, or other encumbrancers or transferees.

History: En. Sec. 259, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1640, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4683, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 6934, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1213, 1218; re-en. Sec. 6934, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 73-201(part).

70-21-304. Conveyance void as against other conveyance recorded first. Every conveyance of real property, other than a lease for a term not exceeding 1 year, is void against any subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer, including an assignee of a mortgage, lease, or other conditional estate, of the same property or any part thereof in good faith and for a valuable consideration whose conveyance is first duly recorded.

History: En. Sec. 260, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1641, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4684, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6935, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1214; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 530; re-en. Sec. 6935, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-202.

70-21-305. Abstract of conveyance — effect of recording. An abstract of a conveyance or encumbrance of real property, which abstract is acknowledged or proved and certified and recorded as prescribed by law, shall have the same effect for all purposes of this part as if the conveyance or encumbrance of real property had been acknowledged or proved and certified and recorded as prescribed by law.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 73-201.1.

70-21-306. Recording judgments to impart notice. Every certified copy of a judgment of partition or any other judgment, filed and recorded as provided in 7-4-2613, from the time of filing the same for record imparts notice to all persons of the contents thereof, and subsequent purchasers, mortgagees, and lienholders purchase and take with like notice and effect as if such property or judgment was a duly recorded deed, grant, or transfer.

History: En. Sec. 4415, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3036, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4802, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol. C. Sec. 4239; re-en. Sec. 4802, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 16-2908.

70-21-307. Effect of conveyance to grantee as trustee when no trust conditions provided. Any conveyance of real property placed of record in any office of a county clerk and recorder in which the name of the grantee is followed by the word “trustee”, “as trustee”, or some similar fiduciary term and in which terms and conditions of the purported trust or any limitation on the power of the grantee to convey is not set forth so that any person dealing with the real property could learn from the conveyance what, if any, limitation exists upon the authority of the grantee with regard to the reconveyance or encumbrance of the property must be considered as though the property had been conveyed to the grantee without any limitation upon the grantee’s authority to reconvey or encumber as fully as though the word “trustee”, “as trustee”, or any equivalent fiduciary expression had not been used in connection with the grantee’s name. The use of the word “trustee” or “as trustee” or any equivalent fiduciary expression purporting a trust contained in the conveyance does not have force or effect in charging any purchaser or encumbrancer with notice of any limitation of power on the part of the person named as trustee to deal with the lands as the person’s own.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 64, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 73-206; amd. Sec. 2156, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-21-308. Power of attorney contained in recorded instrument — how revoked. No instrument containing a power to convey or execute instruments affecting real property, which has been recorded, is revoked by any act of the party by whom it was executed unless the instrument containing such revocation is also acknowledged or proved, certified, and recorded in the same office in which the instrument containing the power was recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1643, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4686, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6937, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1216; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 532; re-en. Sec. 6937, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 73-204.

Cross-References

Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

70-21-309. Validation of conveyances recorded after defective execution — notice imparted. (1) Any instrument affecting real property, provided no action is pending as of October 1, 1991, to set such instrument aside, which was, previous to January 1, 1991, recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder shall be deemed to impart after that date notice of its contents to subsequent purchasers and encumbrancers, notwithstanding any technical defect, omission, or informality in the execution of the instrument or in the certificate of acknowledgment thereof or the absence of any such certificate; but nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the rights of purchasers or encumbrancers previous to January 1, 1991.

(2) Duly certified copies of the record of any such instrument may be read in evidence with like effect as copies of an instrument duly acknowledged and recorded.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 73-213; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1991.

70-21-310. Validation of recorded instruments omitting address of grantee — notice imparted. (1) Any deed, mortgage, or assignment of mortgage which was, previous to July 1, 1931, copied into the proper book kept in the office of the county clerk and recorder shall be deemed to impart, after July 1, 1931, notice of its contents to subsequent purchasers and encumbrancers notwithstanding the omission therefrom of the post-office address of the grantee, mortgagee, or assignee of the mortgagee, as the case may be; and all such instruments recorded before July 1, 1931, which do not contain the post-office address of the grantee, mortgagee, or assignee of the mortgagee, as the case may be, shall be valid and shall have the same force and effect as though the post-office address of such grantee, mortgagee, or assignee of the mortgagee were contained therein; but nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the rights of purchasers or encumbrancers previous to July 1, 1931.

(2) Duly certified copies of the record of any such instrument may be read in evidence with like effect as certified copies of instruments duly recorded containing the post-office address of the grantee, mortgagee, or assignee of the mortgagee, as the case may be.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6933.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 39-132.

CHAPTER 22
CORNER RECORDATION ACT
SURVEYS AND COORDINATES

Part 1 — Corner Recordation Act

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Part 1
Corner Recordation Act

70-22-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Corner Recordation Act of Montana".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2001.

70-22-102. Purpose. It is the purpose of this part to protect and perpetuate public land survey corners and information concerning the location of such corners by requiring the systematic establishment of monuments and recording of information concerning the marking of the location of such public land survey corners and to allow the systematic location of other property corners thereby providing for property security and a coherent system of property location and identification of ownerships and thereby eliminating the repeated necessity for reestablishment and relocations of such corners where once they are established and located.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2002.

70-22-103. Definitions. Except when the context indicates a different meaning, terms used in this part must be defined as follows:

(1) An "accessory to a corner" means any exclusively identifiable physical object whose spatial relationship to the corner is recorded. Accessories may be bearing trees, bearing objects, monuments, reference monuments, line trees, pits, mounds, charcoal-filled bottles, steel or wooden stakes, or other objects.

(2) The "board" means the board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors provided for in 2-15-1763.

(3) A "corner", unless otherwise qualified, means a property corner or a property controlling corner or a public land survey corner or any combination of these.

(4) A "monument" means an accessory that is presumed to occupy the exact position of a corner.

(5) A "property controlling corner" for a property means a public land survey corner or any property corner that does not lie on a property line of the property in question but that controls the location of one or more of the property corners of the property in question.

(6) A "property corner" means a geographic point on the surface of the earth and is on, is a part of, and controls a property line.

(7) A "public land survey corner" means any corner actually established and monumented in an original survey or resurvey used as a basis of legal description for issuing a patent for the land to a private person from the United States government.

(8) A "reference monument" means a special monument that does not occupy the same geographical position as the corner itself but whose spatial relationship to the corner is recorded and that serves to witness the corner.

(9) A "surveyor" means a person who is licensed to practice land surveying under Title 37, chapter 67, and has a paid-up license for that calendar year or who is authorized under Title 37, chapter 67, to practice land surveying.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 202, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 320, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 492, L. 2001.

70-22-104. Filing of corner record required. A surveyor shall complete, sign, stamp with the surveyor's seal, and file with the county clerk and recorder of the county where the corner is situated a written record of corner establishment or restoration to be known as a "corner record" for every public land survey corner and accessory to the corner that is established, reestablished, monumented, remonumented, restored, rehabilitated, perpetuated, or used as control in any survey by the surveyor and within 90 days after the establishment unless the corner and its accessories are substantially as described in an existing corner record filed in accordance with the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2004; amd. Sec. 2157, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-22-105. Filing permitted as to any corner or accessory. (1) A surveyor may file a corner record to any property corner, property controlling corner, reference monument, or accessory to a corner.

(2) The filing of a properly completed corner record, documenting survey data used to determine the position of the corner, may be filed in lieu of filing a certificate of survey, as provided in 76-3-404, for the following listed corners:

(a) a single, previously filed or recorded property corner;
(b) a property controlling corner;
(c) a reference monument; or
(d) an accessory to a corner.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 549, L. 2003.

70-22-106. Filing of records on corners established before effective date. Corner records may be filed concerning corners established, reestablished, or restored before July 1, 1963.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2010.

70-22-107. Form and contents of record — board to prescribe. The board shall by regulation provide and prescribe the information which shall be necessary to be included in the corner record, and the board shall prescribe the form in which such corner record shall be presented and filed.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2006.

70-22-108. Corner records to be certified. A corner record may not be filed unless the record is signed by a registered surveyor and stamped with the surveyor's seal, or in the case of an agency of the United States government or the state of Montana, the certificate may be signed by the survey party chief making the survey and approved, signed, and sealed by the registered surveyor in responsible charge of the agency.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2009; amd. Sec. 2158, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-22-109. Duties of county clerk. (1) The county clerk and recorder of the county containing the corner must receive the completed corner record and preserve it in a hardbound book. The books must be numbered in numerical order as filled.

(2) The clerk shall number the forms in numerical order as they are filed.

(3) The book and page number in which the corner record is filed must be placed by the clerk near that same corner on a cross-index plat for public land corners or on an index referenced to tract or lot number in a survey of record. The clerk shall provide an index for that purpose.

(4) The county clerk and recorder shall make these records available for public inspection during all usual office hours.

(5) There is no filing fee.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 549, L. 2003.**

70-22-110. Surveyor to rehabilitate monument. If a corner record of a public land survey corner is required to be filed under the provisions of this part, the surveyor shall reconstruct or rehabilitate the monument of the corner and accessories to the corner so that the monument is left by the surveyor in a physical condition so that it remains as permanent a monument as is reasonably possible and so that the monument may be reasonably expected to be located with facility at all times in the future.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 202, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2008; amd. Sec. 2159, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-22-111 through 70-22-114 reserved.

70-22-115. Monument preservation. (1) A public or private entity or person shall, before engaging in activity that will or is likely to disturb or destroy a monument or the accessories to a monument, require the following activities to be performed by a professional land surveyor, as defined in 37-67-101, or a qualified person under the direct supervision of a professional land surveyor:

(a) locate and reference the monument or the accessories to the monument; and

(b) file a corner record showing the location of the references to the monument or to the accessories to the monument as required in 70-22-104 and 70-22-105.

(2) A public or private entity or person shall, within 30 days of completing activity that has disturbed or destroyed a monument or the accessories to a monument, require the following activities to be performed by a professional land surveyor, as defined in 37-67-101, or a qualified person under the direct supervision of a professional land surveyor:

(a) restore or replace the monument or the accessories to the monument, using the references established in subsection (1)(b); and

(b) file a new corner record as required in 70-22-104 and 70-22-105.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 314, L. 2009.**

Part 2
Montana Coordinate System

70-22-201. Coordinate systems adopted — designation — division of state into zones. (1) The North American datum systems of plane coordinates that have been established by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration/national geodetic survey (formerly the United States coast and geodetic survey) or a successor for defining and stating the positions or locations of points on the surface of the earth within the state of Montana are to be known and designated from now on as the "Montana coordinate system NAD 27", the "Montana coordinate system NAD 83", and the "Montana plane coordinate system".

(2) For the purpose of the use of the Montana coordinate system NAD 27, the state is divided into a north zone and a central zone and a south zone as provided in subsections (3) through (5).

(3) The area now included in the following counties shall constitute the north zone: Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Flathead, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Lincoln, Phillips, Pondera, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Teton, Toole, and Valley.

(4) The area now included in the following counties shall constitute the central zone: Cascade, Dawson, Fergus, Garfield, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Petroleum, Powell, Prairie, Richland, Sanders, and Wibaux.

(5) The area now included in the following counties shall constitute the south zone: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Madison, Musselshell, Park, Powder River, Ravalli, Rosebud, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland, and Yellowstone.

(6) For the purpose of the use of the Montana coordinate system NAD 83, the state is a single zone.

(7) For the purpose of the use of the Montana plane coordinate system (MTPCS), the most recent system of plane coordinates that has been established by the national geodetic survey (NGS), or a successor, that is based on the North American terrestrial reference frame of 2022 (NATRF2022), or a successor, and the national spatial reference system (NSRS), or a successor, and known as the state plane coordinate system (SPCS), or a successor, for defining and stating the geographic positions or locations of points within the state must be known as the "Montana plane coordinate system".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-22-202. Designation of system by zone. (1) As established for use in the north zone, the Montana coordinate system NAD 27 shall be named and in any land description in which it is used it shall be designated the "Montana coordinate system NAD 27, north zone".

(2) As established for use in the central zone, the Montana coordinate system NAD 27 shall be named and in any land description in which it is used it shall be designated the "Montana coordinate system NAD 27, central zone".

(3) As established for use in the south zone, the Montana coordinate system NAD 27 shall be named and in any land description in which it is used it shall be designated the "Montana coordinate system NAD 27, south zone".

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2012; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 1987.

70-22-203. Use of x- and y-coordinates. (1) For the Montana coordinate system NAD 27, the plane coordinate values for a point on the earth's surface used to express the geographic position or location of such point in the appropriate zone of this system must consist of two distances expressed in terms of a United States survey foot and decimals of a foot.

(2) For the Montana coordinate system NAD 83 and all later Montana plane coordinate systems, the plane coordinate values for a point on the earth's surface used to express the geographic position or location of such point in the zone must consist of two distances expressed in either meters and decimals of a meter or in feet and decimals of a foot. The international conversion value (1 foot equals 0.3048 meters exactly) must be used. The unit of measure must be clearly stated when the coordinate values are expressed.

(3) One of the distances used to express a position or location, to be known as the "east coordinate" or "x-coordinate", must give the position in an east-and-west direction from the y-axis; the other, to be known as the "north coordinate" or "y-coordinate", must give the position in a north-and-south direction from the x-axis. The y-axis of any zone must be parallel with the central meridian of that zone. The x-axis of any zone must be at a right angle to the central meridian of that zone. These coordinates must be made to depend on and conform to plane rectangular coordinate values derived from the NSRS as defined and promulgated by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration/national geodetic survey or its successors and whose plane coordinates have been computed on the systems designated by this part.

Any station with coordinates referenced to the NSRS may be used for establishing a survey connection to the Montana coordinate systems.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 137, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-22-204. Description of location. (1) For the purposes of describing the location of any survey station in Montana, it is considered a complete, legal, and satisfactory description of such location to give the position of the survey station on the system of plane coordinates designated in this part.

(2) When any tract of land to be defined by a single description extends from one into another of the NAD 27 coordinate zones, the positions of all points on its boundaries may be referred to either of such zones, the zone which is used being specifically named in the description.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2014; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 137, L. 1987.**

70-22-205. Technical description of zones. For the purposes of more precisely defining the Montana coordinate systems NAD 27, NAD 83, and MTPCS, the following description by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration/national geodetic survey (formerly the United States coast and geodetic survey) is adopted:

(1) The Montana coordinate system NAD 27, north zone, is a Lambert conformal projection of the Clarke spheroid of 1866, having standard parallels at north latitudes 47° 51′ and 48° 43′, along which parallels the scale must be exact. The origin of coordinates is at the intersection of the meridian 109° 30′ west of Greenwich and the parallel 47° 00′ north latitude. This origin is given the coordinates: x = 2,000,000 feet and y = 0 feet.

(2) The Montana coordinate system NAD 27, central zone, is a Lambert conformal projection of the Clarke spheroid of 1866, having standard parallels at north latitudes 46° 27′ and 47° 53′, along which parallels the scale must be exact. The origin of coordinates is at the intersection of the meridian 109° 30′ west of Greenwich and the parallel 45° 50′ north latitude. This origin is given the coordinates: x = 2,000,000 feet and y = 0 feet.

(3) The Montana coordinate system NAD 27, south zone, is a Lambert conformal projection of the Clarke spheroid of 1866, having standard parallels at north latitudes 44° 52′ and 46° 24′, along which parallels the scale must be exact. The origin of coordinates is at the intersection of the meridian 109° 30′ west of Greenwich and the parallel 44° 00′ north latitude. This origin is given the coordinates: x = 2,000,000 feet and y = 0 feet.

(4) The Montana coordinate system NAD 83 is a Lambert conformal conic projection of the GRS 80 (Geodetic Reference System 1980) ellipsoid, having standard parallels of north latitudes 45° 00′ and 49° 00′, along which parallels the scale must be exact. The origin of coordinates is at the intersection of the meridian 109° 30′ west of Greenwich and the parallel 44° 15′ north latitude. This origin is given the coordinates: x = 600,000 meters and y = 0 meters.

(5) The Montana plane coordinate system must be the state plane coordinate system of 2022 (SPCS2022) or its most recent successor as defined by the national geodetic survey or its successor agency.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 232, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 137, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-22-206. Conformity to standards required for use of coordinates in recorded instrument. Coordinates based on the Montana coordinate systems purporting to define the position of a point on a land boundary may not be presented to be recorded in any public land records or deed records unless the coordinates have been determined with respect to the national spatial reference system (NSRS) at an accuracy consistent with the relative accuracy of the land boundary as presented in the recorded instrument. Public land or deed records presented for recording that purport to define the position of a point on a land boundary based on coordinates from the Montana coordinate systems must contain a statement that identifies the specific realization of the reference frame or datum of the coordinates, including the coordinate epoch date if applicable, along with the type of equipment and methods used to perform the survey and tie it to the NSRS.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2016; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 137, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 473, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 473, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-22-207. Use of term Montana coordinate system limited. The use of the term "Montana coordinate system NAD 27 north, central, or south zone", "Montana coordinate system NAD 83", or "Montana plane coordinate system" on any map, report of survey, or other document must be limited to coordinates based on the Montana coordinate systems as defined in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 137, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 473, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 473, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-22-208. Public land survey description to prevail. Whenever coordinates based on the Montana coordinate system are used to describe any tract of land which in the same document is also described by reference to any subdivision, line, or corner of the United States public land surveys, the description by coordinates shall be construed as supplemental to the basic description of such subdivision, line, or corner contained in the official plats and field notes filed of record.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2018; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 137, L. 1987.**

70-22-209. Purchaser or mortgagee not required to rely on description using systems. Nothing contained in this part shall require any purchaser or mortgagee to rely on a description, any part of which depends exclusively upon the Montana coordinate systems.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 232, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 137, L. 1987.**

70-22-210. Limit on use of Montana coordinate system NAD 27. The Montana coordinate system NAD 27 north, central, and south zone may not be used after July 1, 1993; the Montana coordinate system NAD 83 is the sole system to be used after this date.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 137, L. 1987.**

70-22-211. Limit on use of Montana coordinate system NAD 83. The Montana coordinate system NAD 83 may not be used to define the position of a point on a land boundary for any publicly recorded instrument more than 1 year after the date that SPCS2022 is adopted by NGS as an official part of the NSRS. The Montana plane coordinate system as defined by NGS or its successors is the sole system to be used after this date.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

CHAPTER 23
UNIT OWNERSHIP ACT — CONDOMINIUMS

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Chapter Cross-References

Undivided interest in common elements of condominium project — assessment and taxation, 15-8-511.
Common elements serving residential or commercial development — assessment and taxation, 15-8-512.
Homeowners' association restrictions — real property rights, 70-17-901.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-23-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Unit Ownership Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2301.**

70-23-102. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Association of unit owners" means all the unit owners acting as a group in accordance with the declaration and bylaws.

(2) "Borrower" means a mortgagor, grantor as defined in 71-1-303, or other debtor.

(3) "Building" means a multiple-unit building or buildings comprising a part of the property.

(4) "Common elements" means the general common elements and the limited common elements.

(5) "Common expenses" means:

(a) expenses of administration, maintenance, repair, or replacement of the common elements;

(b) expenses agreed upon as common by all the unit owners; and

(c) expenses declared common by 70-23-610 and 70-23-612 or by the declaration or the bylaws of the particular condominium.

(6) "Community land trust" means a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that holds title to land beneath individually owned units, including but not limited to single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums, and multiunit rental properties for the purpose of preserving affordable housing.

(7) "Condominium" means the ownership of single units with common elements located on property submitted to the provisions of this chapter. The term does not include a townhome or a townhouse.

(8) "Conversion" means a change in the character of residential real property from one or more parcels of land with attached condominium units to one or more parcels of land with attached townhome or townhouse units without a change to the undivided interest of the unit owners.

(9) "Declaration" means the instrument by which the property is submitted to the provisions of this chapter.

(10) "General common elements", unless otherwise provided in a declaration or by consent of all the unit owners, means:

(a) the land on which the building is located, except any portion of the land included in a unit or made a limited common element by the declaration;

(b) the foundations, columns, girders, beams, supports, mainwalls, roofs, halls, corridors, lobbies, stairs, fire escapes, entrances, and exits of the building;

(c) the basements, yards, gardens, parking areas, and outside storage spaces, private pathways, sidewalks, and private roads;

(d) installations of central services such as power, light, gas, hot and cold water, heating, refrigeration, air conditioning, waste disposal, and incinerating;

(e) the elevators, tanks, pumps, motors, fans, compressors, ducts, and in general all apparatus and installations existing for common use;

(f) the premises for the lodging of janitors or caretakers of the property; and

(g) all other elements of the building necessary or convenient to its existence, maintenance, and safety or normally in common use.

(11) "Lienholder" means a person holding a security interest, including a mortgagee, beneficiary of a trust indenture, or other creditor who holds a mortgage, trust indenture, or other instrument that encumbers real property.

(12) "Limited common elements" means those common elements designated in the declaration or by agreement of all the unit owners as reserved for the use of a certain unit or number of units to the exclusion of the other units.

(13) "Majority" or "majority of the unit owners", unless otherwise provided in the declaration, means the owners of more than 50% in the aggregate of the undivided ownership interests in the general common elements as the percentage of interest in the element appertaining to each unit is expressed in the declaration. Whenever a percentage of the unit owners is specified, percentage means the percentage in the aggregate of undivided ownership.

(14) "Manager" means the manager, board of managers, or other person in charge of the administration of or managing the property.

(15) "Project" means a real estate condominium project whereby a condominium of two or more units located on property submitted to the provisions of this chapter is offered or proposed to be offered for sale.

(16) "Property" means the land, all buildings, improvements, and structures on the land, and all easements, rights, and appurtenances belonging to the land that are submitted to the provisions of this chapter.

(17) "Recording officer" means the county officer charged with the duty of filing and recording deeds and mortgages or other instruments or documents affecting the title to real property.

(18) "Townhome" or "townhouse" means property that is owned subject to an arrangement under which persons own their own units and hold separate title to the land beneath their units, but under which they may jointly own the common areas and facilities.

(19) "Unit" means a part of the property including one or more rooms occupying one or more floors or a part or parts of the property intended for any type of independent use and with a direct exit to a public street or highway or to a common area or area leading to a public street or highway.

(20) "Unit designation" means the number, letter, or combination of numbers and letters designating a unit in the declaration.

(21) "Unit owner" means the person owning a unit in fee simple absolute individually or as co-owner in any real estate tenancy relationship recognized under the laws of this state. However, for all purposes, including the exercise of voting rights, provided by lease filed with the presiding officer of the association of unit owners, a lessee of a unit must be considered a unit owner.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2302; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 12, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 323, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 2021.**

70-23-103. Applicability — submission by declaration required — optional declaration for townhouses. (1) In order to submit any property to the provisions of this chapter, the sole owner or sole lessee or all of the owners or all of the lessees of the property shall execute, acknowledge, and record a declaration in the office of the recording officer of the county in which the property is located. The declaration must be executed in accordance with 70-23-301.

(2) A declaration for a townhome or townhouse may be executed under this section. The provisions of this chapter apply to townhomes or townhouses only if a declaration is executed under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 373, L. 2011.**

Part 2
Regulation of Unit Sales Prior to Construction
(Repealed)

70-23-201. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.1 by Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.1.**

70-23-202. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.2 by Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.2.**

70-23-203. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.3 by Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.3.**

70-23-204. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.4 by Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.4; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 115, L. 1979.**

70-23-205. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.5 by Sec. 7, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.5.**

70-23-206. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.
History: **En. 67-2303.6 by Sec. 8, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2303.6.**

Part 3
Creation — Declaration and Bylaws

70-23-301. Contents of declaration. A declaration must contain:

(1) a description of the land, whether leased or in fee simple, on which the building is located or is to be located;

(2) the name by which the property will be known and a general description of the building, including the number of stories and basements, the number of units, and the principal materials of which it is constructed;

(3) the unit designation, location, approximate area of each unit, and any other data necessary for proper identification;

(4) a description of the general common elements and the percentage of the interest of each unit owner in the common elements;

(5) a description of the limited common elements, if any, stating to which units their use is reserved and in what percentage;

(6) a statement of the use for which the building and each of the units is intended;

(7) the name of a person to receive service of process in the cases provided in 70-23-901 and the residence or place of business of the person which must be within the county in which the property is located;

(8) an exhibit containing certification from the applicable local government that the condominiums, townhomes, or townhouses are either exempt from review under 76-3-203 or have been approved following review under Title 76, chapter 3, parts 5 and 6; and

(9) any other details regarding the property that the person executing the declaration considers desirable.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2314; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 373, L. 2011.

70-23-302. Preliminary declaration. A preliminary declaration, setting forth as many of the particulars required by 70-23-301 as may then be practicable, may be recorded before construction of the building described in the declaration is completed. The preliminary declaration shall not relieve the owner from the necessity of filing the declaration as required by 70-23-301.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2315.

70-23-303. Name of property — similarity prohibited. No property shall bear a name using a word which is the same as, similar to, or pronounced the same as a word in the name of any other property or subdivision in the same county, except for the words “apartment”, “motel”, “building”, “court”, “place”, or similar words.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2316.

Cross-References

Assumed business names, Title 30, ch. 13, part 2.

70-23-304. Declaration to be approved by county before recording. Before a declaration may be recorded in the county in which the property is located, it must be approved by the county. A declaration must be approved unless:

(1) the name does not comply with 70-23-303; and

(2) all taxes and assessments due and payable have not been paid.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2317; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

70-23-305. Recording of declaration. (1) When a declaration is made and approved as required, it must, upon the payment of the fees provided by law, be recorded by the recording officer. The fact of recording and the date of recording must be entered on the declaration.

(2) At the time of recording a declaration, the person offering it for record shall also file a copy, certified by the recording officer to be a true copy, with the department of revenue.

(3) If the property is located in a city or town, a copy of the declaration only must also be filed with the city or town clerk at the time of recording.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2318; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993.

70-23-306. Floor plans recorded with declaration — certification. (1) Floor plans of the building described in a declaration shall be recorded simultaneously with the declaration. The floor plans shall show the layout of each unit, including the unit designation, location and dimensions of each unit, and the common areas to which each has access.

(2) There shall be attached to the floor plans a statement of a registered architect, registered professional engineer, or registered professional land surveyor who has reviewed the floor plans, certifying that the plans are an accurate copy of the plans filed with and approved by the city and county officers having jurisdiction to issue building permits. If the plans do not include a verified statement by an architect, engineer, or surveyor that the plans fully and accurately depict the layout, location, unit designation, and dimensions of each unit as built, there shall be recorded within 30 days from the date of completion of the building or from the date of the first occupancy of the building, whichever first occurs, an amendment to the declaration to which shall be attached a verified statement of a registered architect, registered professional engineer, or registered professional land surveyor certifying that the floor plans previously filed or being filed simultaneously with the amendment fully and accurately depict the layout of the units and floors of the building and the date construction of the building was completed.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2319; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Licensing of architects, Title 37, ch. 65, part 3.

Licensing of engineers and land surveyors, Title 37, ch. 67, part 3.

70-23-307. Bylaws — adoption, recording, and amendment. (1) The unit owners of each property shall adopt bylaws to govern the administration of the property.

(2) A copy of the bylaws, certified by the presiding officer and secretary of the association, shall be recorded simultaneously with the declaration of the property to which the bylaws relate.

(3) An amendment of the bylaws shall not be effective unless approved by 75% of the unit owners and until a copy of the bylaws, as amended, certified by the presiding officer and secretary of the association of unit owners, is recorded.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2320.

70-23-308. Contents of bylaws. Subject to 70-1-522, the bylaws must provide for:

(1) the election from among the unit owners of a board of directors, the number of persons constituting the board, and that the terms of at least one-third of the directors expire annually, the powers and duties of the board, the compensation, if any, of the directors, the method of removal from office of the directors, and whether or not the board may engage the services of a manager or managing agent;

(2) the method of calling meetings of the unit owners and the percentage, if other than a majority as defined by 70-23-102, that constitutes a quorum;

(3) the election of a presiding officer, a secretary, and a treasurer;

(4) the maintenance, upkeep, and repair of the common elements and payment for those expenses, including the method of approving payment vouchers;

(5) the employment of personnel necessary for the maintenance, upkeep, and repair of the common elements;

(6) the manner of collecting from the unit owners their share of the common expenses;

(7) the method of adopting and of amending administrative rules governing the details of the operation and use of the common elements;

(8) restrictions on and requirements respecting the use and maintenance of the units and the use of the common elements, not included in the declaration, as are designed to prevent unreasonable interference with the use of the unit owners' respective units and of the common elements by the several unit owners;

(9) the method of amending the bylaws subject to 70-23-307.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2321; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 12, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-23-309. Association of unit owners — remote meetings. (1) Unless the terms of the declaration or the bylaws provide otherwise, an association of unit owners may hold a meeting by remote means.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "remote means" includes telephone audio, teleconference, or videoconference.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 2021.**

Part 4
Nature of the Ownership Interest

70-23-401. Property status of the unit. While the property is submitted to this chapter, a unit in the building may be individually conveyed, leased, or encumbered and may be the subject of ownership, possession, or sale and of all types of juridic acts inter vivos or mortis causa as if it were sole and entirely independent of the other units in the building of which they form a part, and the corresponding individual titles and interests shall be recordable.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2304.**

70-23-402. Exclusive ownership and possession of unit — joint ownership. (1) Each unit owner is entitled to the exclusive ownership and possession of the owner's unit.

(2) A unit may be jointly or commonly owned by more than one person.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2305; amd. Sec. 2160, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-403. Common elements — undivided interest of unit owner. (1) Each unit owner shall be entitled to an undivided interest in the common elements in the percentage expressed in the declaration. Such percentage shall be in the approximate relation that the value of the unit at the date of the declaration bears to the then combined value of all the units having an interest in the particular common elements. Value need not conform to market value.

(2) The percentage of undivided interest of each unit owner in the common elements as expressed in a declaration shall not be altered unless all unit owners having an interest in the particular common element agree thereto and record an amendment to the declaration setting forth the altered percentage of each unit owner having an interest.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2306.**

70-23-404. Common elements — undivided interest to remain attached to unit. The undivided interest in the common elements shall not be separated from the unit to which it appertains and shall be conveyed or encumbered with the unit even though such interest is not expressly mentioned or described in the conveyance or other instrument.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2307(1).**

70-23-405. Common elements to remain undivided — partition prohibited. The common elements shall remain undivided, and no unit owner shall bring any action for partition or division of any part thereof except as provided in 70-23-805. Any covenant to the contrary is void.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2307(2).**

Part 5
Rights and Duties Incidental to Unit Ownership

70-23-501. Common profits and expenses. The common profits of the property shall be distributed among and the common expenses shall be charged to the unit owners according to the percentage of undivided interest of each in the common elements.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2308.**

70-23-502. Certain work on unit by owner prohibited. A unit owner may not make a repair or alteration or perform any other work on the owner's unit that would jeopardize the soundness or safety of the property, reduce the value of the property, or impair any easement or hereditament unless the consent of all the other unit owners affected is first obtained.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2309; amd. Sec. 2161, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-503. Common elements — use by unit owner. Each unit owner may use the common elements in accordance with the purposes for which they are intended but may not hinder or encroach upon the lawful rights of the other unit owners.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2310.

70-23-504. Maintenance and improvement of common elements. (1) The necessary work of maintenance, repair, and replacement of the common elements and additions or improvements to the common elements shall be carried out only as provided in the bylaws.

(2) The association of unit owners shall have the right, to be exercised by the manager, to have access to each unit as may be necessary for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of the common elements or to make emergency repairs therein necessary for the public safety or to prevent damage to the common elements or to another unit.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2311.

70-23-505. Abandonment or waiver of use not to effect exemption. A unit owner may not be exempted from liability for the owner's contribution towards the common expenses by waiver of the use or enjoyment of any of the common elements or by abandonment of the owner's unit.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2312; amd. Sec. 2162, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-23-506. Compliance with bylaws, rules, and covenants required — action. Except as provided in 70-1-522, each unit owner shall comply with the bylaws and with the rules adopted pursuant to the bylaws and with the covenants, conditions, and restrictions in the declaration or in the deed to the owner's unit. Failure to comply with the bylaws, rules, covenants, conditions, and restrictions is grounds for an action maintainable by the association of unit owners or by an aggrieved unit owner.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2313; amd. Sec. 2163, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-23-507. Restriction on covenants by association of unit owners. An association of unit owners shall abide by the provisions of 70-17-901.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Homeowners' association restrictions — real property rights, 70-17-901.

Part 6
Conveyances, Liens, and Common Expenses

70-23-601. Contents of deed or lease of unit. Except as provided in 70-1-522, the deed or lease of a unit must contain:

(1) a description of the land, the name of the property, and the recording index numbers and date of recording of the declaration;

(2) the unit designation of the unit;

(3) the use for which the unit is intended;

(4) the percentages of undivided interest in the common elements appertaining to the unit;

(5) any further details the grantor and grantee or lessor and lessee may consider desirable.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2322; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 307, L. 2009.

70-23-602. Liens to be satisfied or released at time of first conveyance. At the time of the first conveyance or lease of each unit following the recording of the declaration, every mortgage and other lien affecting such unit, including the undivided interest of the unit in the common elements, shall be paid and satisfied of record or the unit being conveyed or leased and its interest in the common elements shall be released therefrom by partial release duly recorded.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2323.

Cross-References

Mortgages, Title 71, ch. 1.
Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

70-23-603. Lien allowable against unit not against the property. Subsequent to recording a declaration and while the property remains subject to this chapter, no lien shall arise or be effective against the property. During such period liens or encumbrances shall arise or be created only against each unit and the undivided interest in the common elements appertaining thereto, in the same manner and under the same conditions as liens or encumbrances may arise or be created upon or against any other separate parcel of real property subject to individual ownership.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2324(1).**

Cross-References

Construction liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 5.

70-23-604. Construction lien — no effect on nonconsenting owner — exception. Labor performed or materials furnished with the consent or at the request of a unit owner or the owner's agent, contractor, or subcontractor may not be the basis for the filing of a construction lien against the unit of any other unit owner not consenting to or requesting the labor to be performed or the materials to be furnished, except that consent must be considered given by the owner of any unit in the case of emergency repairs performed or furnished with the consent or at the request of the manager.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2324(2); amd. Sec. 2164, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Construction liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 5.

70-23-605. Lien effective against two or more units — release from. If a lien becomes effective against two or more units, the owner of each unit subject to the lien has the right to have the owner's unit released from the lien by payment of the amount of the lien attributable to the owner's unit. The amount of the lien attributable to a unit and the payment required to satisfy a lien, in the absence of agreement, must be determined by application of the percentage established in the declaration. A partial payment, satisfaction, or discharge may not prevent the lienor from proceeding to enforce the lienor's rights against any unit and the undivided interest in the common element pertaining to a unit not released by a payment, satisfaction, or discharge.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2324(3); amd. Sec. 2165, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-606. Records of receipts and expenditures affecting common elements — inspection. (1) The manager shall keep detailed accurate records in chronological order of the receipts and expenditures affecting the common elements, itemizing the maintenance and repair expenses of the common elements and any other expenses incurred.

(2) Such records and the vouchers authorizing the payments and receipts for payments shall be available for examination at the manager's place of business by the unit owners at convenient hours of weekdays.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2325; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 385, L. 1983.**

70-23-607. Claim for common expenses — priority of lien — contents — recording. (1) Whenever an association of unit owners acting through its manager furnishes to a unit any services, labor, or material lawfully chargeable as common expenses, the association of unit owners, upon complying with subsection (2) of this section, shall have a lien upon the individual unit and the undivided interest in the common elements appertaining to such unit for the reasonable value of such common expenses, and the lien shall be prior to all other liens or encumbrances upon the unit except:

(a) tax and assessment liens; and

(b) a first mortgage or trust indenture of record.

(2) An association of unit owners claiming the benefits of subsection (1) of this section shall record in the county in which the unit or some part thereof is located a claim containing:

(a) a true statement of the account due for such common expenses after deducting all just credits and offsets;

(b) the name of the owner of the unit or reputed owner, if known;

(c) a description of the property where the common expenses were furnished and the designation of the unit, sufficient for identification.

(3) The claim shall be verified by the oath of some person having knowledge of the facts and shall be filed with and recorded by the recording officer in the book kept for the purpose of recording liens filed under Title 71, chapter 3, part 5. The record shall be indexed as deeds and other conveyances are required by law to be indexed.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2326; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 202, L. 1987.**

70-23-608. Foreclosure of lien under claim for common expenses — action without foreclosure. (1) The proceedings to foreclose liens created by 70-23-607 shall conform as nearly as possible to the proceedings to foreclose liens created by Title 71, chapter 3, part 5. The lien may be enforced by the manager acting on behalf of the association of unit owners.

(2) An action to recover a money judgment for unpaid common expenses may be maintained without foreclosing or waiving the lien securing the claim for common expenses.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2327; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 202, L. 1987.**

70-23-609. Foreclosure on unit — payment of rent — purchase of unit by manager. (1) In any foreclosure suit against a unit, the unit owner shall be required to pay a reasonable rental for the unit if so provided in the bylaws, and the plaintiff in such foreclosure shall be entitled to the appointment of a receiver to collect the rent.

(2) The manager acting on behalf of the unit owners shall have power, unless prohibited by the declaration, to bid on the unit at the foreclosure sale and to acquire and hold, lease, mortgage, and convey the same.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2328; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 84, L. 1983.**

70-23-610. Purchaser at foreclosure sale not totally liable for prior common expenses. When the purchaser of a unit obtains title to the unit as a result of foreclosure of the first mortgage or trust indenture, the purchaser and the purchaser's successors and assigns are not liable for any of the common expenses chargeable to the unit that became due prior to the acquisition of title to the unit by the purchaser. The unpaid share of common expenses is a common expense of all the unit owners, including the purchaser and the purchaser's successors and assigns.

History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2329; amd. Sec. 2166, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-611. Joint liability of grantor and grantee for unpaid common expenses. In a voluntary conveyance of a unit, the grantee is jointly and severally liable with the grantor for all unpaid charges against the grantor for the grantor's proportionate share of the common expenses up to the time of the grant or conveyance, without prejudice to the grantee's right to recover from the grantor the amounts paid by the grantee for the common expenses. However, upon request of a prospective purchaser, the manager shall make and deliver a statement of the unpaid charges against the prospective grantor, and the grantee in that case is not liable for nor is the unit when conveyed subject to a lien filed for any unpaid charges against the grantor in excess of the amount set forth in the statement.

History: **En. Sec. 30, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2330; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2167, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-612. Insurance of building — premiums as common expenses. (1) The manager as trustee for the unit owners shall, if required by the declaration, by the bylaws, or by a majority of the unit owners, insure the building against loss or damage by fire and other hazards as required, without prejudice to the right of each unit owner to insure the owner's own unit for the owner's own benefit.

(2) The premiums for insurance on the building are common expenses.

History: **En. Sec. 31, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2331; amd. Sec. 2168, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-23-613. Disclosure by seller — seller to furnish documents — delay period. (1) Whenever a person, corporation, or other legal entity constitutes a majority of the unit owners, the seller or the sellers's agent, prior to signing any buy-sell agreement, shall give to any person purchasing or expressing a desire to purchase one of the project units notice that:

(a) the seller or other person constitutes a majority of the unit owners;

(b) any bylaws and administrative regulations governing the operation of the development and the association, as adopted by the association, have been adopted by the seller or other person acting as a majority of the unit owners; and

(c) any change in the bylaws or administrative regulations occurring while the seller or other person constitutes a majority of the unit owners may be made only with the approval of the seller or other person constituting a majority of unit owners.

(2) Upon the request of any person purchasing or expressing a desire to purchase one of the project units, the seller or the seller's agent shall furnish to that buyer or prospective buyer, prior to signing any buy-sell agreement, a copy of the Unit Ownership Act, the bylaws of the association, and any administrative regulations governing the operation of the project or the association.

(3) Any buy-sell agreement must provide that it is not effective until 72 hours after the prospective purchaser has received the documents required in subsection (2), and during that delay, the prospective purchaser may withdraw the offer without penalty.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 385, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2169, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 7
Taxation and Exemptions
(Repealed)

70-23-701. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 452, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2340.**

70-23-702. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 452, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 41, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2341.**

70-23-703. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 452, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 42, Ch. 120, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2342.**

Part 8
Removal of Property From Unit Ownership Act

70-23-801. Removal from chapter — recorded instrument — consent of lienholders. All of the unit owners may remove a property from the provisions of this chapter by executing and recording an instrument to that effect if the holders of all liens affecting any of the units consent thereto or agree, in either case by instruments duly recorded, that their liens be transferred to the undivided interest of the unit owner in the property after removal from the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 32, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2332; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 452, L. 1985.**

70-23-802. Obsolete property — restoration or sale — removal from chapter. Ninety percent of the unit owners may agree that the property is obsolete in whole or in part and whether or not it shall be renewed and restored or sold and the proceeds of sale distributed. If 90% of the unit owners agree to renew and restore the property, the expense thereof shall be paid by all the unit owners as common expenses. If 90% of the unit owners agree to sell the property, the property shall be considered removed from the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2333.**

70-23-803. Damage to property — decision not to repair or rebuild — removal from chapter. If within 60 days after the date of the damage to or destruction of all or part of the property the association of unit owners does not decide to repair, reconstruct, or rebuild, the property shall be considered removed from the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2334.**

70-23-804. Effect of removal — ownership in common — liens. If the property is removed from the provisions of this chapter, as provided by 70-23-801 through 70-23-803, the property shall be considered owned in common by all the unit owners. The percentage of undivided interest of each unit owner in the property owned in common shall be the same as the percentage of undivided interest previously owned by such owner in the common elements. Liens affecting any unit shall be liens, in accordance with the then existing priorities, against the undivided interest of the unit owner in the property owned in common.

History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2335.**

70-23-805. Effect of removal — subject to partition — sale. If the property is removed from the provisions of this chapter, as provided in 70-23-801 through 70-23-803, it shall be subject to an action for partition at the suit of any unit owner. The net proceeds of sale, together with the net proceeds of the insurance on the property, if any, shall be considered as one fund and shall be divided among the unit owners in proportion to their respective undivided interests after first paying out of the respective shares of the unit owners, to the extent sufficient for the purpose, all liens on the undivided interest in the property owned by each unit owner.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2336.

70-23-806. Removal no bar to resubmission. The removal of the property from the provisions of this chapter shall in no way bar its resubmission.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2337.

Part 9
Actions and Process

70-23-901. Actions — service of process. (1) Actions may be brought on behalf of two or more of the unit owners, as their respective interests may appear, by the manager with respect to any cause of action relating to the common elements or more than one unit.

(2) Service of process on two or more unit owners, in any action relating to the common elements or more than one unit, may be made on the person designated in the declaration to receive service of process or in duplicate on the recording officer of the county in which the declaration is filed. The recording officer shall promptly send a copy of the document served by certified or registered mail to the person designated in the declaration to receive service of process.

(3) At the time of service on the recording officer, the serving party shall pay to the recording officer a fee of $10 which shall be a taxable disbursement.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2338.

70-23-902. Change of agent for service of process. If the association of unit owners wishes to designate a person other than the one named in the declaration to receive service of process in the cases provided in 70-23-901, it shall record an amendment to the declaration. The amendment must be certified by the presiding officer and the secretary of the association of unit owners and must state the name of the successor with the successor's residence or place of business as required by 70-23-301(7) and that the person named in the amendment was designated by resolution duly adopted by the association of unit owners.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 120, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2339; amd. Sec. 2170, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 10
Enforcement and Penalty
(Repealed)

70-23-1001. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2343.

70-23-1002. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 12, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 150, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2344.

Part 11
Conversion of Condominium to Townhouse

70-23-1101. Conversion of condominium to townhouse. (1) A condominium may be converted to a townhome or townhouse only if:

(a) no other structure occupies the vertical air space above or below the unit's converted footprint;

(b) all condominium units subject to the recorded condominium declaration are simultaneously converted to townhome or townhouse units; and

(c) all of the unit owners owning units subject to the recorded condominium declaration consent to the conversion by executing and recording an instrument to that effect and adhering to the requirements of this section.

(2) If a condominium unit is affected by a lien, the unit owner shall obtain the lienholder's written consent to the conversion. If a lienholder does not provide written consent to the conversion, the unit owner may consent on behalf of the lienholder only according to the following provisions:

(a) The unit owner shall deliver by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each affected lienholder or its servicer at the address specified in the recorded trust indenture or mortgage, the address specified in the last recorded assignment of the trust indenture or the mortgage, if any, and the address specified in the last mailed request for loan payment the following documents:

(i) written notification pursuant to 70-23-1102;

(ii) a litigation guarantee, provided that:

(A) the form of the guarantee has been approved by the insurance commissioner and is issued by a licensed title insurance producer;

(B) the guarantee was ordered on the unit by the person required to give notice; and

(C) the guarantee lists the identities and addresses of the parties of record that have an interest in or a possible claim of an interest in the unit designed to disclose all parties of record that would otherwise be necessary to name in a quiet title action;

(iii) the proposed declaration and bylaws for the converted townhomes or townhouses that:

(A) provides that the percentage of the undivided interest of each unit owner in the common area is the same as the percentage of undivided interest owned by the owner in the common elements prior to the conversion; and

(B) provides for the continuation of the prior condominium association of unit owners as a townhouse association of unit owners;

(iv) a surveyed site plan that:

(A) includes the boundaries of the footprint beneath each converted unit and any limited common elements, such as decks, patios, and walkways, that will be included in the conversion; and

(B) depicts the corners and boundaries of the property underlying each converted townhome or townhouse; and

(v) an appraisal of the fair market value of the unit presuming that the unit had been converted to a townhome or townhouse for the purpose of establishing that the fair market value of the unit as a townhome or townhouse is not less than the fair market value of the existing condominium unit.

(b) Within 120 days of the date of the mailing in subsection (2)(a), a lienholder may object only by:

(i) recording its objection with the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the unit is situated; and

(ii) mailing notification of its objection by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the unit owner at the address specified on the notice of intent received pursuant to 70-23-1102.

(c) If a lienholder does not register an objection pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the lienholder is considered to have consented to the conversion after the expiration of the 120-day period.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), if the unit subject to conversion is not affected by a lien or if each lienholder has consented or is considered to have consented to the conversion pursuant to this section, the conversion is effective upon the recording of all of the following documents pertaining to each of the condominium units on the property with the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the property is situated:

(i) an affidavit stating that the owner mailed the required notices of intent pursuant to 70-23-1102;

(ii) the declaration and bylaws, which must be substantially the same as the proposed declaration and bylaws specified in subsection (2)(a)(iii);

(iii) the surveyed site plan referenced in subsection (2)(a)(iv); and

(iv) evidence of the written consent of each affected lienholder. Sufficient evidence of written consent may be made through documents including but not limited to deeds, loan modifications, or the instrument reflecting a unit owner's consent on behalf of the lienholder as provided in 70-23-1103.

(b) If a lienholder is considered to have consented pursuant to subsection (2)(c), the unit owner may record the documents within 45 days after the expiration of the 120-day period provided in subsection (2)(b).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 323, L. 2019.

70-23-1102. Notice of intent. (1) In addition to the documents required under 70-23-1101(2)(a), the notice of intent by a unit owner to a lienholder to convert a condominium to a townhome or townhouse must contain:

(a) the date;

(b) the name and address of the borrower;

(c) the name of the lienholder; and

(d) the name of the loan servicer if loan payments on a trust indenture or mortgage are collected by a loan servicer.

(2) The notice must be in substantially the following form:

"This notice, made the ... day of ......, ..., concerns the trust indenture or mortgage attached and described as follows:

Name of borrower: ....

Name of lienholder: ....

Name of loan servicer: ....

Recording information concerning the trust indenture or mortgage, including the entry number, book number, and page number: ....

Pursuant to the Unit Ownership Act contained in Title 70, chapter 23, MCA, the undersigned unit owner intends to convert a condominium affected by a mortgage or a trust indenture located at .... to a townhome or townhouse.

Unless the lienholder within 120 days of the date of this notice records its objection pursuant to 70-23-1101, MCA, with the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the property is situated and mails notification of its objection by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the unit owner at the address specified on this notice, the unit owner will consent to the conversion on behalf of the lienholder for the mortgage or trust indenture described in this notice.

Pursuant to 70-23-1101(2)(a), MCA, the unit owner has included the following attachments:

(a) a copy of the recorded trust indenture or mortgage;

(b) a litigation guarantee;

(c) the proposed declaration and bylaws for the converted townhome or townhouses;

(d) a surveyed site plan; and

(e) an appraisal of the fair market value of each unit presuming that each unit had been converted to a townhome or townhouse.

.... (Signature of unit owner)
.... (Address of unit owner)"

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 323, L. 2019.

70-23-1103. Consent by unit owner on behalf of lienholder. The instrument reflecting a unit owner's consent on behalf of the lienholder to convert a secured property from a condominium to a townhome or townhouse must be in substantially the following form:

"(Unit owner) hereby consents on behalf of (name of lienholder), whose lien is evidenced by a trust indenture or mortgage recorded in .... County on ..... day of ...., ..., in book ...... at page ...... as entry number ...... to the following property in .... County being converted from a condominium described as .... to a townhome or townhouse described as ....

The undersigned unit owner certifies as follows:

(1) In accordance with the requirements of 70-23-1101 and 70-23-1102, MCA, the unit owner has delivered to the lienholder a notice of intent by a unit owner to a lienholder to convert a condominium to a townhome or townhouse.

(2) The lienholder has not affirmatively consented to the conversion, but the unit owner did not receive a notice of objection to the conversion from the lienholder within 120 days of the date of the notice of intent to convert a condominium to a townhome or townhouse as required to object to the conversion by 70-23-1101, MCA.

.... (Signature of unit owner)
.... (Notarization)"

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 323, L. 2019.

70-23-1104. Effect of conversion. Regarding a conversion pursuant to 70-23-1101, the following provisions apply:

(1) (a) A townhome or townhouse unit, including the structural elements and land beneath the unit as described in the surveyed site plan in 70-23-1101(2)(a)(iv), must be considered to be owned in fee simple by the unit owner.

(b) A portion of the land depicted as common area on the surveyed site plan described in 70-23-1101(2)(a)(iv) must be considered to be owned in common by all of the converted townhome or townhouse unit owners. The percentage of the undivided interest of each unit owner in the common area must be considered to be the same as the percentage of undivided interest owned by the owner in the common elements prior to the conversion.

(c) A lien affecting a townhome or townhouse unit is a lien against the fee simple interest of the unit owner in subsection (1)(a) and the undivided interest in the common area described in subsection (1)(b). The conversion, by itself, may not be considered to have an effect on the existing priorities of any liens concerning the converted townhome or townhouse units.

(2) The owners, lienholders, and title insurers may rely on the amended declaration's legal description of the unit provided by the surveyed site plan in 70-23-1101(2)(a)(iv) with regard to the future conveyance of individual townhome or townhouse units.

(3) Section 71-1-108 applies to the fee simple title to the land beneath a townhome or townhouse unit acquired by the mortgagor pursuant to the conversion.

(4) Because the amended declaration must provide for the continuation of the association of unit owners pursuant to 70-23-1101(2)(a)(iii)(B), the unit owners may not be required to form a new association of unit owners.

(5) The townhome or townhouse may not be considered removed from the provisions of this chapter solely by virtue of the conversion.

(6) If the conversion procedures in 70-23-1101 are followed, a unit owner or lienholder may not bring an action concerning the conversion, including a foreclosure based solely on the conversion, against any party associated with the conversion, including but not limited to the association of unit owners, title insurers, escrow providers, or lienholders. A person who brings an action concerning the conversion is liable for damages and attorney fees and costs to defend the action.

(7) If a foreclosure of a unit is conducted using the original condominium legal description in the trust indenture or mortgage, it will result in the foreclosure of the converted townhome or townhouse.

(8) A conversion does not constitute a removal pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 323, L. 2019.

70-23-1105. Nonapplicability — building codes — zoning regulations. Nothing in this part may be interpreted to modify, expand, or abrogate the applicability of state or local building codes or zoning regulations to a condominium, townhome, townhouse, or conversion.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 323, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 24
RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT OF 1977

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Chapter Cross-References

Residential property tax credit for elderly, 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-24-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as "The Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977".

History: En. 42-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-401.

70-24-102. Purposes — liberal construction to promote. (1) This chapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies.

(2) Underlying purposes and policies of this chapter are to:

(a) simplify, clarify, modernize, and revise the law governing the rental of dwelling units and the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants;

(b) encourage landlords and tenants to maintain and improve the quality of housing; and

(c) create an exclusive regulatory standard throughout the state and its political subdivisions regarding landlord and tenant law.

History: En. 42-402 by Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-402; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Local government with self-government powers prohibited from deviating from Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, 7-1-111.

70-24-103. General definitions. Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent sections and unless the context otherwise requires, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abandon" means to give up possession of the premises unless the landlord does not accept abandonment or surrender as provided in 70-24-426 or unless the rental agreement has been terminated as provided by law.

(2) "Action" includes recoupment, counterclaim, setoff suit in equity, and any other proceeding in which rights are determined, including an action for possession.

(3) "Actual and reasonable cost" means the actual amount of expenses and labor incurred or expended and the reasonable amount of expenses and labor estimated to be incurred or expended.

(4) "Case of emergency" means an extraordinary occurrence beyond the tenant's control requiring immediate action to protect the premises or the tenant. A case of emergency may include the interruption of essential services, including heat, electricity, gas, running water, hot water, and sewer and septic system service, or life-threatening events in which the tenant or landlord has reasonable apprehension of immediate danger to the tenant or others.

(5) "Court" means the appropriate district court, small claims court, justice's court, or city court.

(6) "Dwelling unit" means a structure or the part of a structure that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by a person who maintains a household or by two or more persons who maintain a common household. Dwelling unit, in the case of a person who rents space in a mobile home park and rents the mobile home, means the mobile home itself.

(7) "Good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct of the transaction concerned.

(8) "Guest" means a person staying with a tenant for a temporary period of time as defined in the rental agreement or, if not defined in the rental agreement, for a period of time no more than 7 days unless the tenant has received the landlord's written consent to a longer period of time.

(9) "Landlord" means:

(a) the owner of the dwelling unit or the building of which it is a part;

(b) a person who has written authorization from the owner to act as the owner's agent or assignee for purposes related to the premises or the rental agreement;

(c) a person who has written authorization from the owner to act as a manager of the premises for the purposes of the tenancy or the rental agreement; or

(d) a lessor who has written authorization from the owner of the premises to sublease the premises.

(10) "Organization" includes a corporation, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, or partnership or association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, and any other legal or commercial entity.

(11) "Owner" means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom is vested all or part of:

(a) the legal title to property; or

(b) the beneficial ownership and a right to present use and enjoyment of the premises, including a mortgagee in possession.

(12) "Person" includes an individual or organization.

(13) "Premises" means a dwelling unit and the structure of which it is a part, the facilities and appurtenances in the structure, and the grounds, areas, and facilities held out for the use of tenants generally or promised for the use of a tenant.

(14) "Rent" means all payments to be made to the landlord, including rent, late fees, or other charges as agreed on in the rental agreement, except money paid as a security deposit.

(15) "Rental agreement" means all agreements, written or oral, and valid rules adopted under 70-24-311 embodying the terms and conditions concerning the use and occupancy of a dwelling unit and premises.

(16) "Roomer" means a person occupying a dwelling unit that does not include a toilet, a bathtub or a shower, a refrigerator, a stove, or a kitchen sink, all of which are provided by the landlord and one or more of which are used in common by occupants in the structure.

(17) "Single-family residence" means a structure maintained and used as a single dwelling unit. A dwelling unit that shares one or more walls with another dwelling unit is a single-family residence if it has direct access to a street or thoroughfare and does not share heating facilities, hot water equipment, or any other essential facility or service with another dwelling unit.

(18) "Tenant" means:

(a) a person entitled under a rental agreement to occupy a dwelling unit to the exclusion of others; or

(b) a person who, with the written approval of the landlord and pursuant to the rental agreement, has a sublease agreement with the person who is entitled to occupy the dwelling unit under the rental agreement.

(19) "Unauthorized person or trespasser" means a person who:

(a) enters or remains after being asked to leave by the landlord and does not receive written permission by the landlord to remain on the premises;

(b) is in violation of 45-6-201;

(c) is in violation of 45-6-203; or

(d) is in violation of 70-27-102.

History: En. 42-409 by Sec. 9, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-409; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 343, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 470, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 454, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-104. Exclusions from application of chapter. Unless created to avoid the application of this chapter, the following arrangements are not governed by this chapter:

(1) residence at a public or private institution if incidental to detention or the provision of medical, geriatric, educational, counseling, religious, or similar service, including all housing provided by the Montana university system and other postsecondary institutions;

(2) occupancy under a contract of sale of a dwelling unit or the property of which it is a part if the occupant is the purchaser or a person who succeeds to the purchaser's interest;

(3) occupancy by a member of a fraternal or social organization in the portion of a structure operated for the benefit of the organization;

(4) transient occupancy in a hotel or motel;

(5) occupancy by an owner of a condominium unit or a holder of a proprietary lease in a cooperative;

(6) occupancy under a rental agreement covering premises used by the occupant primarily for commercial or agricultural purposes;

(7) occupancy by an employee of a landlord whose right to occupancy is conditional upon employment in and about the premises; and

(8) occupancy outside a municipality under a rental agreement that includes hunting, fishing, or agricultural privileges, along with the use of the dwelling unit.

History: En. 42-408 by Sec. 8, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-408; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 2003.

70-24-105. Supplementary principles of law applicable. Unless displaced by the provisions of this chapter, the principles of law and equity, including the law relating to capacity to contract, mutuality of obligations, principal and agent, real property, public health, safety and fire prevention, estoppel, fraud, misrepresentation, duress, coercion, mistake, bankruptcy, or other validating or invalidating causes, supplement its provisions.

History: En. 42-403 by Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-403.

Cross-References

Who may contract, 28-2-201.
Circumstances that affect validity of apparent consent, Title 28, ch. 2, part 4.
Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

70-24-106. Construction against implicit repeal. No part of this chapter is to be construed as impliedly repealed by subsequent legislation if that construction can reasonably be avoided.

History: En. 42-404 by Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-404.

70-24-107. Territorial application. This chapter applies to, regulates, and determines rights, obligations, and remedies under a rental agreement, wherever made, for a dwelling unit located within this state.

History: En. 42-407 by Sec. 7, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-407.

70-24-108. What constitutes notice. (1) A person has notice of a fact if any of the following is true:

(a) the person has actual knowledge of it;

(b) in the case of a landlord, it is delivered at the place of business of the landlord through which the rental agreement was made;

(c) in the case of a tenant or a landlord, it is transmitted to an electronic mail address provided by the tenant or the landlord in the rental agreement. Notice by electronic mail is complete on receipt of a read receipt generated by an electronic mail system or an electronic mail reply other than an automatically generated electronic mail reply.

(d) in the case of a landlord or tenant, it is delivered in hand to the landlord or tenant or mailed with a certificate of mailing or by certified mail to the person at the place indicated by the person as the place for receipt of the communication or, in the absence of a designation, to the person's last-known address. If notice is made with a certificate of mailing or by certified mail, service of the notice is considered to have been made on the date 3 days after the date of mailing.

(2) Notice received by an organization is effective for a particular transaction from the time it is brought to the attention of the individual conducting that transaction and, in any event, from the time it would have been brought to the individual's attention if the organization had exercised reasonable diligence.

History: En. 42-412 by Sec. 12, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-412; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 2017.

70-24-109. Obligation of good faith. Every duty under this chapter and every act which must be performed as a condition precedent to the exercise of a right or remedy under this chapter imposes an obligation of good faith in its performance or enforcement.

History: En. 42-410 by Sec. 10, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-410.

70-24-110. Landlords and tenants — no firearm prohibition allowed. A landlord or operator of a hotel or motel may not, by contract or otherwise, prevent a tenant or a guest of a tenant from possessing on the premises a firearm that it is legal for the tenant or guest to possess. A landlord or operator of a hotel or motel may prohibit the discharge of a firearm on the premises except in self-defense.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 332, L. 2009.

70-24-111. Notice of no contact. (1) Except as provided in 45-5-209, a notice of no contact to a landlord for the benefit of a tenant or to a tenant for the benefit of a landlord may only be authorized pursuant to an order of no contact issued by a court of competent jurisdiction if the person receiving the notice of no contact is acting in accordance with the provisions of Title 70, chapter 24, 25, or 33.

(2) Except as provided by 45-5-209 or this section, or if issued pursuant to an order of protection issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, a notice of no contact to a landlord for the benefit of a tenant or to a tenant for the benefit of a landlord is invalid.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2015.

70-24-112. Application of security deposit laws. The provisions of this chapter are cohesive with the provisions of Title 70, chapter 25, and the two chapters must be read in conjunction when considering, with regards to the Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, the rights and duties of landlords and tenants, and the availability of remedies and judicial relief to landlords and tenants.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2021.

70-24-113. Removal of unauthorized person or trespasser. (1) An unauthorized person or trespasser has no legal right to occupy, enter, or trespass on a premises. A person who cannot produce authorization allowing the person to occupy a premises is an unauthorized person or trespasser for the purpose of this section and may be removed from the premises immediately by law enforcement.

(2) For the purposes of this section, authorization includes:

(a) a written rental agreement entitling the person to occupy the premises;

(b) written or verbal authorization from the landlord; or

(c) written or verbal authorization from a tenant if the person is a guest of the tenant.

(3) For the purposes of this section, verbal authorization is valid only if it is verified by the individual or entity entitled to give it under subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-114. Emotional support animals — documentation. (1) A tenant with a disability or a disability-related need for an emotional support animal may request and be approved by a landlord to keep an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing.

(2) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, rule, or regulation, a landlord may:

(a) deny a reasonable accommodation request for an emotional support animal if the animal poses a direct threat to the safety or health of others or poses a direct threat of physical damage to the property that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation;

(b) if a tenant's disability-related need for an emotional support animal is not readily apparent, request supporting information that reasonably supports the tenant's need for the particular emotional support animal being requested. Supporting information may include:

(i) information from a health care practitioner who has personal knowledge of the tenant's disability and is acting within the scope of the practitioner's practice that identifies the particular assistance or therapeutic emotional support provided by the specific animal. Information submitted under this subsection (2)(b)(i) must include the effective date, license number, and type of professional license held by the health care practitioner; and

(ii) information from any other source that the landlord determines to be reliable in accordance with the federal Fair Housing Act and Title 49, chapter 2; and

(c) require proof of compliance with state and local licensure and vaccination requirements for each emotional support animal.

(3) If a tenant requests to keep more than one emotional support animal, information for each emotional support animal must be provided pursuant to subsection (2).

(4) A landlord:

(a) may not request information under this section that discloses a diagnosis or severity of a tenant's disability or any medical records relating to the disability, but a tenant may voluntarily disclose such information or medical records to the landlord at the tenant's discretion; and

(b) shall issue a written determination after receiving supplemental information required in subsection (2) and notice the determination pursuant to 70-24-108.

(5) An emotional support animal registration of any kind, including but not limited to an identification card, patch, certificate, or similar registration obtained electronically or in person, is not, by itself, sufficient information to reliably establish that a tenant has a disability-related need for an emotional support animal.

(6) A tenant with a disability-related need for an emotional support animal is liable for any damage done to the premises or to another person on the premises by the tenant's emotional support animal.

(7) A health care practitioner may be subject to disciplinary action from the health care practitioner's licensing board for a violation of this section.

(8) This section does not apply to a service animal as defined in 49-4-203.

(9) Nothing in this section may be construed to restrict existing federal law and state law related to a person's right to a reasonable accommodation and equal access to housing, including but not limited to the federal Fair Housing Act, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or Title 49, chapter 2.

(10) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Emotional support animal" means an animal that provides emotional, cognitive, or other similar support to an individual with a disability and does not need to be trained or certified. The term does not include service animals as defined in 49-4-203.

(b) "Health care practitioner" means a mental health professional as defined in 53-21-102 who:

(i) has established a client-provider relationship with a tenant at least 30 days prior to providing supporting information requested from a landlord regarding the tenant's need for an emotional support animal;

(ii) completes a clinical evaluation of a tenant regarding the need for an emotional support animal; and

(iii) is acting within the scope of practice of the person's license or certificate.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Rental Agreements

70-24-201. Rental agreement — terms and conditions. (1) A landlord and a tenant may include in a rental agreement terms and conditions not prohibited by this chapter or other rule or law, including rent, term of the agreement, and other provisions governing the rights and obligations of the parties.

(2) Unless the rental agreement provides otherwise:

(a) the tenant shall pay as rent the rental value for the use and occupancy of the dwelling unit as determined by the landlord;

(b) rent is payable at the landlord's address or using electronic funds transfer to an account designated for the payment of rent by the landlord;

(c) periodic rent is payable at the beginning of a term of a month or less and otherwise in equal monthly installments at the beginning of each month;

(d) rent is uniformly apportionable from day to day;

(e) the tenancy is week to week in the case of a roomer who pays weekly rent and in all other cases month to month; and

(f) if either party terminates the rental agreement without cause prior to the expiration date of the lease term, the aggrieved party is entitled to monetary damages up to 1 month's rent or an amount that is agreed on in the rental agreement, which may not exceed 1 month's rent. Landlords shall follow 70-24-426(3) and are entitled to rent from defaulting tenants up to the date a new tenancy starts or the date the rental agreement term expires.

(3) Rent is payable without demand or notice at the time and place agreed upon by the parties or provided for by subsection (2).

History: En. 42-413 by Sec. 13, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-413; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Plain Language in Contracts Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 11.

70-24-202. Prohibited provisions in rental agreements. A rental agreement may not provide that a party:

(1) agrees to waive or forego rights or remedies under this chapter;

(2) authorizes any person to confess judgment on a claim arising out of the rental agreement;

(3) agrees to the exculpation or limitation of liability resulting from the other party's purposeful misconduct or negligence or to indemnify the other party for that liability or the costs or attorney fees connected with that liability; or

(4) must provide an electronic mail address as a condition of entering into the agreement. However, a party may voluntarily provide an electronic mail address if the agreement contains a provision allowing a party to elect to receive notice by electronic mail.

History: **En. 42-415 by Sec. 15, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-415(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 290, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Contracts — illegal objects and provisions, Title 28, ch. 2, part 7.

70-24-203. Agreement not to permit receipt of rent free of obligation. A rental agreement or a document related thereto may not permit the receipt of rent free of the obligation to comply with 70-24-303.

History: **En. 42-416 by Sec. 16, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-416.**

70-24-204. Effect of unsigned or undelivered rental agreement. (1) If the landlord does not sign and deliver a written rental agreement that has already been signed by the tenant and delivered to the landlord, acceptance of rent without reservation by the landlord gives the rental agreement the same effect as if it had been signed and delivered by the landlord to the tenant.

(2) If the tenant does not sign and deliver to the landlord a written rental agreement that has already been signed by the landlord and delivered to the tenant, acceptance of possession of the premises and payment of rent without reservation by the tenant gives the rental agreement the same effect as if it had been signed and delivered by the tenant to the landlord.

(3) If a rental agreement given effect by the operation of this section provides for a term longer than 1 year, it is effective for only 1 year.

History: **En. 42-414 by Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-414; amd. Sec. 2171, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 2017.**

70-24-205. Extension of written rental agreements. If the landlord and tenant fail to establish a default extension period for the lease in the rental agreement and neither party gives a 30-day written notice to the other to terminate the tenancy before the rental agreement's original termination date, the tenancy continues on a month-to-month basis.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 2017.**

Part 3
Rights and Duties of the Parties

70-24-301. Duty to disclose name of person responsible. (1) A landlord or a person authorized to enter into a rental agreement on the landlord's behalf shall disclose to the tenant in writing at or before the commencement of the tenancy the name and address of:

(a) the person authorized to manage the premises; and

(b) the owner of the premises or a person authorized to act for the owner for the purpose of service of process and receiving notices and demands.

(2) The information required to be furnished by this section must be kept current and in writing, and this section extends to and is enforceable against any successor landlord, owner, or manager.

(3) A person who fails to comply with subsection (1) becomes an agent of each person who is a landlord for the purpose of:

(a) service of process and receiving notices and demands; and

(b) performing the obligations of the landlord under this chapter and under the rental agreement and expending or making available for that purpose all rent collected from the premises.

History: **En. 42-418 by Sec. 18, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-418; amd. Sec. 2172, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-24-302. Landlord to deliver possession of dwelling unit. (1) At the commencement of the term, a landlord shall deliver possession of the premises to the tenant in compliance with the rental agreement and 70-24-303. A landlord may bring an action for possession against a person wrongfully in possession.

(2) If a landlord accepts rent or a deposit from a person intending to occupy the premises, the landlord is considered to have given consent for the person to take possession of the property and to have created a landlord-tenant relationship.

History: **En. 42-419 by Sec. 19, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-419; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 222, L. 1993.**

70-24-303. *(Temporary)* **Landlord to maintain premises — agreement that tenant perform duties — limitation of landlord's liability for failure of smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector.** (1) Subject to 27-1-1603, a landlord:

(a) shall comply with the requirements of applicable building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety in effect at the time of original construction in all dwelling units where construction is completed after July 1, 1977;

(b) shall make repairs and do whatever is necessary to put and keep the premises in a fit and habitable condition, except when it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain the dwelling unit pursuant to 70-24-321;

(c) shall keep all common areas of the premises in a clean and safe condition;

(d) shall maintain in good and safe working order and condition all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, supplied or required to be supplied by the landlord;

(e) shall, unless otherwise provided in a rental agreement, provide and maintain appropriate receptacles and conveniences for the removal of ashes, garbage, rubbish, and other waste incidental to the occupancy of the dwelling unit and arrange for their removal;

(f) shall supply running water and reasonable amounts of hot water at all times and reasonable heat between October 1 and May 1, except if the building that includes the dwelling unit is not required by law to be equipped for that purpose or the dwelling unit is so constructed that heat or hot water is generated by an installation within the exclusive control of the tenant; and

(g) shall install in each dwelling unit under the landlord's control an approved carbon monoxide detector, in accordance with rules adopted by the department of labor and industry, and an approved smoke detector, in accordance with rules adopted by the department of justice. Upon commencement of a rental agreement, the landlord shall verify that the carbon monoxide detector and the smoke detector in the dwelling unit are in good working order. The tenant shall maintain the carbon monoxide detector and the smoke detector in good working order during the tenant's rental period. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(g), an approved carbon monoxide detector, as defined in 70-20-113, and an approved smoke detector, as defined in 70-20-113, bear a label or other identification issued by an approved testing agency having a service for inspection of materials and workmanship at the factory during fabrication and assembly.

(2) If the duty imposed by subsection (1)(a) is greater than a duty imposed by subsections (1)(b) through (1)(g), a landlord's duty must be determined by reference to subsection (1)(a).

(3) A landlord and tenant may agree in writing that the tenant perform the landlord's duties specified in subsections (1)(e) and (1)(f) and specified repairs, maintenance tasks, alteration, and remodeling but only if the transaction is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord.

(4) A landlord and tenant may agree that the tenant is to perform specified repairs, maintenance tasks, alterations, or remodeling only if:

(a) the agreement of the parties is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord and is set forth in a separate writing signed by the parties and supported by adequate consideration;

(b) the work is not necessary to cure noncompliance with subsection (1)(a); and

(c) the agreement does not diminish the obligation of the landlord to other tenants in the premises.

(5) The landlord is not liable for damages caused as a result of the failure of the carbon monoxide detector or the smoke detector required under subsection (1)(g). *(Terminates January 1, 2031—sec. 15, Ch. 2, L. 2021.)*

70-24-303. *(Effective January 2, 2031)* **Landlord to maintain premises — agreement that tenant perform duties — limitation of landlord's liability for failure of smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector.** (1) A landlord:

(a) shall comply with the requirements of applicable building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety in effect at the time of original construction in all dwelling units where construction is completed after July 1, 1977;

(b) shall make repairs and do whatever is necessary to put and keep the premises in a fit and habitable condition, except when it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain the dwelling unit pursuant to 70-24-321;

(c) shall keep all common areas of the premises in a clean and safe condition;

(d) shall maintain in good and safe working order and condition all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, supplied or required to be supplied by the landlord;

(e) shall, unless otherwise provided in a rental agreement, provide and maintain appropriate receptacles and conveniences for the removal of ashes, garbage, rubbish, and other waste incidental to the occupancy of the dwelling unit and arrange for their removal;

(f) shall supply running water and reasonable amounts of hot water at all times and reasonable heat between October 1 and May 1, except if the building that includes the dwelling unit is not required by law to be equipped for that purpose or the dwelling unit is so constructed that heat or hot water is generated by an installation within the exclusive control of the tenant; and

(g) shall install in each dwelling unit under the landlord's control an approved carbon monoxide detector, in accordance with rules adopted by the department of labor and industry, and an approved smoke detector, in accordance with rules adopted by the department of justice. Upon commencement of a rental agreement, the landlord shall verify that the carbon monoxide detector and the smoke detector in the dwelling unit are in good working order. The tenant shall maintain the carbon monoxide detector and the smoke detector in good working order during the tenant's rental period. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(g), an approved carbon monoxide detector, as defined in 70-20-113, and an approved smoke detector, as defined in 70-20-113, bear a label or other identification issued by an approved testing agency having a service for inspection of materials and workmanship at the factory during fabrication and assembly.

(2) If the duty imposed by subsection (1)(a) is greater than a duty imposed by subsections (1)(b) through (1)(g), a landlord's duty must be determined by reference to subsection (1)(a).

(3) A landlord and tenant may agree in writing that the tenant perform the landlord's duties specified in subsections (1)(e) and (1)(f) and specified repairs, maintenance tasks, alteration, and remodeling but only if the transaction is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord.

(4) A landlord and tenant may agree that the tenant is to perform specified repairs, maintenance tasks, alterations, or remodeling only if:

(a) the agreement of the parties is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord and is set forth in a separate writing signed by the parties and supported by adequate consideration;

(b) the work is not necessary to cure noncompliance with subsection (1)(a); and

(c) the agreement does not diminish the obligation of the landlord to other tenants in the premises.

(5) The landlord is not liable for damages caused as a result of the failure of the carbon monoxide detector or the smoke detector required under subsection (1)(g).

History: En. 42-420 by Sec. 20, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-420; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 567, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 2, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-304. Transfer of premises or termination of management — relief from liability. (1) Unless otherwise agreed, a landlord who conveys, in a good faith sale to a bona fide purchaser, premises that include a dwelling unit subject to a rental agreement is relieved of liability under the rental agreement and this chapter as to events occurring after written notice to the tenant of the conveyance. The landlord remains liable to the tenant for all security recoverable by the tenant pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25, and all prepaid rent.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed, a manager of premises that include a dwelling unit is relieved of liability under the rental agreement and this chapter as to events occurring after written notice to the tenant of the termination of the manager's management.

History: En. 42-421 by Sec. 21, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-421; amd. Sec. 2173, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-305. Transfer of premises by tenant. A tenant who vacates a dwelling unit during the term of a tenancy may not allow the possession of the property to be transferred to a third person or sublet the property unless the landlord or the landlord's agent has consented in writing.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-24-306 through 70-24-310 reserved.

70-24-311. Landlord authorized to adopt rules. (1) A landlord may adopt a rule concerning the tenant's use and occupancy of the premises. A rule is enforceable against the tenant only if:

(a) its purpose is to promote the convenience, safety, or welfare of the occupants in the premises, preserve the landlord's property from abusive use, or make a fair distribution of services and facilities held out for the tenants generally;

(b) it is reasonably related to the purpose for which it is adopted;

(c) it applies to all occupants in the premises in a fair manner;

(d) it is sufficiently explicit in its prohibition, direction, or limitation of the tenant's conduct to fairly inform the tenant of what the tenant must or must not do to comply;

(e) it is not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord; and

(f) the tenant has notice of it at the time that the tenant enters into the rental agreement or when it is adopted.

(2) A rule adopted by a landlord must be in writing and must be given to each tenant residing on the premises and to each new tenant upon arrival.

(3) If a rule is adopted after a tenant enters into a rental agreement that works a substantial modification of the tenant's bargain, it is not valid until 7 days after written notice to the tenant in the case of a week to week tenancy or 30 days' written notice in the case of tenancies from month to month.

History: En. 42-423 by Sec. 23, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-423; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 470, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 487, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1995.

70-24-312. Access to premises by landlord. (1) A tenant may not unreasonably withhold consent to the landlord or the landlord's agent to enter into the dwelling unit in order to inspect the premises, make necessary or agreed repairs, decorations, alterations, or improvements, supply necessary or agreed services, or exhibit the dwelling unit to prospective or actual purchasers, mortgagees, tenants, workers, or contractors.

(2) A landlord may enter the dwelling unit without consent of the tenant in the case of an emergency.

(3) (a) A landlord may not abuse the right of access or use it to harass the tenant. Except in the case of an emergency or unless it is impracticable to do so, the landlord shall give the tenant at least 24 hours' notice of the intent to enter and may enter only at reasonable times.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (3), in addition to the provisions of 70-24-108, a tenant has notice of the intent to enter if the landlord conspicuously posts the landlord's intent to enter on the main entry door of the dwelling unit.

(4) A landlord has no other right of access except:

(a) pursuant to court order;

(b) as permitted by 70-24-425 and 70-24-426(2); or

(c) when the tenant has abandoned or surrendered the premises.

(5) A tenant may not remove a lock or replace or add a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises without the written permission of the landlord. If a tenant removes a lock or replaces or adds a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises, the tenant shall provide the landlord with a key to ensure that the landlord will have the right of access as provided by this chapter.

History: En. 42-424 by Sec. 24, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-424; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2174, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-313. Repealed. Sec. 52, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 487, L. 1993.

70-24-314. Resident associations — meetings. The membership of a resident association may elect officers of the association at a meeting at which a majority of the members are present. All residents may attend meetings.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 487, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-24-315. Repealed. Sec. 52, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 487, L. 1993.

70-24-316 through 70-24-320 reserved.

70-24-321. Tenant to maintain dwelling unit. (1) A tenant shall:

(a) comply with all obligations primarily imposed upon tenants by applicable provisions of building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety;

(b) keep that part of the premises that the tenant occupies and uses as reasonably clean and safe as the condition of the premises permits;

(c) dispose from the dwelling unit all ashes, garbage, rubbish, and other waste in a clean and safe manner;

(d) keep all plumbing fixtures in the dwelling unit or used by the tenant as clean as their condition permits;

(e) use in a reasonable manner all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, in the premises;

(f) conduct oneself and require other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent to conduct themselves in a manner, that will not disturb the tenant's neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of the premises; and

(g) use the parts of the premises, including the living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, and dining room, in a reasonable manner, considering the purposes for which they were designed and intended. This section does not preclude the right of the tenant to operate a limited business or cottage industry on the premises, subject to state and local laws, if the landlord has consented in writing. The landlord may not unreasonably withhold consent if the limited business or cottage industry is operated within reasonable rules of the landlord.

(2) A tenant may not destroy, deface, damage, impair, or remove any part of the premises or permit any person to do so.

(3) A tenant may not engage or knowingly allow any person to engage in any activity on the premises that creates a reasonable potential that the premises may be damaged or destroyed or that neighboring tenants may be injured, including but not limited to any of the following activities:

(a) criminal production or manufacture of dangerous drugs as prohibited by 45-9-110;

(b) operation of an unlawful clandestine laboratory as prohibited by 45-9-132;

(c) gang-related activities as prohibited by Title 45, chapter 8, part 4;

(d) unlawful possession of a firearm, explosive, or hazardous or toxic substance; or

(e) any activity that is otherwise prohibited by law.

History: En. 42-422 by Sec. 22, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-422; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 343, L. 2013.

70-24-322. Tenant to occupy as dwelling unit only — extended absence. (1) Unless otherwise agreed, a tenant shall occupy the tenant's dwelling unit only as a dwelling unit.

(2) The rental agreement may require that the tenant notify the landlord of an anticipated extended absence from the premises in excess of 7 days no later than the first day of the extended absence.

History: En. 42-425 by Sec. 25, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-425; amd. Sec. 2175, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Remedies

70-24-401. Administration of remedies — enforcement. (1) The remedies provided by this chapter must be administered so that an aggrieved party may recover appropriate damages. The aggrieved party has a duty to mitigate damages. The aggrieved party may include a reasonable charge for the party's labor.

(2) A right or obligation declared by this chapter is enforceable by action unless the provision declaring it specifies a different and limited effect. Nothing in this chapter prohibits

the assignment of a right or the claim of a right by either landlord or tenant. The landlord's or tenant's defenses and obligations may not be affected by an assignment.

(3) Rules and regulations that are not a part of this chapter and that affect the relationship between the landlord and tenant must be uniformly and fairly applied and enforced.

History: En. 42-405 by Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-405; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-402. Settlement of disputed claim or right. A claim or right arising under this chapter or on a rental agreement, if disputed in good faith, may be settled by agreement.

History: En. 42-406 by Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-406.

70-24-403. Prohibited provision in rental agreement — unenforceability — damages. (1) A provision prohibited by 70-24-202 that is included in a rental agreement is unenforceable.

(2) If a party purposefully uses a rental agreement containing provisions known by the party to be prohibited, the other party may recover, in addition to the other party's actual damages, an amount up to 3 months' periodic rent.

History: En. 42-415 by Sec. 15, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-415(2); amd. Sec. 2176, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-404. Unconscionability — court discretion to refuse enforcement. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the court, as a matter of law, finds that:

(a) a rental agreement or any provision of the rental agreement is unconscionable, the court may refuse to enforce the agreement or enforce the remainder of the agreement without the unconscionable provision to avoid an unconscionable result; or

(b) a settlement in which a party waives or agrees to forego a claim or right under this chapter or under a rental agreement is unconscionable, the court may refuse to enforce the settlement, enforce the remainder of the settlement without the unconscionable provision, or limit the application of any unconscionable provision to avoid an unconscionable result.

(2) A finding pursuant to subsection (1) may not be made based on a responsibility outlined in a rental agreement that:

(a) a tenant maintain a dwelling unit in accordance with 70-24-321; or

(b) a landlord maintain the premises in accordance with 70-24-303.

(3) If unconscionability is put into issue by a party or by the court upon its own motion, the parties shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present evidence as to the setting, purpose, and effect of the rental agreement or settlement to aid the court in making the determination.

History: En. 42-411 by Sec. 11, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-411; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 2021.

70-24-405. Failure of landlord to deliver possession — tenant's remedies. (1) If the landlord fails to deliver possession of the dwelling unit to the tenant as provided in 70-24-302, rent abates until possession is delivered and the tenant may:

(a) terminate the rental agreement upon at least 5 days' written notice to the landlord, and upon termination, the landlord shall return all prepaid rent and security; or

(b) demand performance of the rental agreement by the landlord and, if the tenant elects, maintain an action for possession of the dwelling unit against the landlord or a person wrongfully in possession and recover the actual damages sustained by the tenant.

(2) If a person's failure to deliver possession is purposeful and not in good faith, an aggrieved party may recover from that person an amount not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

History: En. 42-427 by Sec. 27, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-427; amd. Sec. 2177, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-406. Failure of landlord to maintain premises — tenant's remedies. (1) Except as provided in this chapter, if there is a noncompliance with 70-24-303 affecting health and safety, the tenant may:

(a) deliver a written notice to the landlord specifying the acts and omissions constituting the breach and that the rental agreement will terminate upon a date not less than 30 days after receipt of the notice if the breach is not remedied in 14 days. If the noncompliance results in a case of emergency and the landlord fails to remedy the situation within 3 working days after written notice by the tenant of the situation and the tenant's intention to terminate the rental agreement, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement. The rental agreement terminates as provided in the notice subject to the following exceptions:

(i) if the breach is remediable by repairs, the payment of damages, or otherwise and the landlord adequately remedies the breach before the date specified in the notice, the rental agreement does not terminate by reason of the breach;

(ii) if substantially the same act or omission which constituted a prior noncompliance of which notice was given recurs within 6 months, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement upon at least 14 days' written notice specifying the breach and the date of termination of the rental agreement;

(iii) the tenant may not terminate for a condition caused by the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent.

(b) make repairs that do not cost more than 1 month's rent and deduct the cost from the rent if the tenant has given the landlord notice and the landlord has not made the repairs within a reasonable time. If the repair is required in a case of emergency and the landlord has not made the repairs, the tenant may have repairs made only by a person qualified to make the repairs.

(2) Except as provided in this chapter, the tenant may recover actual damages and obtain injunctive relief for any noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or 70-24-303.

(3) The remedy provided in subsection (2) of this section is in addition to a right of the tenant arising under subsection (1).

(4) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall return all security recoverable by the tenant pursuant to chapter 25 of this title.

History: En. 42-426 by Sec. 26, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-426; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 222, L. 1993.

70-24-407. Damages for minor violations by landlord. If the landlord fails to comply with the rental agreement or 70-24-303 and the reasonable cost of compliance is less than the 1 month's rent, the tenant may recover damages for the breach under 70-24-406(2).

History: En. 42-428 by Sec. 28, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-428.

70-24-408. Purposeful or negligent failure to provide essential services — tenant's remedies. (1) If contrary to the rental agreement or 70-24-303 the landlord purposefully or negligently fails to supply heat, running water, hot water, electric, gas, or other essential services, the tenant may give written notice to the landlord specifying the breach and may:

(a) procure reasonable amounts of heat, hot water, running water, electricity, gas, and other essential services during the period of the landlord's noncompliance and deduct their actual and reasonable cost from the rent;

(b) recover damages based upon the diminution in the fair rental value of the dwelling unit; or

(c) procure reasonable substitute housing during the period of the landlord's noncompliance, in which case the tenant is excused from paying rent for the period of the landlord's noncompliance.

(2) If the tenant proceeds under this section, the tenant may not proceed under 70-24-406 or 70-24-407 as to that breach.

(3) Rights of the tenant under this section do not arise until the tenant has given notice to the landlord and the landlord has had a reasonable opportunity to correct the conditions or if the conditions were caused by the act or omission of the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or any other person on the premises with the tenant's consent.

History: En. 42-429 by Sec. 29, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-429; amd. Sec. 2178, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-409. Fire or casualty damage — rights of tenant. (1) If the dwelling unit or premises are damaged or destroyed by fire or casualty to an extent that enjoyment of the dwelling unit is substantially impaired, the tenant may:

(a) immediately vacate the premises and notify the landlord in writing within 14 days of the tenant's intention to terminate the rental agreement, in which case the rental agreement terminates as of the date of vacating; or

(b) if continued occupancy is lawful, vacate any part of the dwelling unit rendered unusable by the fire or casualty, in which case the tenant's liability for rent is reduced in proportion to the diminution in the fair rental value of the dwelling unit.

(2) This section does not apply when the fire and casualty damage was caused by the purposeful or negligent act of the tenant or the tenant's family or guests.

(3) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall return all security recoverable pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25, and all prepaid rent. Accounting for rent in the event of termination or apportionment must be made as of the date of the fire or casualty.

History: En. 42-431 by Sec. 31, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-431; amd. Sec. 2179, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-410. Unlawful or unreasonable entry by landlord — tenant's remedies. If the landlord makes an unlawful entry or a lawful entry in an unreasonable manner or makes repeated demands for entry otherwise lawful but which have the effect of unreasonably harassing the tenant, the tenant may either obtain injunctive relief to prevent the recurrence of the conduct or terminate the rental agreement. In either case the tenant may recover actual damages.

History: En. 42-441 by Sec. 41, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-441(2).

70-24-411. Unlawful ouster, exclusion, or diminution of service — tenant's remedies. If a landlord unlawfully removes or excludes the tenant from the premises or purposefully diminishes services to the tenant by interrupting or causing the interruption of heat, running water, hot water, electricity, gas, or other essential services, the tenant may recover possession or terminate the rental agreement and, in either case, recover an amount not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater. If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall return all security recoverable pursuant to chapter 25 of this title and all prepaid rent.

History: En. 42-432 by Sec. 32, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-432.

70-24-412 through 70-24-420 reserved.

70-24-421. Action for nonpayment of rent — tenant's counterclaim. (1) In an action for possession based upon nonpayment of the rent or in an action for rent when the tenant is in possession, the tenant may counterclaim for any amount the tenant may recover under the rental agreement or this chapter. The court from time to time may order the tenant to pay into court all or part of the rent accrued and thereafter accruing and shall determine the amount due to each party. The party to whom a net amount is owed must be paid first from the money paid into court and the balance by the other party. The court may at any time release money paid into the court to either party if the parties so agree or if the court finds a party entitled to the sums released. If no rent remains due after application of this section, judgment must be entered for the tenant in the action for possession.

(2) In an action for rent when the tenant is not in possession, the tenant may counterclaim as provided in subsection (1) but is not required to pay any rent into court.

History: En. 42-430 by Sec. 30, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-430; amd. Sec. 2180, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-24-422. Noncompliance of tenant generally — landlord's right of termination — damages — injunction. (1) Except as provided in this chapter, if there is a noncompliance by the tenant with the rental agreement or a noncompliance with 70-24-321, the landlord may deliver a written notice to the tenant pursuant to 70-24-108 specifying the acts and omissions constituting the noncompliance, that the rental agreement will terminate, and that the tenant shall vacate the premises on a date specified in the notice not less than the minimum number of days after receipt of the notice provided for in this section. The rental agreement terminates and the tenant shall vacate the premises as provided in the notice, subject to the following:

(a) If the noncompliance is remediable by repairs, the payment of damages, or written approval of the landlord and the tenant remedies the noncompliance before the date specified in the notice, the rental agreement does not terminate.

(b) If the noncompliance involves an unauthorized pet, the notice period is 3 days.

(c) If the noncompliance involves unauthorized persons residing in the rental unit, the notice period is 3 days.

(d) If the noncompliance is not listed in subsection (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(f), the notice period is 14 days.

(e) If substantially the same act or omission that constituted a prior noncompliance of which notice was given recurs within 6 months, the landlord may terminate the rental agreement upon at least 5 days' written notice specifying the noncompliance and the date of the termination of the rental agreement.

(f) If the noncompliance is from verbal abuse of the landlord by a tenant, the landlord may terminate the rental agreement on giving 3 days' written notice. If the tenant adequately remedies the noncompliance, the rental agreement does not terminate.

(2) If rent is unpaid when due and the tenant fails to pay rent within 3 days after written notice by the landlord of nonpayment and the landlord's intention to terminate the rental agreement if the rent is not paid within that period, the landlord may terminate the rental agreement, and the tenant shall vacate the premises if the landlord terminates the rental agreement.

(3) If the tenant destroys, defaces, damages, impairs, or removes any part of the premises in violation of 70-24-321(2), the landlord may terminate the rental agreement upon giving 3 days' written notice specifying the noncompliance under the provisions of 70-24-321(2), and the tenant shall vacate the premises if the landlord terminates the rental agreement.

(4) If the tenant creates a reasonable potential that the premises may be damaged or destroyed or that neighboring tenants may be injured in violation of 70-24-321(3), the landlord may terminate the rental agreement upon giving 3 days' written notice specifying the violation and noncompliance under the provisions of 70-24-321(3), and the tenant shall vacate the premises if the landlord terminates the rental agreement.

(5) Except as provided in this chapter, the landlord may recover actual damages and obtain injunctive relief for any noncompliance by the tenant with the rental agreement or 70-24-321. Except as provided in subsection (6), if the tenant's noncompliance is purposeful, the landlord may recover treble damages.

(6) Treble damages may not be recovered for the tenant's early termination of the tenancy.

(7) The landlord is not bound by this section in the event that the landlord elects to use the 30-day notice for termination of tenancy as provided in 70-24-441.

History: En. 42-433 by Sec. 33, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-433; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 547, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 343, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Mobile home defined for tax purposes, 15-1-101.

70-24-423. Waiver of landlord's right to terminate for breach. Acceptance by the landlord of full payment of rent due is a waiver of a claimed breach of a rental agreement only when the claimed breach is the nonpayment of rent. Acceptance of full payment of rent due when a claimed breach is something other than the nonpayment of rent does not constitute a waiver of any right. The acceptance of partial payment of rent due does not constitute a waiver of any right, including rent due.

History: En. 42-436 by Sec. 36, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-436; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 2021.

70-24-424. Refusal of access — landlord's remedies. (1) If the tenant refuses to allow lawful access, the landlord may issue a 24-hour notice to correct or obtain immediate injunctive relief to compel access. In either case, the landlord may recover actual damages. If the 24-hour notice to correct is not remedied, the landlord may issue a 3-day notice to terminate the rental agreement.

(2) If a tenant removes a lock or replaces or adds a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises and fails to provide a key as required by 70-24-312(5), the landlord may issue a 24-hour notice to correct or obtain immediate injunctive relief. If the 24-hour notice to correct is not remedied, the landlord may issue a 3-day notice to terminate the rental agreement.

History: En. 42-441 by Sec. 41, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-441(1); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 222, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-24-425. Failure of tenant to maintain dwelling — landlord's right to enter and repair. If there is noncompliance by the tenant with 70-24-321 affecting health and safety that can be remedied by repair, replacement of a damaged item, or cleaning and the tenant fails to comply as promptly as conditions require in case of emergency or within 14 days after written notice by the landlord specifying the breach and requesting that the tenant remedy it within that period of time, the landlord may enter the dwelling unit and cause the work to be done in a workmanlike manner and submit an itemized bill for the actual and reasonable cost, the fair and reasonable cost, or the fair and reasonable value thereof as rent on the next date periodic rent is due or, if the rental agreement has terminated, for immediate payment.

History: En. 42-434 by Sec. 34, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-434.

70-24-426. Remedies for absence or abandonment. (1) If the rental agreement requires the tenant to give notice to the landlord of an anticipated extended absence in excess of 7 days, as provided for in 70-24-322, and the tenant fails to do so, the landlord may recover actual damages from the tenant.

(2) During an absence of the tenant in excess of 7 days, the landlord may enter the dwelling unit at times reasonably necessary.

(3) If the tenant abandons the dwelling unit, the landlord shall make reasonable efforts to rent it at a fair rental. If the landlord rents the dwelling unit for a term beginning before the expiration of the rental agreement, the rental agreement terminates as of the date of the tenancy. If the landlord fails to use reasonable efforts to rent the dwelling unit at a fair rental or if the landlord accepts the abandonment as a surrender, the rental agreement is terminated by the landlord as of the date the landlord has notice of the abandonment. If the tenancy is from month to month or week to week, the term of the rental agreement for this purpose is a month or a week, as the case may be.

History: En. 42-435 by Sec. 35, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-435.

70-24-427. Landlord's remedies after termination — action for possession. (1) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord has a claim for possession, rent, and actual damages for any breach of the rental agreement.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), an action filed pursuant to subsection (1) in a court must be heard within 10 business days after the tenant's appearance or the answer date stated in the summons, except that if the rental agreement is terminated because of noncompliance under 70-24-321(3), the action must be heard within 5 business days after the tenant's appearance or the answer date stated in the summons. If the action is appealed to the district court, the hearing must be held within 10 business days after the case is transmitted to the district court, except that if the rental agreement is terminated because of noncompliance under 70-24-321(3), the action must be heard within 5 business days after the case is transmitted to the district court.

(b) A hearing for damages for any breach of the rental agreement must be held within 45 days after the claim of possession and rent has been adjudicated.

(3) The landlord and tenant may stipulate to a continuance of the hearing beyond the time limit in subsection (2) without the necessity of an undertaking.

(4) In a landlord's action for possession filed pursuant to subsection (1), the court shall rule on the action within 5 days after the hearing. If a landlord's claim for possession is granted, the court shall issue a writ of possession and a writ of assistance immediately. The writ of assistance must be executed by the sheriff:

(a) within 5 business days of the sheriff receiving the writ of assistance, excluding of the date of receipt by the sheriff; or

(b) at a time no more than 5 business days after the sheriff receives the writ of assistance or as otherwise agreed to by the landlord and the sheriff.

History: En. 42-438 by Sec. 38, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-438; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 585, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 343, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 454, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-24-428. Landlord's recovery of possession limited. Except in the case of abandonment, surrender, or as permitted in this chapter, a landlord may not recover or take possession of the dwelling unit by action or otherwise, including purposeful diminution of services to the tenant by interrupting or causing the interruption of heat, running water, hot water, electricity, gas, or other essential services.

History: En. 42-439 by Sec. 39, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-439.

70-24-429. Holdover remedies — consent to continued occupancy — tenant's response to service in action for possession. (1) If the tenant remains in possession without the landlord's consent after expiration of the term of the rental agreement or its termination, the landlord may bring an action for possession.

(2) If the term is longer than month-to-month and the landlord terminates the rental agreement with cause and the tenant's holdover is purposeful and not in good faith, the landlord may recover an amount not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

(3) If the term of the rental is month-to-month and the landlord terminates the rental agreement without cause and issues a lawful 30-day notice and the tenant remains in the rental unit after the termination date, then the holdover is purposeful and the landlord may recover an amount not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

(4) In an action for possession or unlawful holdover, the provisions of the Montana Justice and City Court Rules of Civil Procedure, Title 25, chapter 23, apply, except that the time for filing an answer under Rule 4C(2)(b) is 5 business days after service of summons and complaint, exclusive of the date of service.

(5) If the landlord consents to the tenant's continued occupancy, 70-24-201(2)(e) applies.

History: En. 42-440 by Sec. 40, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-440(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 176, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-24-430. Disposition of personal property abandoned by tenant after termination. (1) (a) If a tenancy terminates by court order, the personal property is considered abandoned and the landlord may immediately dispose of the personal property as allowed by law.

(b) If a tenancy terminates in any manner other than by court order and the landlord has clear and convincing evidence that the tenant has abandoned all personal property that the tenant has left on the premises and a period of time of at least 48 hours has elapsed since the landlord obtained that evidence, the landlord may immediately remove the abandoned property from the premises and immediately dispose of any trash or personal property that is hazardous, perishable, or valueless.

(c) An item that is clearly labeled "rent to own" or "leased" or likewise identified may be discarded only with confirmation from the lessor that the item does not have a lien, provided that the lessor can be easily identified from the label and the landlord makes a reasonable effort to contact the lessor.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection (1), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Hazardous" means an item that is potentially or actually flammable or a biohazard or an item otherwise capable of inflicting personal harm or injury.

(ii) "Perishable" means any item requiring refrigeration or any food item with a marked expiration date.

(iii) "Valueless" means any item that has an insubstantial resale value but does not include personal photos, jewelry, or other small items that are irreplaceable.

(2) The landlord shall inventory and store all abandoned personal property of the tenant that the landlord reasonably believes is valuable in a place of safekeeping and shall exercise reasonable care for the property. The landlord may charge a reasonable storage and labor charge if the property is stored by the landlord, plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage. The landlord may store the property in a commercial storage company, in which case the storage cost includes the actual storage charge plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage.

(3) After complying with subsection (2), the landlord shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the tenant in writing that the property must be removed from the place of safekeeping by sending a notice with a certificate of mailing or by certified mail to the last-known address of the tenant, stating that at a specified time, not less than 10 days after mailing the notice, the property will be disposed of if not removed.

(4) The landlord may dispose of the property after complying with subsection (3) by:

(a) selling all or part of the property at a public or private sale; or

(b) destroying or otherwise disposing of all or part of the property if the landlord reasonably believes that the value of the property is so low that the cost of storage or sale exceeds the reasonable value of the property.

(5) If the tenant, upon receipt of the notice provided in subsection (3), responds in writing to the landlord on or before the day specified in the notice that the tenant intends to remove the property and does not do so within 7 days after delivery of the tenant's response, the tenant's property whether of value or not is conclusively presumed to be abandoned. If the tenant removes the property, the landlord is entitled to storage costs for the period that the property remains in safekeeping, plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage. Reasonable storage costs are allowed a landlord who stores the property, and actual storage costs are allowed a landlord who stores the property in a commercial storage company. A landlord is entitled to payment of the storage costs allowed under this subsection before the tenant may remove the property.

(6) The landlord is not responsible for any loss to the tenant resulting from storage unless the loss is caused by the landlord's purposeful or negligent act. On the event of purposeful violation, the landlord is liable for actual damages.

(7) A public or private sale authorized by this section must be conducted under the provisions of 30-9A-610 or the sheriff's sale provisions of Title 25, chapter 13, part 7.

(8) The landlord may deduct from the proceeds of the sale the reasonable costs of notice, storage, labor, and sale and any delinquent rent or damages owing on the premises and shall remit to the tenant the remaining proceeds, if any, together with an itemized accounting. If the tenant cannot after due diligence be found, the remaining proceeds must be deposited with the county treasurer of the county in which the sale occurred and, if not claimed within 3 years, must revert to the general fund of the county available for general purposes.

(9) The landlord shall ensure that the terms of this section are included in plain and understandable language as a notification upon termination of the lease or rental agreement.

History: En. 42-437 by Sec. 37, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-437; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 483, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 401, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 305, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-24-431. Retaliatory conduct by landlord prohibited. (1) Except as provided in this section, a landlord may not retaliate by increasing rent, by decreasing services, or by bringing or threatening to bring an action for possession after the tenant:

(a) has complained of a violation applicable to the premises materially affecting health and safety to a governmental agency charged with responsibility for enforcement of a building or housing code;

(b) has complained to the landlord in writing of a violation under 70-24-303; or

(c) has organized or become a member of a tenant's union or similar organization.

(2) If the landlord acts in violation of subsection (1) of this section, the tenant is entitled to the remedies provided in 70-24-411 and has a defense in any retaliatory action against the tenant for possession.

(3) In an action by or against the tenant, evidence of a complaint within 6 months before the alleged act of retaliation creates a rebuttable presumption that the landlord's conduct was in retaliation. The presumption does not arise if the tenant made the complaint after notice of a proposed rent increase or diminution of services. For purposes of this section, "rebuttable presumption" means that the trier of fact is required to find the existence of the fact presumed unless and until evidence is introduced that would support a finding of its nonexistence.

(4) Subsections (1), (2), and (3) do not prevent a landlord from bringing an action for possession if:

(a) the violation of the applicable building or housing code was caused primarily by lack of reasonable care by the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or any other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent;

(b) the tenant is in default in rent; or

(c) compliance with the applicable building or housing code requires alteration, remodeling, or demolition that would effectively deprive the tenant of use of the dwelling unit.

(5) The maintenance of an action under subsection (4) of this section does not release the landlord from liability under 70-24-405(2).

History: En. 42-442 by Sec. 42, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-442; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 487, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-24-432. Repealed. Sec. 52, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 483, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 483, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 2005.

70-24-433 through 70-24-435 reserved.

70-24-436. Repealed. Sec. 52, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 470, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 401, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 119, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

70-24-437 through 70-24-440 reserved.

70-24-441. Termination by landlord or tenant. (1) The landlord or the tenant may terminate a week-to-week tenancy by a written notice given to the other at least 7 days before the termination date specified in the notice.

(2) The landlord or the tenant may terminate a month-to-month tenancy by giving to the other at any time during the tenancy at least 30 days' notice in writing prior to the date designated in the notice for the termination of the tenancy.

(3) The tenancy terminates on the date designated and without regard to the expiration of the period for which, by the terms of the tenancy, rents are to be paid. Unless otherwise agreed, rent is uniformly apportionable from day to day.

History: En. 42-440 by Sec. 40, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-440(1), (2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-24-442. Attorney fees — costs. (1) In an action on a rental agreement or arising under this chapter, reasonable attorney fees, together with costs and necessary disbursements, may be awarded to the prevailing party notwithstanding an agreement to the contrary.

(2) As used in this section, "prevailing party" means the party in whose favor final judgment is rendered.

History: En. 42-417 by Sec. 17, Ch. 313, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-417.

Cross-References

Civil procedure — costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

CHAPTER 25
RESIDENTIAL TENANTS' SECURITY DEPOSITS

Part 1 — General Provisions

70-25-101. Definitions.
70-25-102. Application of chapter.
70-25-103. Waivers and contrary provisions invalid.

Part 2 — Rights and Duties

70-25-201. Security deposit — deductions authorized therefrom.
70-25-202. List of damages and refund — delivery to departing tenant.
70-25-203. Failure to provide list — forfeiture of deduction rights.
70-25-204. Wrongful withholding of security deposit — action.
70-25-205. Failure of departing tenant to furnish new address.
70-25-206. Landlord to furnish statement of condition of premises at beginning of lease.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-25-101. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Cleaning expenses" means the actual and necessary cost of cleaning done by an owner or the owner's selected representative for cleaning needs not attributable to normal wear brought about by the tenant's failure to bring the premises to the condition it was at the time of renting.

(2) "Damage" means any and all tangible loss, injury, or deterioration of a leasehold premises caused by the willful or accidental acts of the tenant occupying the leasehold premises or by the tenant's family, licensees, or invitees, as well as any and all tangible loss, injury, or deterioration resulting from the tenant's omissions or failure to perform any duty imposed upon the tenant by law with respect to the leasehold.

(3) "Leasehold premises" means the premises occupied by the tenant together with all common areas, recreational facilities, parking areas, and storage facilities to which the tenant has access, as well as all personal property owned or controlled by the landlord the use of which is permitted to the tenant.

(4) "Security deposit" means value given, in money or its equivalent, to secure the payment of rent by the tenant under a leasehold agreement or to secure payment for damage to and cleaning of the leasehold premises. If a leasehold agreement or an agreement incident to a leasehold agreement requires the tenant or prospective tenant to provide or maintain in effect any deposit to the landlord for part or all of the term of the leasehold agreement, the deposit must be presumed to be a security deposit. A fee or charge for cleaning and damages, no matter how designated, is presumed to be a security deposit.

History: En. 42-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2181, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-25-102. Application of chapter. This chapter applies to all rentals of dwellings subject to Title 70, chapter 24, or Title 70, chapter 33.

History: En. 42-302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 219, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 42-302; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

70-25-103. Waivers and contrary provisions invalid. Any provision of a leasehold agreement, either oral or written, that is contrary to this chapter is invalid. Any attempted waiver of this chapter by the tenant is invalid.

History: En. 42-309 by Sec. 9, Ch. 219, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 42-309; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

Part 2
Rights and Duties

70-25-201. Security deposit — deductions authorized therefrom. (1) A landlord renting property covered by this chapter may deduct from the security deposit a sum equal to the damage alleged to have been caused by the tenant, together with a sum equal to the unpaid rent, late charges, utilities, penalties due under lease provisions, and other money owing to the landlord at the time of deduction, including rent owed under 70-24-441(3), and a sum for actual cleaning expenses, including a reasonable charge for the landlord's labor.

(2) At the request of either party, the premises may be inspected within 1 week prior to termination of the tenancy.

(3) Cleaning charges may not be imposed for normal maintenance performed on a cyclical basis by the landlord as noted by the landlord at the time that the tenant occupies the space unless the landlord is forced to perform this maintenance because of negligence of the tenant. Additionally, cleaning charges may not be deducted until written notice has been given to the tenant. The notice must include the cleaning not accomplished by the tenant and the additional and type or types of cleaning that need to be done by the tenant to bring the premises back to its condition at the time of its renting. After the delivery of the notice, the tenant has 24 hours to complete the required cleaning, unless the rental agreement is already terminated pursuant to 70-24-427 or 70-33-427 and the landlord has a pending claim for actual damages filed in court. If notice is mailed by certified mail, service of the notice is considered to have been made 3 days after the date of the mailing. A tenant who fails to notify the landlord of the intent to vacate or who vacates the premises without notice relieves the landlord of the requirement of giving notice and allows the landlord to deduct the cleaning charges from the deposit, or the landlord may leave a copy of the notice in a conspicuous location in the rental unit and notify the tenant by e-mail, phone, or text, and notice is considered delivered.

(4) A person may not deduct or withhold from the security deposit any amount for purposes other than those set forth in this section.

History: **En. 42-303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 219, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-303; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 401, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 536, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

70-25-202. List of damages and refund — delivery to departing tenant. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2):

(a) Each landlord, within 30 days subsequent to the termination of a tenancy or within 30 days subsequent to a surrender and acceptance of the leasehold premises, whichever occurs first, shall provide the departing tenant with a written list of any rent due and any damage and cleaning charges, brought after the provisions of 70-25-201 have been followed, with regard to the leasehold premises that the landlord alleges are the responsibility of the tenant. Delivery of the list must be accompanied by payment of the difference, if any, between the security deposit and the permitted charges set forth in 70-25-201. Delivery must be accomplished by mailing the list and refund to the new address provided by the tenant or, if a new address is not provided, to the tenant's last-known address.

(b) If after inspection there are no damages to the premises, no cleaning required, and no rent unpaid and if the tenant can demonstrate that no utilities are unpaid by the tenant, the landlord shall return the security deposit within 10 days by mailing it to the new address provided by the tenant or, if a new address is not provided, to the tenant's last-known address.

(c) It is not a wrongful withholding of security deposit funds if the landlord mails the funds to the last-known address of a tenant who has departed and the tenant does not receive the funds because the tenant has not given the landlord the tenant's new address, but the landlord remains liable to the tenant for the amount due the tenant.

(2) This section does not apply if a rental agreement is terminated pursuant to 70-24-427 or 70-33-427 and the landlord has a pending claim for actual damages filed in court.

History: **En. 42-304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 219, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-304; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 505, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

70-25-203. Failure to provide list — forfeiture of deduction rights. Any landlord who fails to provide the departing tenant with a written list of damage and cleaning charges as required by 70-25-202 shall forfeit all rights to withhold any portion of the security deposit for the damages or cleaning charges.

History: **En. 42-305 by Sec. 5, Ch. 219, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-305.**

70-25-204. Wrongful withholding of security deposit — action. (1) A person who wrongfully withholds a residential property security deposit or any portion of the deposit is liable in damages to the tenant in a civil action for an amount equal to the sum determined to have been wrongfully withheld or deducted. The attorney fees may be awarded the prevailing party at the discretion of the court. The burden of proof of damages caused by the tenant to the leasehold premises is on the landlord.

(2) An action may not be maintained by a tenant for any amount wrongfully withheld or deducted prior to:

(a) the tenant's receipt from the landlord or the landlord's agent of a written denial of the sum alleged to be wrongfully detained;

(b) the expiration of a 30-day period after the termination of a tenancy;

(c) the expiration of a 30-day period after surrender and acceptance of the leasehold premises; or

(d) the expiration of a 10-day period after the landlord has indicated there were no damages to the premises, no cleaning was required, no rent was unpaid, and no utilities were unpaid by the tenant.

History: **En. 42-306 by Sec. 6, Ch. 219, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 42-306; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 505, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 1993.**

70-25-205. Failure of departing tenant to furnish new address. Failure by the departing tenant to provide the landlord with a new address in writing upon termination of the tenancy or upon surrender and acceptance of the leasehold premises, whichever occurs first, does not bar the tenant from recovering the amount owing to the tenant by the landlord.

History: En. 42-307 by Sec. 7, Ch. 219, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 42-307; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 342, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 241, L. 2001.

70-25-206. Landlord to furnish statement of condition of premises at beginning of lease. (1) Any person engaged in the rental of property for residential purposes who requires a security deposit shall furnish to each tenant, in conjunction with execution of a lease or creation of a tenancy, a separate written statement as to the present condition of the premises intended to be let. At the written request of the tenant, a copy of the written list of damage and cleaning charges, if any, provided to the tenant of the immediately preceding leasehold agreement for the premises in question must be provided to the tenant.

(2) Each written statement of the present condition of a premises intended to be let shall contain at least the following:

(a) a clear and concise statement of the present condition of the premises known to the landlord or the landlord's agent or which should have been known upon reasonable inspection;

(b) if the premises have never previously been let, a statement indicating the fact; and

(c) the signature of the landlord or the landlord's agent.

(3) A person engaged in the rental of property for residential purposes who fails to furnish a tenant, in conjunction with the execution of the lease or creation of the tenancy, with a separate written statement of the present condition of the premises intended to be let and, upon the written request of the tenant, a written list of damage and cleaning charges provided to the tenant of the immediately preceding leasehold agreement is barred from recovering any sum for damage to or cleaning of the leasehold premises unless the person can establish by clear and convincing evidence that the damage occurred during the tenancy in question and was caused by the tenant occupying the leasehold premises or the tenant's family, licensees, or invitees.

History: En. 42-308 by Sec. 8, Ch. 219, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 42-308; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 505, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 342, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 26

LANDLORD AND TENANT RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

Part 1 — Residential and Commercial

70-26-101. Letting of parts of rooms prohibited.
70-26-102. Transferee of rental property to have same rights as transferor.
70-26-103. Attornment of tenant to stranger void.
70-26-104. Notice of action by third person served on tenant — duty to inform landlord.
70-26-105. Assignee of lessee — remedies of lessor against.
70-26-106. Rights of lessee and assignees against lessor and assignees.
70-26-107. Remedy for rent on lease for life.
70-26-108. Rent dependent on life — recovery.
70-26-109. Change of lease terms by notice.
70-26-110. Lease of city lot for over 75 years void.

Part 2 — Commercial

70-26-201. Term of lease when none specified.
70-26-202. Rent — when payable.
70-26-203. Failure of lessor to repair — lessee's remedies.
70-26-204. Renewal of lease by lessee's continued possession.
70-26-205. Notice required to terminate lease.
70-26-206. Rights of tenant for years or at will.
70-26-207. Repealed.

Part 1
Residential and Commercial

70-26-101. Letting of parts of rooms prohibited. A person who hires part of a room for a dwelling is entitled to the whole of the room, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, and if a landlord lets a room as a dwelling for more than one family, the person to whom the landlord first lets any part of it is entitled to the possession of the whole room for the term agreed upon, and every tenant in the building under the same landlord is relieved from all obligation to pay rent to the landlord while the double letting of any room continues.

History: En. Sec. 2629, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5235, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7750, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1950; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 998; re-en. Sec. 7750, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-210; amd. Sec. 2182, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-102. Transferee of rental property to have same rights as transferor. A person to whom any real property is transferred or devised, upon which rent has been reserved, or to whom any rent is transferred is entitled to the same remedies for recovery of rent, for nonperformance of any of the terms of the lease, or of any waste or cause of forfeiture as the person's grantor or devisor might have had.

History: En. Sec. 1273, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4521, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6763, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 821; Field Civ. C. Sec. 260; re-en. Sec. 6763, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-704; amd. Sec. 2183, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-103. Attornment of tenant to stranger void. The attornment of a tenant to a stranger is void unless it is made with the consent of the landlord or in consequence of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 48, p. 487, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 48, p. 403, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 225, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 283, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2627, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5233, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7748, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1948; re-en. Sec. 7748, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-208.

Cross-References

Relation of landlord and tenant as affecting adverse possession, 70-19-412.

70-26-104. Notice of action by third person served on tenant — duty to inform landlord. A tenant who receives notice of a proceeding to recover the real property occupied by the tenant or the possession of the real property shall immediately inform the landlord of the notice and shall also deliver to the landlord the notice, if in writing, and is responsible to the landlord for all damages that the landlord may sustain by reason of any omission to inform the landlord of the notice or to deliver it to the landlord if in writing.

History: En. Sec. 2628, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5234, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7749, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1949; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 997; re-en. Sec. 7749, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-209; amd. Sec. 2184, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-105. Assignee of lessee — remedies of lessor against. Whatever remedies the lessor of any real property has against the lessor's immediate lessee for the breach of any agreement in the lease or for recovery of the possession, the lessor has against the assignees of the lessee for any cause of action accruing while they are assignees, except when the assignment is made by way of security for a loan and is not accompanied by possession of the premises.

History: En. Sec. 1274, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4522, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6764, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 822; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 261; re-en. Sec. 6764, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-705; amd. Sec. 2185, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-106. Rights of lessee and assignees against lessor and assignees. Whatever remedies the lessee of any real property may have against the lessee's immediate lessor for the breach of any agreement in the lease, the lessee may have against the assigns of the lessor and the assigns of the lessee may have against the lessor and the lessor's assigns, except upon covenants against encumbrances or relating to the title or possession of the premises.

History: En. Sec. 1275, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4523, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6765, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 823; re-en. Sec. 6765, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-706; amd. Sec. 2186, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-107. Remedy for rent on lease for life. Rent due upon a lease for life may be recovered in the same manner as upon a lease for years.

History: En. Sec. 1276, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4524, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6766, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 824; Field Civ. C. Sec. 263; re-en. Sec. 6766, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-707.

70-26-108. Rent dependent on life — recovery. Rent dependent on the life of a person may be recovered after as well as before the person's death.

History: En. Sec. 1277, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4525, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6767, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 825; Field Civ. C. Sec. 264; re-en. Sec. 6767, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-708; amd. Sec. 2187, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Probate — creditors' claims, Title 72, ch. 3, part 8.

70-26-109. Change of lease terms by notice. In all leases of lands or tenements or of any interest therein from month to month, the landlord may, upon giving notice in writing at least 15 days before the expiration of the month, change the terms of the lease to take effect at the expiration of the month. The notice, when served upon the tenant, shall of itself operate and be effectual to create and establish as a part of the lease the terms, rent, and conditions specified in the notice if the tenant shall continue to hold the premises after the expiration of the month.

History: En. Sec. 1279, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4527, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6769, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 827; re-en. Sec. 6769, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-710.

Cross-References

Modification of contracts, Title 28, ch. 2, part 16.

70-26-110. Lease of city lot for over 75 years void. No lease or grant of any town or city lot for a period longer than 75 years, in which shall be reserved any rent or service of any kind, shall be valid.

History: En. Sec. 1153, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4466, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6708, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 718; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 6708, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-409.

Cross-References

Leases for more than 1 year to be in writing, 28-2-903.

Part 2
Commercial

70-26-201. Term of lease when none specified. A hiring of real property, other than lodgings and dwelling houses, in places where there is no usage on the subject, is presumed to be for 1 year from its commencement unless otherwise expressed in the hiring.

History: En. Sec. 2622, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5228, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7743, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1943; re-en. Sec. 7743, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-203.

Cross-References

Leases for more than 1 year to be in writing, 28-2-903.

Leases on town or city lots for over 75 years void, 70-26-110.

70-26-202. Rent — when payable. When there is no usage or contract to the contrary, rents for real property under an arrangement not governed by chapter 24 of this title are payable at the termination of the holding if it does not exceed 1 year. If the holding is by the day, week, month, quarter, or year, rent is payable at the termination of the respective periods, as it successively becomes due.

History: En. Sec. 2626, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5232, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7747, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1947; re-en. Sec. 7747, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-207; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-26-203. Failure of lessor to repair — lessee's remedies. (1) If within a reasonable time after notice to the lessor of dilapidations that the lessor ought to repair, the lessor neglects to do so and if the cost of the repairs does not require an expenditure greater than 1 month's rent of the premises, the lessee may perform the repairs and deduct the expenses of the repairs from the rent or the lessee may vacate the premises, in which case the lessee is discharged from further payment of rent or performance of other conditions.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to real property leased under an arrangement governed by Title 70, chapter 24.

History: En. Sec. 2621, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5227, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7742, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1942; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 991; re-en. Sec. 7742, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-202; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2188, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-26-204. Renewal of lease by lessee's continued possession. If a lessee of real property leased under an arrangement not governed by Title 70, chapter 24, remains in possession of the property after the expiration of the hiring and the lessor accepts rent from the lessee, the parties are presumed to have renewed the hiring on the same terms and for the same time, not exceeding 1 month when the rent is payable monthly, or in any case 1 year.

History: **En. Sec. 2624, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5230, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7745, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1945; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 994; re-en. Sec. 7745, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-205; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2189, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-26-205. Notice required to terminate lease. (1) A hiring of real property for a term not specified by the parties is presumed to be renewed as stated in 70-26-204 at the end of the term implied by law unless one of the parties gives notice to the other of the intention to terminate the hiring at least as long before the expiration of the hiring as the term of the hiring itself, not exceeding 1 month.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to real property leased under an arrangement governed by Title 70, chapter 24.

History: **En. Sec. 2625, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5231, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7746, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1946; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 995; re-en. Sec. 7746, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 42-206; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2190, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Tenancy at will — termination by notice, 70-27-104.
Holdover or collusion after notice — treble rent, 70-27-207.
Holdover after tenant's notice to quit — treble rent, 70-27-208.

70-26-206. Rights of tenant for years or at will. (1) A tenant for years or at will, unless the tenant is a wrongdoer by holding over, may occupy the buildings, take the annual products of the soil, and work mines and quarries open at the commencement of the tenancy and may cultivate and harvest the crops growing at the end of the tenancy.

(2) A tenant for years or at will has no other rights to the property than those given to the tenant by the agreement or instrument by which the tenancy is acquired or by subsection (1).

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to arrangements governed by Title 70, chapter 24.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1271, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4519, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6761, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 819; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 258; re-en. Sec. 6761, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-702, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1272, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4520, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6762, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 820; Field Civ. C. Sec. 259; re-en. Sec. 6762, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-703, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 67-702, 67-703; (3)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2191, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-26-207. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1985.

History: **En. Sec. 1152, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4465, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 6707, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 717; re-en. Sec. 6707, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 67-408.**

CHAPTER 27
FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER
UNLAWFUL DETAINER

Part 1 — Definitions and Preliminary Procedure

70-27-101. Application and jurisdiction.
70-27-102. Forcible entry defined.
70-27-103. Forcible detainer defined.
70-27-104. Tenancy at will — termination by notice.
70-27-105. Remedies of landlord after notice.
70-27-106. Reentry — when and how to be made.
70-27-107. Action for possession under right of reentry — notice not required.
70-27-108. Unlawful detainer defined.
70-27-109. General rules of practice applicable.
70-27-110. Service of notice — how made.
70-27-111. Parties defendant.
70-27-112. Applicability of general provisions on parties.
70-27-113. Complaint and summons.
70-27-114. Summons — contents — service.
70-27-115. Repealed.
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Part 1
Definitions and Preliminary Procedure

70-27-101. Application and jurisdiction. (1) This chapter, except as it relates to forcible detainer as defined in 70-27-103(2) only and as it relates to forcible entry, does not apply to arrangements governed by chapter 24 of this title.

(2) The district court of the county in which the property or some part of it is situated shall have jurisdiction of proceedings under this chapter, provided that justices' courts, within their respective counties, shall have concurrent jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 2084, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7273, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9891, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1163; re-en. Sec. 9891, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 491, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9705; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 1979.

70-27-102. Forcible entry defined. Every person is guilty of a forcible entry who either:

(1) by breaking open doors, windows, or other parts of a house or by any kind of violence or circumstance of terror enters upon or into any real property or mining claim; or

(2) after entering peaceably upon real property or mining claim, turns out by force, threats, or menacing conduct the party in possession.

History: En. Sec. 2080, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7269, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9887, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1159; re-en. Sec. 9887, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9701.

70-27-103. Forcible detainer defined. Every person is guilty of a forcible detainer who either:

(1) by force or by menaces and threats of violence unlawfully holds and keeps the possession of any real property or mining claim, whether the same was acquired peaceably or otherwise; or

(2) in the nighttime or during the absence of the occupant of any lands or mining claim unlawfully enters upon real property and, after demand made for the surrender thereof, for the period of 5 days refuses to surrender the same to such former occupant. The occupant of real property or mining claim, within the meaning of this subsection, is one who, within 5 days preceding such unlawful entry, was in the peaceable and undisputed possession of such lands.

History: En. Sec. 2081, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7270, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9888, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1160; re-en. Sec. 9888, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9702.

70-27-104. Tenancy at will — termination by notice. A tenancy or other estate at will, however created, may be terminated by the landlord's giving notice in writing to the tenant, in the manner prescribed in this chapter, to remove from the premises within a period of not less than 1 month, to be specified in the notice; but none of the estates or tenancies embraced by the provisions of 70-15-202(4) is a tenancy or estate at will.

History: En. Sec. 1240, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4502, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6744, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 789; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 240; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6744, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-523.

70-27-105. Remedies of landlord after notice. After such notice has been served and the period specified by such notice has expired, but not before, the landlord may reenter or proceed according to law to recover possession.

History: En. Sec. 1241, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4503, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6745, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 790; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 242; re-en. Sec. 6745, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-524.

70-27-106. Reentry — when and how to be made. Whenever the right of reentry is given to the grantor or lessor in any grant or lease or otherwise, such reentry may be made at any time after the right has accrued, upon 3 days' notice, as provided in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 1242, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4504, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6746, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 791; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 243; re-en. Sec. 6746, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-525.**

70-27-107. Action for possession under right of reentry — notice not required. An action for the possession of real property leased or granted with a right of reentry may be maintained at any time in the district court, after the right to reenter has accrued, without the notice prescribed in 70-27-106.

History: **En. Sec. 1244, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4506, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6748, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 793; Field Civ. C. Sec. 244; re-en. Sec. 6748, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-527.**

70-27-108. Unlawful detainer defined. A tenant of real property or a mining claim for a term less than life is guilty of unlawful detainer:

(1) when the tenant continues in possession, in person or by subtenant, of the property or any part of the property after the expiration of the term for which it is let to the tenant without the permission of the landlord or the successor in estate of the landlord, if any, but in case of a tenancy at will, it must first be terminated by notice, as prescribed in 70-27-104;

(2) when the tenant continues in possession, in person or by subtenant, without permission of the landlord or the successor in estate of the landlord, if any, after default in the payment of rent, pursuant to the lease or agreement under which the property is held, and 3 days' notice in writing requiring its payment, stating the amount that is due, or possession of the property has been served upon the tenant and, if there is a subtenant in actual occupation of the premises, also upon the subtenant. The notice may be served at any time within 1 year after the rent becomes due. In all cases of tenancy upon agricultural lands when the tenant has held over and retained possession for more than 60 days after the expiration of the term without any demand of possession or notice to quit by the landlord or the successor in estate of the landlord, if any, the tenant is considered to be holding by permission of the landlord or the successor in estate of the landlord and is entitled to hold under the terms of the lease for another full year and may not be guilty of an unlawful detainer during the year, and the holding over must be taken and construed as a consent on the part of a tenant to hold for another year.

(3) when the tenant continues in possession, in person or by subtenant, after a neglect or failure to perform other conditions or covenants of the lease or agreement under which the property is held, including any covenant not to assign or sublet, other than for the payment of rent, and 3 days' notice in writing requiring the performance of conditions or covenants or the possession of the property has been served upon the tenant and, if there is a subtenant in actual occupation of the premises, also upon the subtenant. Within 3 days after the serving of the notice, the tenant or any subtenant in actual occupation of the premises or any mortgagee of the term or other person interested in its continuance may perform the conditions or covenants of the lease or pay the stipulated rent, as the case may be, and save the lease from forfeiture. If the covenants and conditions of the lease violated by the lessee cannot afterward be performed, then notice, as prescribed in this subsection, need not be given to the lessee or the subtenant demanding the performance of the violated covenant or conditions of the lease. A tenant may take proceedings similar to those prescribed in this chapter to obtain possession of the premises let to an undertenant in case of the undertenant's unlawful detention of the premises. Any tenant or subtenant assigning or subletting or committing waste upon the demised premises contrary to the covenants of the lease thereby terminates the lease, and the landlord or the landlord's successor in estate, upon service of 3 days' notice to quit upon the person or persons in possession, is entitled to restitution of possession of the demised premises under the provisions of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 658, p. 174, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 647, p. 165, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 707, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 727, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 2082, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7271, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9889, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1161; re-en. Sec. 9889, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9703; amd. Sec. 2192, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Nonapplicability of unlawful detainer to residential arrangements, 70-27-101.

70-27-109. General rules of practice applicable. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of Title 25 are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice mentioned in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2097, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7286, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9904, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1177; re-en. Sec. 9904, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9718; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-27-110. Service of notice — how made. (1) The notices required by 70-27-108 may be served either:

(a) by delivering a copy to the tenant personally;

(b) if the tenant is absent from the tenant's place of residence and from the tenant's usual place of business, by leaving a copy with some person of suitable age and discretion at either place and sending a copy through the mail addressed to the tenant at the tenant's place of residence; or

(c) if the place of residence and business cannot be ascertained or a person of suitable age or discretion cannot be found there, then by affixing a copy in a conspicuous place on the property and also delivering a copy to a person residing there if a person can be found and also sending a copy through the mail addressed to the tenant at the place where the property is situated.

(2) Service upon a subtenant may be made in the same manner.

History: En. Sec. 2083, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7272, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9890, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1162; re-en. Sec. 9890, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9704; amd. Sec. 2193, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-27-111. Parties defendant. (1) A person, other than the tenant of the premises and a subtenant, if there is one, occupying the premises when the complaint is filed need not be made a party defendant in the proceeding, and a proceeding may not abate or the plaintiff be nonsuited for the nonjoinder of any person who might have been made a party defendant. However, when it appears that any of the parties served with process or appearing in the proceeding is guilty of the offense charged, judgment must be rendered against that party.

(2) If a defendant has become a subtenant of the premises in controversy after the service of the notice provided for by 70-27-108(2) upon the tenant of the premises, the fact that the notice was not served on each subtenant does not constitute a defense to the action.

(3) If a married person is a tenant or subtenant, failure to join the person's spouse does not constitute a defense. However, if the spouse is not joined, an execution issued upon a personal judgment against the tenant or subtenant may be enforced only against property on the premises at the commencement of the action or against property that is owned solely by the tenant or subtenant and not by the tenant's or subtenant's spouse.

(4) All persons who enter the premises after the commencement of the action are bound by the judgment in the same manner as if they had been made party to the action.

History: En. Sec. 2085, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7274, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9892, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1164; re-en. Sec. 9892, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9706; amd. Sec. 2194, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

70-27-112. Applicability of general provisions on parties. Except as provided in 70-27-111, the provisions of Title 25 relating to parties to civil actions are applicable to this proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 2086, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7275, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9893, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1165; re-en. Sec. 9893, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9707.

70-27-113. Complaint and summons. (1) The plaintiff's complaint, which must be in writing, must set forth the facts on which the plaintiff seeks to recover and describe the premises with reasonable certainty. The complaint may set forth any circumstances of fraud, force, or violence that may have accompanied the alleged forcible entry or forcible or unlawful detainer and claim damages. If the unlawful detainer is charged after default in the payment of rent, the complaint must state the amount of rent.

(2) Upon filing the complaint, a summons must be issued on the complaint as in other cases.

History: En. Sec. 2087, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7276, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9894, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1166; re-en. Sec. 9894, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9708(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1999.

70-27-114. Summons — contents — service. (1) The summons must:

(a) state the parties to the proceeding, the court in which the proceeding is brought, the nature of the action in concise terms, and the relief sought; and

(b) notify the defendant to appear and answer within 10 days of service and that the relief sought will be taken against the defendant if the defendant does not appear.

(2) The summons must be directed to the defendant and must be served and returned in the same manner as a summons in civil actions is served and returned.

(3) The summons must be served personally upon the defendant if the defendant can be found with due diligence within the state, or if the defendant cannot be found with due diligence within the state, the summons must be served in the same manner as notices are required to be served in 70-27-110.

(4) Upon the return of a summons issued under this chapter that was not served or not served in time, the plaintiff may have a new summons issued, as if no previous summons had been issued.

History: En. Secs. 2087, 2088, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Secs. 7276, 7277, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 9894, 9895, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 1166, 1167; re-en. Secs. 9894, 9895, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9708(part), 93-9709; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 303, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 1999.

70-27-115. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 231, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2090, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7279, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9897, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1170; re-en. Sec. 9897, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9711; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 138, L. 1993.

70-27-116. Verification of complaint and answer. The complaint and answer must be verified. If new matter be set up in the answer, it is deemed denied.

History: En. Sec. 2095, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7284, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9902, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1175; re-en. Sec. 9902, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9716.

70-27-117. Judgment by default. If the defendant does not appear and defend within 10 days of service, the court shall enter the defendant's default and enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff as requested in the complaint.

History: En. Sec. 2089, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7278, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9896, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1169; re-en. Sec. 9896, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9710; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 1999.

Part 2
Trial, Judgment, and Appeal

70-27-201. Trial by jury. Whenever an issue of fact is presented by the pleadings, it must be tried by a jury unless such jury be waived as in other cases. The jury shall be formed in the same manner as other trial juries in the court in which the action is pending.

History: En. Sec. 2091, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7280, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9898, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1171; re-en. Sec. 9898, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9712.

Cross-References

Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.
Juries and jurors, Title 3, ch. 15.

70-27-202. Actions in justice's court to be tried within 10 days. (1) Actions filed in justice's court under this chapter shall be tried within 10 days after the appearance or answer date stated in the summons unless the defendant applying for a continuance shall give an undertaking to the adverse party with good and sufficient security to be approved by the court, conditioned for the payment of all damages and rent that may accrue if judgment be rendered against the defendant.

(2) The plaintiff and defendant may stipulate to a continuance of the trial beyond the limit of this section without the necessity of an undertaking.

History: En. 93-9712.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9712.1.

Cross-References

Jurisdiction of Justices' Courts, Title 3, ch. 10, part 3.

70-27-203. Showings required on trial. On the trial of any proceeding for any forcible entry or forcible detainer, the plaintiff is only required to show, in addition to the forcible entry or forcible detainer complained of, that the plaintiff was peaceably in the actual possession at the time of the forcible entry or was entitled to the possession at the time of the forcible detainer.

The defendant may show in defense that the defendant or the defendant's ancestors or those whose interest in the premises the defendant claims have been in the quiet possession of the premises for the space of 1 whole year before the commencement of the proceedings and that the defendant's interest in the premises is not then ended or determined, and the showing is a bar to the proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 654, p. 173, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 643, p. 164, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 703, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 723, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2092, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7281, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9899, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1172; re-en. Sec. 9899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9713; amd. Sec. 2195, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-27-204. Amendment of complaint after trial begins. (1) When, upon the trial of any proceeding under this chapter, it appears from the evidence that the defendant has been guilty of either forcible entry or forcible or unlawful detainer and other than the offense charged in the complaint, the judge must order that such complaint be forthwith amended to conform with such proof. Such amendment must be made without any imposition of terms.

(2) No continuance shall be permitted on account of such amendment unless the defendant by affidavit filed shows to the satisfaction of the court good cause therefor.

History: En. Sec. 2093, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7282, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9900, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1173; re-en. Sec. 9900, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9714.

70-27-205. Verdict, judgment, and execution. (1) If upon the trial the verdict of the jury or, if the case is tried without a jury, the finding of the court is in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant, judgment must be entered for the restitution of the premises. If the proceeding is for an unlawful detainer after neglect or failure to perform the conditions or covenants of the lease or agreement under which the property is held or after default in the payment of rent, the judgment must also declare the forfeiture of the lease or agreement.

(2) The jury, or the court if the proceeding is tried without a jury, shall also assess the damages occasioned to the plaintiff by any forcible entry or by any forcible or unlawful detainer alleged in the complaint and proved on the trial and find the amount of any rent due if the alleged unlawful detainer is after default in the payment of rent. The judgment must be rendered against the defendant, guilty of the forcible entry or forcible or unlawful detainer, for three times the amount of the damages assessed and of the rent found due.

(3) When the proceeding is for an unlawful detainer after default in the payment of the rent and the lease or agreement under which the rent is payable has not by its terms expired, execution upon the judgment may not be issued until the expiration of 5 days after the entry of the judgment, within which time the tenant or any subtenant or any mortgagee of the term or other party interested in its continuance may pay into court for the landlord the amount found due as rent with interest and the amount of damages found by the jury or the court for the unlawful detainer and the costs of the proceeding, and upon the payment, the judgment is satisfied and the tenant must be restored to the tenant's estate. However, if the payment is not made within 5 days, the judgment may be enforced for its full amount and for the possession of the premises. In all other cases the judgment may be enforced immediately.

History: En. Sec. 2094, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7283, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9901, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1174; re-en. Sec. 9901, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9715; amd. Sec. 2196, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-27-206. Treble damages. If a person recovers damages for a forcible or unlawful entry in or upon or detention of any building or cultivated real property, judgment may be entered for three times the amount at which the actual damages are assessed.

History: En. Sec. 232, p. 91, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 253, p. 187, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 302, p. 93, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 353, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 353, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 365, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1304, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6869, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9478, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 735; re-en. Sec. 9478, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6105.

70-27-207. Holdover or collusion after notice — treble rent. If any tenant or any person in collusion with the tenant holds over any lands or tenements after demand made and 1 month's notice given in writing requiring the possession of the land or tenement, the person holding over shall pay to the landlord treble rent during the time the person continues in possession after the notice.

History: En. Sec. 4351, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6077, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8695, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3345; re-en. Sec. 8695, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947; 17-502; amd. Sec. 2197, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-27-208. Holdover after tenant's notice to quit — treble rent. If any tenant gives notice of the intention to quit the premises and does not deliver up the possession at the time specified in the notice, the tenant shall pay to the landlord treble rent during the time the tenant continues in possession after the notice.

History: **En. Sec. 4350, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6076, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8694, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3344; re-en. Sec. 8694, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 17-501; amd. Sec. 2198, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-27-209. Treble rent exclusive of interest. The damages prescribed by 70-27-207 and 70-27-208 are exclusive of exemplary damages and interest.

History: **En. Sec. 4364, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6085, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8703, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3357; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1876; re-en. Sec. 8703, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 17-605(part).**

70-27-210. Relief against forfeiture of lease in case of hardship. (1) The court may relieve a tenant against a forfeiture of a lease and restore the tenant to the tenant's former estate in the case of hardship when application for relief is made within 30 days after the forfeiture is declared by the judgment of the court, as provided in 70-27-205.

(2) The application may be made by a tenant or subtenant or mortgagee of the term or any person interested in the continuance of the term. It must be made upon petition, setting forth the facts upon which relief is sought, and must be verified by the applicant.

(3) Notice of the application with a copy of the petition must be served on the plaintiff in the judgment, who may appear and contest the application.

(4) The application may not be granted except on condition that full payment of rent due or full performance of conditions or covenants stipulated, as far as is practicable, is made.

History: **En. Sec. 2099, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7288, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9906, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1179; re-en. Sec. 9906, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9720; amd. Sec. 2199, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-27-211. Appeal. An appeal may be taken by the plaintiff or defendant as in other cases.

History: **En. Sec. 2096, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7285, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9903, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9903, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9717.**

70-27-212. General provisions on new trials and appeals applicable. The provisions of Title 25 relative to new trials and appeals, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, apply to the proceedings mentioned in this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 2098, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7287, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9905, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1178; re-en. Sec. 9905, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9719.**

CHAPTER 28
QUIETING TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY

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Part 1
Quieting Title Generally

70-28-101. Quiet title action authorized. An action may be brought and prosecuted to final decree, judgment, or order by any person or persons, whether in actual possession or not, claiming title to real estate against any person or persons, both known and unknown, who claim or may claim any right, title, estate, or interest therein or lien or encumbrance thereon adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title thereto, whether such claim or possible claim be present or contingent, including any claim or possible claim of dower, inchoate or accrued, for the purpose of determining such claim or possible claim and quieting the title to said real estate.

History: En. Sec. 233, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 254, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 303, p. 94, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 354, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 354, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 366, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1310, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6870, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9479, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 738; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 9479, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6203(part).

Cross-References

Ownership interests in land sold for taxes — quiet title, Title 15, ch. 18, part 4.

70-28-102. General procedural provisions applicable. The provisions of Title 25, chapter 3, parts 2 and 3, and Rules 4 and 12(a), M.R.Civ.P., so far as they are not in conflict with this part, are applicable to the action herein provided for.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9486, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9486, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6209; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 115, L. 1979.

70-28-103. Venue. All actions brought under 70-28-101 must be brought in the county in which the real estate or a portion thereof, as to which the title is sought to be quieted, is situated; provided that if the real estate is situated in more than one county, said action may be brought and prosecuted in either of said counties, and a transcript of the original judgment certified by the clerk of court shall be filed in the office of the clerk of court in the county other than which the action was brought in which any of the real estate affected thereby is situated.

History: En. Sec. 233, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 254, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 303, p. 94, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 354, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 354, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 366, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1310, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6870, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9479, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 738; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 70, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 9479, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6203(part).

70-28-104. Parties defendant — unknown claimants. (1) In any action brought under 70-28-101 and 70-28-103, the plaintiff may join as defendants any or all persons, known or unknown, claiming or who might claim any right, title, estate, or interest in or lien or encumbrance upon the real property described in the complaint adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title, whether the claim or possible claim be present or contingent, including the person or persons in possession if the plaintiff is not in possession.

(2) If the plaintiff desires to obtain a complete adjudication of the title to the real estate described in the complaint, the plaintiff may name as defendants all known persons who assert or who might assert any claim as specified in subsection (1) and may join as defendants all persons unknown who might make any claim by adding in the caption of the complaint in the action the words "and all other persons, unknown, claiming or who might claim any right, title, estate, or interest in or lien or encumbrance upon the real property described in the complaint

adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title, whether the claim or possible claim is present or contingent".

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9480, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9480, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6204; amd. Sec. 182, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2200, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Designating unknown persons as defendants, 25-3-504.

70-28-105. Maintenance of action when no known claimants. If in any case there are no known claimants or possible claimants to any of the property involved in any action contemplated by 70-28-101 through 70-28-109, the action may nevertheless be maintained against all persons unknown claiming or who might claim any right, title, estate, or interest in or lien or encumbrance upon the real property described in the complaint or any part thereof adverse to plaintiff's ownership or any cloud upon plaintiff's title thereto, whether such claim or possible claim be present or contingent, including any claim or possible claim of dower, inchoate or accrued, and such action may be prosecuted to judgment in the same manner and with like effect as though there had been known claimants or possible claimants; and in any such case, the complaint, the affidavit for service by publication, the order for service by publication, and the decree shall state the facts and the summons shall be directed to such unknown persons.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 1939; re-en. Sec. 9488.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6212.

70-28-106. Notice of action to be filed with clerk and recorder. Before any order for the publication of summons is granted as provided in Rule 4, M.R.Civ.P., the plaintiff shall file, in the office of the clerk and recorder of each county in which any of the property involved in the action is situated, a notice of the pendency of the action, signed by the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney. The notice must contain:

(1) the title of the court in which the action is filed;
(2) the full caption of the cause;
(3) a complete description of all the property involved in the action; and
(4) a statement of the relief sought by the plaintiff.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9481, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9481, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6205; amd. Sec. 2201, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-107. Jurisdiction acquired by service — complete adjudication — judgment. (1) Upon the service of summons on all defendants, known and unknown, in the manner provided in Rule 4, M.R.Civ.P., the court in which such action is tried shall have jurisdiction to make a complete adjudication of the title to the lands named in the complaint and the title to which is sought to be quieted, including jurisdiction to direct:

(a) the cancellation of instruments constituting clouds upon such title;

(b) the execution of conveyances where it appears that any party to such action should execute such conveyance or conveyances;

(c) the execution of satisfactions of mortgages and other apparent liens upon such land or any part thereof; or

(d) the doing of any other act of a personal nature necessary to give effect to the rights of the respective parties to such action, as the same may be adjudicated by the court.

(2) When any judgment or decree shall be rendered in such action for a conveyance, release, or acquittance, as above mentioned, and the party or parties against whom the judgment or decree shall be rendered do not comply therewith within the time specified in said judgment or decree for such compliance, such judgment or decree shall have the same operation and effect and be as available as if the conveyance, release, or acquittance had been executed conformably to such judgment or decree.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9487, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 9487, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6210(part).

70-28-108. Prerequisites to decree against defendant not present. Before the plaintiff is entitled to a decree in an action against any defendant who does not appear in the action, the plaintiff shall produce evidence sufficient to prima facie entitle the plaintiff to relief. The relief may be granted only to the extent to which the evidence prima facie proves the plaintiff to be entitled to the relief. However, this provision may not affect the procedure in or manner of trial of the actions as between the plaintiff and any defendant who appears in the action.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9487, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 9487, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6210(part); amd. Sec. 2202, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-109. Who bound by judgment. Every person made a defendant to such action by name and every unknown claimant or possible claimant upon whom service has been made by publication, in accordance with Rule 4, M.R.Civ.P., and who has not appeared in such action shall be bound by the judgment or decree entered in such action, subject to the right of any such defendants to apply for relief in any manner provided by the statutes applicable to the case of a defaulting defendant served only by publication.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9488, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9488, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6211.

70-28-110. When value of improvements may be allowed as setoff. When damages are claimed for withholding the property recovered upon which permanent improvements have been made by a defendant or those under whom the defendant claims, holding under color of title adversely to the claim of plaintiff, in good faith, the value of the improvements must be allowed as setoff against the damage.

History: En. Sec. 236, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 257, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 306, p. 94, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 357, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 357, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 369, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1313, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6873, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9491, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 741; re-en. Sec. 9491, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6215; amd. Sec. 2203, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-111. Termination of plaintiff's right during action — damages for withholding. In an action for the recovery of real property when the plaintiff shows a right to recover at the time the action was commenced but it appears that the plaintiff's right has terminated during the pendency of the action, the verdict and judgment must be according to the fact and the plaintiff may recover damages for withholding the property.

History: En. Sec. 235, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 256, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 305, p. 94, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 356, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 356, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 368, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1312, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6872, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9490, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 740; re-en. Sec. 9490, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6214; amd. Sec. 2204, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-112. Costs — attorney fees. (1) If the defendant in a quiet title action disclaims in the answer any interest or estate in the property or allows judgment to be taken against the defendant without answer, the plaintiff may not recover costs. However, in actions that the plaintiff has brought under 30 U.S.C. 30 to determine an adverse claim, the plaintiff shall recover costs if the defendant does not relinquish in the proper United States land office or disclaim in writing any interest or estate in the property within 20 days from the filing of the adverse claim in the land office.

(2) The plaintiff in a quiet title action may recover costs and attorney fees if the defendant wrongfully filed a statement with the county clerk and recorder for transfer of property that had been owned in a joint tenancy severed under 72-2-814(2)(b). To be eligible to recover costs and fees, the plaintiff must have notified the defendant by certified mail that the defendant may be ordered to pay the plaintiff's costs and fees associated with a quiet title action unless the defendant executes documents to transfer the property to the plaintiff within 30 days or by a date mutually agreed to by the parties. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to joint tenancies revived under 72-2-814(5) unless subsequently severed. The provisions of this subsection do not preempt other remedies.

History: En. Sec. 234, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 255, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 304, p. 93, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 355, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 355, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 367, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1311, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6871, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9489, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 739; re-en. Sec. 9489, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6213; amd. Sec. 2205, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 2019.

70-28-113. Order for survey or measurement. (1) The court in which an action is pending for the recovery of real property or mining claims or for damages for an injury or to quiet title or to determine adverse claims to real property or mining claims or a judge in the action may on motion, upon notice by either party, for good cause shown, grant an order allowing to the party the right to enter into or upon the property or mining claim and make survey or measurement of the property or claim or of any tunnels, shafts, or drifts in the property or claim for the purpose of the action even though entry for that purpose has to be made through other lands or mining claims belonging to parties to the action.

(2) The order must describe the property, and a copy of the order must be served on the owner or occupant. Upon service, the party may enter the property with necessary surveyors and assistants and make the survey and measurement. However, if unnecessary damage is done to the property, the party is liable for the damage.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 237, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 258, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 307, p. 95, Cod. Stat. 1871; en. Sec. 357, p. 138, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 357, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 369, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1314, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6874, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9492, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 742; re-en. Sec. 9492, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6216, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 238, p. 92, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 259, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 308, p. 95, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 358, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 358, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 370, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1315, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6875, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9493, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 743; re-en. Sec. 9493, R.C.M. 1935; Sec 93-6217, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6216, 93-6217; amd. Sec. 2206, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Limitations on actions arising out of work on improvements to real property, 27-2-208.

Professional land surveyor defined, 37-67-101.

Professional land surveyor — entry on land — trespass exception, 70-16-111.

Part 2
Property Granted to Heirs of Deceased Entryman — Quiet Title

70-28-201. Action authorized. Whenever the government of the United States has granted lands in the state of Montana to the heirs of a deceased entryman, any person who claims an estate of inheritance or interest in the lands may bring and maintain an action in rem against all the world in the district court for the county in which the real property is situated to establish the person's title to the property and to determine all adverse claims to the title. Any number of separate parcels of land claimed by the plaintiff may be included in the same action.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9501, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9501, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6225; amd. Sec. 2207, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-28-202. General procedural provisions applicable. Except as herein otherwise provided, all the provisions and rulings of law relating to evidence, pleading, practice, new trials, and appeals applicable to other civil actions shall apply to the actions hereby authorized.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9512, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9512, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6236(part).**

70-28-203. Remedies cumulative. The remedies provided for by this part shall be deemed cumulative and in addition to any other remedy now or hereafter provided by law for quieting or establishing title to real property.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9515, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9515, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6239.**

70-28-204. Executor, administrator, or guardian as party. An executor, administrator, or guardian or other person claiming an interest by deed of conveyance or otherwise may maintain, as plaintiff, and may appear and defend in the action herein provided for.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9514, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9514, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6238.**

70-28-205. Complaint. The action shall be commenced by the filing of a verified complaint in which the parties so commencing the same shall be named as plaintiffs and the defendants shall be described as "all persons claiming any interest in or lien upon the real property herein described or any part thereof" and which shall:

(1) contain a statement of the facts enumerated in 70-28-201;
(2) contain a particular description of such real property; and
(3) specify the estate, title, or interest of the plaintiff therein.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9502, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9502, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6226.**

70-28-206. Affidavit to accompany complaint. (1) At the time of filing the complaint, the plaintiff shall file with the complaint the plaintiff's affidavit fully and explicitly setting forth and showing:

(a) the character of the plaintiff's estate, right, title, interest, or claim in the property;

(b) whether or not the plaintiff has ever made any conveyance of the plaintiff's interest in the property or any part of the property and, if so, when and to whom the conveyance was made and also a statement of all existing mortgages, deeds of trust, judgments, or other liens on the property;

(c) when and where the deceased entryman of the property died;

(d) what kin or relationship the claimant bore to the entryman at the time of the entryman's death; and

(e) the names and residences of any other persons who are next of kin or entitled to succeed to any portion of the lands, the subject of the action, and the names of and residences of all persons who have liens upon the property or any part of the property adversely to the plaintiff if the plaintiff knows or has been informed or has been able to discover any adverse person.

(2) If the plaintiff is unable to state any one or more of the matters required in subsection (1), the plaintiff shall set forth and show fully and explicitly the reasons for the inability.

(3) The affidavit constitutes a part of the judicial record.

(4) If the plaintiff is a person under guardianship, the affidavit must be made by the guardian.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9503, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9503, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6227; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2208, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-207. Summons — issuance and form. Upon the filing of the complaint and affidavit, a summons must be issued under the seal of the court, which must contain the name of the court and county in which the action is brought, the name of the plaintiff, and the particular description of the real property involved and must be directed to "all persons claiming any interest in or lien upon the real property described in this summons or any part of the real property" as defendants and must be substantially in the following form:

"In the district court of the.... judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of..... plaintiff, vs. all persons claiming any interest in or lien upon the real property described in this summons or any part of the real property, defendants.

The state of Montana to all persons claiming any interest in or lien upon the real property described in this summons or any part of the real property, defendants, Greeting:

You are required to appear and answer the complaint of...., plaintiff, filed with the clerk of this court, within 60 days after the first publication of this summons, and set forth what interest or lien, if any, you have in or upon that certain real property or any part of the real property situated in the county of...., state of Montana, particularly described as follows: (Here insert description.)

You are further notified that, unless you appear and answer, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint. (Here insert a statement of the relief demanded.)

Witness my hand and the seal of court this .... day of ...., 20...

..............., Clerk"

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9504, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9504, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6228; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

70-28-208. Publication and posting of summons. (1) The summons shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the action is brought. The newspaper in which such publication is to be made shall be designated by an order of the court or judge thereof to be signed and filed with the clerk. No other order for the publication of the summons shall be necessary, nor shall any affidavit therefor be required, nor need any copy of the complaint be served, except as hereinafter required. The summons shall be published at least once a week for a period of 5 weeks and to each publication thereof shall be appended a memorandum, signed by the plaintiff's attorney, in substance as follows "The following persons are said to claim an interest in or lien upon said property, adverse to plaintiff." (Give names and addresses as above provided.)

(2) A copy of the summons together with a copy of the foregoing memorandum shall be posted in a conspicuous place on each separate parcel of the property described in the complaint within 10 days after the first publication of the summons.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9505, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9505, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6229.

70-28-209. Personal service of summons — service by mail. (1) If the affidavit discloses the name of any person next of kin or relationship to the deceased entryman or entitled to succeed to any part of the property or the name of a person who claims or may claim an interest by mortgage, trust deed, judgment, or other lien, the summons must also be personally served upon that person, if the person can be found within the state, together with a copy of the complaint and a copy of the affidavit, during the period of the publication of the summons, and there must be attached to the copy of the summons delivered to the person a copy of the memorandum provided in 70-28-208.

(2) If the person resides out of the state, a copy of the summons, memorandum, complaint, and affidavit must be, within 10 days after the first publication of the summons, deposited in the United States post office, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the person at the address given in the affidavit or, if an address is not given in the affidavit, then at the county seat of the county in which the action was brought. If the person resides within the state and could not with due diligence be found within the state within the period of the publication of the summons, then the notice described in this subsection must be mailed to the person, as provided in this subsection, upon the expiration of the period of publication.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9506, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9506, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6230; amd. Sec. 2209, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-210. Jurisdiction acquired by service — complete. Upon the completion of the publication and posting of the summons and its service upon and mailing to the persons, if any, upon whom it is hereby directed to be so specially served, the court shall have full and complete jurisdiction over the plaintiff and the property and of the person of every one having or claiming any estate, right, title, or interest in or to or lien upon such property or any part thereof and shall be deemed to have obtained the possession and control of said property for the purposes of the action and shall have full and complete jurisdiction to render the judgment therein which is provided for in this part.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9507, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9507, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6231.

70-28-211. Depositions. (1) At any time after the issuance of the summons, any party to the action may take depositions therein in conformity to law, upon notice to the adverse party sought to be bound by such depositions and who has appeared in the action, if any, and upon notice filed with the clerk.

(2) The depositions may be used by any party against any other party giving or receiving the notice (except the clerk), subject to all just exceptions.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9512, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9512, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6236(part).

70-28-212. Time for appearance by defendant — answer. At any time within the first 60 days from the first publication of the summons or within a further time, not exceeding 30 days, that the court may for good cause grant, any person having or claiming any estate, right, title, or interest in or to or lien upon the property or any part of the property may appear and become a party to the action by pleading to the complaint. All answers must be verified and set forth specifically the kin or relationship of the deceased entryman and the estate, right, title, interest, or lien claimed.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9508, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9508, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6232; amd. Sec. 2210, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-213. Recording of notice by plaintiff and defendant. (1) The plaintiff shall, at the time of filing the complaint, and every defendant to claim or claiming any affirmative relief shall, at the time of filing an answer, record in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the property is situated a notice of the pendency of the action containing the object of the action or the defense and a particular description of the property affected by the action.

(2) The clerk and recorder shall record the filing in a book of the miscellaneous records of the clerk's office and shall make a reference as to the date and time of the filing of the notice and, when recorded, to the book and page record.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9509, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9509, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6233; amd. Sec. 2211, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-214. Default judgment prohibited — proof and inquiry required. No judgment in any such action shall be given by default, but the court must require proof of the facts alleged in the complaint and other pleadings, and the court must further make diligent inquiry of the plaintiff and all defendants appearing concerning the next of kin of said deceased entryman, and upon such examination should any heir be discovered who has not been served or who has not appeared, the court may order such heir brought in if necessary for the determination herein provided for.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9510, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9510, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6234.

70-28-215. Judgment — nature and effect — recording. (1) The judgment must ascertain and determine the heirship of the deceased entryman and all estates, rights, titles, interests, and claims in and to the property and every part of the property, whether the estates, rights, titles, interests, and claims are legal or equitable, present or future, vested or contingent, or whether the estates, rights, titles, interests, and claims consist of mortgages or liens of any description. The judgment must be binding and conclusive upon every person who, at the time of the commencement of the action, had or claimed to have any estate, right, title, or interest in or to the property or any part of the property and upon every person claiming under the person by title subsequent to the commencement of the action.

(2) A certified copy of the judgment in the action must be recorded in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county in which the action was commenced, and any party or the successor in interest of any party to the action may file for record in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county the entire judicial record in the action.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9511, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9511, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6235; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2212, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-216. Subsequent action — notice to original parties required. Whenever judgment in an action hereby authorized shall have been entered as to any real property, no other action relative to the same property or any part thereof maintained under this part shall be tried until proof shall first have been made to the court that all persons who appeared in the first action or their successors in interest have been personally served with the papers mentioned in 70-28-209, either within or without this state, more than 1 month before the time to plead expired.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 15, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 9513, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9513, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6237.

Part 3
Entry Townsite Deeds

70-28-301. Entry townsite land defined. "Entry townsite land" means land upon which an entry was made on or before July 1, 1921, by a probate court of any county in the territory or state of Montana for a townsite and a patent for the townsite was issued by the United States to the probate court or judge under the provisions of an act of congress entitled "An Act for the Relief of the Inhabitants of Cities and Towns Upon Public Lands", approved March 2, 1867, or other and subsequent acts of congress relating to entering lands for townsite purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1981.

70-28-302. Petition for deed — qualified claimants. A person may petition for a deed to a lot on entry townsite land from the district court of the county in which the entry townsite land is located if:

(1) the claimant entered the lot and is in possession of the lot; or

(2) the claimant is a successor in interest, by purchase or other lawful method of transferring an interest in land, of a person who originally entered the lot.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 102, L. 1981.

70-28-303. Notice requirements. Upon petition by a claimant for a deed to a lot on entry townsite land, the claimant shall provide published notice of the claim, notice filed with the county clerk and recorder, and personal service as may be required for quiet title actions under Title 70, chapter 28, part 1.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 102, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2213, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-28-304. Judge to issue deed — requirements. If there are no valid conflicting claims to the lot on the entry townsite, the district court judge, as ex officio probate judge of the county, shall issue the claimant a good and sufficient deed for the lot on the entry townsite land upon finding in a hearing that:

(1) the petitioner is a qualified claimant under 70-28-302; and

(2) (a) no deed has been issued by a probate or district court judge of the county where the entry townsite land is located for the claimed lot; or

(b) a deed for the claimed lot has been issued but not recorded and has been lost or cannot be found.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 102, L. 1981.

CHAPTER 29
PARTITION OF REAL PROPERTY

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Part 1
Preliminary Procedure

70-29-101. Action for partition authorized — who may bring. When several cotenants hold and are in possession of real property as joint tenants or tenants in common, in which one or more of them have an estate of inheritance or for life or lives or for years, an action may be brought by one or more of such persons for a partition thereof, according to the respective rights of the persons interested therein, and for a sale of such property or a part thereof if it appears that a partition cannot be made without a great prejudice to the owners.

History: **En. Sec. 492, p. 140, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 264, p. 190, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 313, p. 97, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 364, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 364, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 377, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1340, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6883, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9516, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 752; re-en. Sec. 9516, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6301.**

70-29-102. Action by minor. (1) An action for the partition of real property may not be brought by a minor, except by the written authority of the district judge of the county in which the property or a part of the property is situated. The authority may not be given unless the district judge is satisfied, by affidavit or other competent evidence, that the interests of the minor will be promoted by bringing the action.

(2) A judgment for a partition may not be rendered in an action unless the court is satisfied that the interests of the minor will be promoted and that fact is expressly recited in the judgment.

(3) A guardian ad litem for a minor party, in an action for partition, may be appointed only by the court or judge and shall give an undertaking in a sum fixed by the judge for the faithful discharge of the guardian ad litem's trust. The undertaking must be approved by the judge and filed with the clerk.

History: **En. Sec. 1341, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6884, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9517, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9517, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6302; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2214, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Appointment of guardian, 25-5-301.
Enforcement of minor's rights, 41-1-202.

70-29-103. Complaint — contents. The interests of all the persons in the property, whether such persons be known or unknown, must be set forth in the complaint specifically and particularly, as far as known to the plaintiff; and if one or more of the parties or the share or quantity of interest of any of the parties be unknown to the plaintiff or be uncertain or contingent or the ownership of the inheritance depend upon the executory devise or the remainder be a contingent remainder so that such parties cannot be named, that fact must be set forth in the complaint.

History: En. Sec. 493, p. 140, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 265, p. 190, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 314, p. 97, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 365, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 365, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 378, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1344, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6887, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9520, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 753; re-en. Sec. 9520, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6305.

70-29-104. Who must be parties — permissible plaintiffs. (1) The following must be parties to an action for partition:

(a) every person having an undivided share, in possession or otherwise, in the property as tenant in fee, for life, or for years;

(b) every person entitled to the reversion, remainder, or inheritance of an undivided share, after the determination of a particular estate therein;

(c) every person who by any contingency contained in a devise or grant or otherwise is or may become entitled to a beneficial interest in an undivided share thereof;

(d) every person having an inchoate right of dower in an undivided share in the property; and

(e) every person having a right of dower in the property or any part thereof which has not been admeasured.

(2) But no person other than a joint tenant or a tenant in common of the property shall be a plaintiff in the action.

History: En. Sec. 1342, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6885, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9518, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9518, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6303.

70-29-105. Who may be joined as defendants. (1) The plaintiff may make a tenant in dower, for life or for years, of the entire property or a creditor or other person having a lien or interest that attaches to the entire property a defendant in the action. In that case the final judgment may either award to a party the party's entire right and interest or the proceeds of the right or interest or may reserve and leave unaffected the party's right or interest or any portion of the right or interest.

(2) A person specified in this section who is not made a party is not affected by the judgment in the action.

History: En. Sec. 1343, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6886, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9519, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9519, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6304; amd. Sec. 2215, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-106. Unnecessary to join grantees or lienholders not of record. No person having a conveyance of or claiming a lien on the property or some part of it need be made a party to the action unless such conveyance or lien appear of record.

History: En. Sec. 266, p. 190, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 315, p. 97, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 366, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 366, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 379, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1345, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6888, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9521, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 754; re-en. Sec. 9521, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6306.

70-29-107. Lienholders of record as parties. If it appears to the court, by the certificate of the clerk of the court and county clerk and recorder or by the sworn or verified statement of any person who may have examined or searched the records, that there are outstanding liens or encumbrances of record upon such real property or any part or portion thereof which existed and were of record at the time of the commencement of the action, and the persons holding such liens are not made parties to the action, the court must either order such persons to be made parties to the action by an amendment or supplemental complaint or appoint a referee to ascertain whether or not such liens or encumbrances have been paid or, if not paid, what amount remains due thereon and their order among the liens or encumbrances severally held by such persons and the parties to the action and whether the amount remaining due thereon has been secured in any manner and, if secured, the nature and extent of the security.

History: En. Sec. 501, p. 142, Bannack Stat.; en. Sec. 273, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 322, p. 98, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 373, p. 142, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 373, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 386, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1353, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6896, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9529, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 761; re-en. Sec. 9529, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6314.

70-29-108. Lienholders of record to be notified. (1) The plaintiff shall cause a notice to be served a reasonable time prior to the day for appearance before the referee appointed, as provided in 70-29-107, on each person having outstanding liens of record who is not a party to the action to appear before the referee at a specified time and place to make proof by the person's own affidavit or otherwise of the amount due or to become due, contingently or absolutely, on the lien.

(2) If the person is absent or the person's residence is unknown, service may be made by publication or notice to the person's agents, under the direction of the court, in a proper manner.

(3) The report of the referee must be made to the court and must be confirmed, modified, or set aside and a new reference ordered, as the justice of the case may require.

History: En. Sec. 502, p. 142, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 274, p. 192, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 323, p. 99, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 374, p. 142, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 374, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 387, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1354, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6897, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9530, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 762; re-en. Sec. 9530, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6315; amd. Sec. 2216, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-109. Notice of action to be filed with clerk — lis pendens. (1) Immediately after filing the complaint in the district court, the plaintiff must file in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county or of the several counties in which the property is situated a notice of the pendency of the action containing:

(a) the names of the parties so far as known;
(b) the object of the action; and
(c) a description of the property to be affected thereby.

(2) From the time of filing such notice, all persons shall be deemed to have notice of the pendency of the action.

History: En. Sec. 495, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 267, p. 190, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 316, p. 97, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 367, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 367, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 380, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1346, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6889, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9522, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 755; re-en. Sec. 9522, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6307.

70-29-110. Summons — to whom directed. The summons must be directed to all the joint tenants and tenants in common and all persons having an interest in or any liens of record by mortgage, judgment, or otherwise upon the property or upon any particular portion thereof and generally to all persons unknown who have or claim any interest in the property.

History: En. Sec. 496, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 268, p. 190, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 317, p. 97, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 368, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 368, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 381, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1347, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6890, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9523, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 756; re-en. Sec. 9523, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6308.

70-29-111. Unknown and out-of-state parties — how served. (1) If a party having a share or interest is unknown or any one of the known parties resides out of the state or cannot be found therein and such fact is made to appear by affidavit, the summons may be served on such absent or unknown party by publication, as in other cases.

(2) When publication is made, the summons, as published, must be accompanied by a general statement of the nature of the action and a brief description of the property which is the subject of the action.

History: En. Sec. 497, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 269, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 318, p. 98, C. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 369, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 369, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 382, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1348, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6891, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9524, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 757; re-en. Sec. 9524, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6309.

70-29-112. Answer — contents. The defendants who have been personally served with the summons and a copy of the complaint or who have appeared without such service must set forth in their answers, fully and particularly, the origin, nature, and extent of their respective interests in the property, and if such defendants claim a lien on the property by mortgage, judgment, or otherwise, they are deemed to have waived their right to such lien unless they state:

(1) the original amount and date of the same and the sum remaining due thereon;
(2) whether the same has been secured in any other way or not; and
(3) if secured, the nature and extent of such security.

History: En. Sec. 498, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 270, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 319, p. 98, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 370, p. 141, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 370, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 383, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1349, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6892, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9525, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 758; re-en. Sec. 9525, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6310.

70-29-113. Death or incompetency of parties — proceedings not delayed. (1) If during the pendency of the action a party dies, is committed pursuant to 53-21-127, or otherwise becomes incompetent, the proceedings may not for that cause be delayed or suspended, but the attorney who has appeared for the party may continue to represent the party's interest. If any party has not appeared by an attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the interest that was held by the party until the party's heirs, legal representatives, or successors in interest have appeared in the action.

(2) An attorney appointed pursuant to subsection (1) must be allowed by the court a reasonable compensation for the attorney's services. The compensation may be taxed as costs against the share or interest represented by the attorney and may be adjudged a lien on the share or interest, in the discretion of the court.

History: **En. Sec. 1357, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6900, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9533, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9533, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6318; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 490, L. 1997.**

Part 2
Trial and Judgment

70-29-201. Trial of title or interest of parties. The right of the several parties, plaintiff as well as defendant, may be put in issue, tried, and determined in the partition action. The title or interest of the plaintiff in the property, as stated in the complaint, may be controverted by the answer. The title or interest of any defendant in the property, as stated in the complaint, may also be controverted by the defendant's answer or the answer of any other defendant, and the title or interest of any defendant, as stated in that defendant's answer, may be controverted by the answer of any other defendant and the issues joined as prescribed in Title 25, which may be tried before a jury if the court directs.

History: **En. Sec. 499, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 271, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 320, p. 98, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 371, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 371, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 384, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1350, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6893, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9526, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 759; re-en. Sec. 9526, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6311; amd. Sec. 2217, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-29-202. Court to order sale or partition — appointment of referees. (1) If it be alleged in the complaint and established by evidence or if it appear by the evidence without such allegation in the complaint to the satisfaction of the court that the property or any part is so situated that the partition cannot be made without great prejudice to the owners, the court may order a sale thereof; otherwise, upon the requisite proofs being made, it must order a partition according to the respective rights of the parties as ascertained by the court and appoint three referees therefor and must designate the portion to remain undivided for the owners whose interests remain unknown or are not ascertained.

(2) The court, with the consent of the parties, may appoint a single referee instead of three referees in the proceedings under the provisions of this chapter, and the single referee, when thus appointed, has all the powers and may perform all the duties required of the three referees.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 503, p. 142, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 275, p. 192, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 324, p. 99, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 375, p. 142, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 375, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 388, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1355, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6898, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9531, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 763; re-en. Sec. 9531, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6316, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 537, p. 148, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 309, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 358, p. 104, L. 1871; rep. Sec. 674, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1395, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6938, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9571, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 797; re-en. Sec. 9571, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6356, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6316, 93-6356.**

70-29-203. Determination of title required before judgment of sale. When a sale of the premises is necessary, the title must be ascertained by proof to the satisfaction of the court before the judgment of sale can be made, and where service of the summons has been made by publication, like proof must be required of the right of the absent or unknown parties before such judgment is rendered, except where there are several unknown parties having an interest in the property, their rights may be considered together in the action and not as between themselves.

History: **En. Sec. 499, p. 141, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 271, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 320, p. 98, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 371, p. 140, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 371, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 384, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1351, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6894, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9527, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9527, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6312.**

70-29-204. Partial partition. Whenever from any cause it is in the opinion of the court impracticable or highly inconvenient to make a complete partition in the first instance among all the parties in interest, the court may first ascertain and determine the shares or interests respectively held by the original cotenants and thereupon adjudge and cause a partition to be made as if such original cotenants were the parties and sole parties in interest and the only parties to the action and thereafter may proceed in like manner to adjudge and make partition separately of each share or portion so ascertained and allotted, as between those claiming under the original tenant to whom the same shall have been so set apart, or may allow them to remain tenants in common thereof, as they may desire.

History: En. Sec. 272, p. 191, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 321, p. 98, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 372, p. 141, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 372, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 385, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1352, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6895, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9528, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 760; re-en. Sec. 9528, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6313.

70-29-205. Partition according to rights of parties — roads. (1) In making partition, the referees must divide the property and allot the several portions thereof to the respective parties, quality and quantity relatively considered, according to the respective rights of the parties as determined by the court, pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, designating the several portions by proper landmarks, and may employ a surveyor with the necessary assistants to aid them.

(2) Before making partition or sale, the referees may, whenever it will be for the advantage of those interested, set apart a portion of the property for a way, road, or street, and the portion so set apart shall not be assigned to any of the parties or sold but shall remain an open and public way, road, or street unless the referees shall set the same apart as a private way for the use of the parties interested or some of them, their heirs, and assigns, in which case it shall remain such private way. Whenever the referees have laid out on any tract of land roads sufficient, in the judgment of said referees, to accommodate the public and private wants, they shall report that fact to the court, and upon the confirmation of their report all other roads on said tract shall cease to be public highways.

History: En. Sec. 504, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 276, p. 192, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 325, p. 99, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 376, p. 143, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 376, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 389, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1358, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6901, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9534, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 764; re-en. Sec. 9534, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6319.

70-29-206. Procedure in relation to lots and subdivisions. When the site of an incorporated city or town is included within the exterior boundaries of the property to be partitioned, on said fact being established by evidence, the following proceedings shall be had:

(1) The court shall thereupon direct the referees to survey and appraise the entire property to be partitioned by actual lots and subdivisions then existing in the actual possession of the several tenants in common, exclusive of the value of improvements thereon, first setting apart necessary portions of the property for ways, roads, and streets, as in 70-29-205 provided, and to report such survey and separate appraisement on each lot and subdivision to the court. The court may confirm, change, modify, or set aside the report in whole or in part and, if necessary, appoint new referees.

(2) When, after the final confirmation of the report of such survey and appraisement, it shall appear by evidence to the satisfaction of the court that an equitable partition of the whole property is impracticable and a sale of the site of such city, town, or any portion thereof will be for the best interest of the owners of the whole property, it shall order a sale thereof; provided that within 60 days thereafter any tenant in common or tenants in common having improvements erected on any town or city lot or subdivision included in such order of sale shall have the prior right to purchase the same at such appraised valuation and pay into court the amount so appraised as the value thereof, and upon such payment, the title shall vest in such purchaser or purchasers, and the court shall cause to be executed by said referees a deed for such lot or subdivision in fee and in severalty to such purchaser or purchasers. Such further proceedings shall then be had as to the remainder of the property and the money so paid to the court as by this chapter provided.

History: En. Sec. 1356, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6899, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9532, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9532, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6317.

70-29-207. Allotment of shares of land — improvements. In all cases the court shall direct the referees, in making partition of land, to allot the share of each of the parties owning an interest in the whole or in any part of the premises sought to be partitioned and to locate the share of each cotenant so as to embrace as far as practicable the improvements made by such cotenant upon the property, and the value of the improvements made by the tenants in common must be excluded from the valuation in making allotments, and the land must be valued without regard to such improvements, in case the same can be done without material injury to the rights and interests of the other tenants in common owning such land.

History: En. Sec. 1359, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6902, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9535, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9535, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6320(part).

70-29-208. Allotment of land to grantee of tenant in common. Whenever it appears in an action for the partition of lands that one or more of the tenants in common, being the owner of an undivided interest in the tract of land sought to be partitioned, has sold to another person a specific tract by metes and bounds out of the common land and executed to the purchaser a deed of conveyance purporting to convey the whole title to the specific tract to the purchaser in fee and in severalty, the land described in the deed must be allotted and set apart in partition to the purchaser or the purchaser's heirs or assigns or in another manner that makes the deed effectual as a conveyance of the whole title to the segregated parcel if the tract or tracts of land can be allotted or set apart without material injury to the rights and interests of the other cotenants who may not have joined in the conveyance.

History: En. Sec. 1359, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6902, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9535, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9535, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6320(part); amd. Sec. 2218, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-209. Compensation of one party by another in certain cases of partition. (1) When it appears that a partition cannot be made equal between the parties according to their respective rights without prejudice to the rights and interests of some of them and a partition is ordered, the court may adjudge compensation to be made by one party to another on account of the inequality. However, the compensation may not be required to be made to others by owners unknown or by a minor unless it appears that the minor has personal property sufficient for that purpose and that the minor's interest will be promoted.

(2) In all cases, the court may make compensatory adjustment between the respective parties according to the ordinary principles of equity.

History: En. Sec. 532, p. 147, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 304, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 353, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1387, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6930, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9563, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 792; re-en. Sec. 9563, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6348; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 2, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2219, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-210. Consent of guardian to share of ward. The general guardian of a minor and the guardian entitled to the custody and management of the estate of a person committed pursuant to 53-21-127 or other person adjudged incapable of conducting the person's own affairs, who is interested in real estate held in joint tenancy or in common or in any other manner so as to authorize the person being made a party to an action, may agree upon the share to be set off to the minor or other person entitled to the share. The guardian may execute a release, in the person's behalf, to the owners of the shares of the parts to which they may be respectively entitled, upon an order of the court.

History: En. Sec. 535, p. 148, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 307, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 356, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1390, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6933, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9566, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 795; re-en. Sec. 9566, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6351; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

Cross-References

UPC — persons under disability — guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

70-29-211. Referees to make report. The referees must make a report of their proceedings, specifying therein the manner in which they executed their trust and describing the property divided and the shares allotted to each party with a particular description of each share.

History: En. Sec. 505, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 277, p. 192, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 326, p. 99, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 377, p. 143, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 377, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 390, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1360, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6903, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9536, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 765; re-en. Sec. 9536, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6321.

70-29-212. Judgment upon confirmation of report — effect. (1) The court may confirm, change, modify, or set aside the report and if necessary appoint new referees.

(2) Upon the report being confirmed, judgment must be rendered that the partition is effectual forever. The judgment is binding and conclusive on all:

(a) persons named as parties to the action and their legal representatives, who have at the time any interest in the property divided or any part of the property, as owners in fee or as tenants for life or for years or as entitled to the reversion, remainder, or the inheritance of the property or any part of the property after the determination of a particular estate in the property, and who by any contingency may be entitled to a beneficial interest in the property or who have an interest in any undivided share of the property as tenants for years or for life;

(b) persons interested in the property, who may be unknown, to whom notice has been given of the action for partition by publication; and

(c) other persons claiming from the parties or persons or either of them.

(3) A judgment is not invalidated by reason of the death of any party before final judgment or decree, but the judgment or decree is as conclusive against the heirs, legal representatives, or assigns of the decedent as if it had been entered before the decedent's death.

History: En. Sec. 506, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 278, p. 192, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 327, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 378, p. 143, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 378, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 391, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1361, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6904, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9537, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 766; re-en. Sec. 9537, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6322; amd. Sec. 2220, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-213. Judgment not to affect certain tenants for years. The judgment does not affect tenants for years, less than 10, to the whole of the property which is the subject of the partition.

History: En. Sec. 507, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 279, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 328, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 379, p. 144, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 379, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 392, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1362, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6905, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9538, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 767; re-en. Sec. 9538, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6323.

70-29-214. Status of estate for life or years when partial sale ordered. When a part of the property only is ordered to be sold, if there be an estate for life or years in an undivided share of the whole property, such estate may be set off in any part of the property not ordered to be sold.

History: En. Sec. 510, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 282, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 331, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 382, p. 144, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 382, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 395, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1365, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6908, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9541, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 770; re-en. Sec. 9541, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6326.

70-29-215. Lien on undivided interest — status after partition. When a lien is on an undivided interest or estate of any of the parties, such lien, if a partition be made, shall thenceforth be a charge only on the share assigned to such party, but such share must be first charged with its just proportion of the costs of the partition in preference to such lien.

History: En. Sec. 509, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 281, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 330, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 381, p. 144, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 381, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 394, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1364, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6907, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9540, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 769; re-en. Sec. 9540, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6325.

Cross-References

Liens generally, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

70-29-216. Abstract of title — when cost of allowed — filing and inspection. (1) If it appears to the court that it was necessary to have made an abstract of the title to the property to be partitioned and the abstract has been procured by the plaintiff or if the plaintiff has failed to have the abstract made before the commencement of the action and any one of the defendants has had the abstract made, the cost of the abstract, with interest on the cost from the time the abstract is subject to the inspection of the respective parties to the action, must be allowed and taxed.

(2) Whenever the abstract is procured by the plaintiff, before the commencement of the action the plaintiff shall file with the complaint a notice that an abstract of the title has been made and is subject to the inspection and use of all the parties to the action, designating in the notice where the abstract will be kept for inspection. However, if the plaintiff has failed to procure the abstract before commencing the action and any defendant procures the abstract to

be made, the defendant shall, as soon as the defendant has directed the abstract to be made, file a notice of the procurement in the action with the clerk of the court, stating who is making the abstract and where it will be kept when finished.

(3) The court or judge may direct, from time to time during the progress of the action, who must have the custody of the abstract.

History: En. Sec. 1397, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6940, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9573, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 799; re-en. Sec. 9573, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6358; amd. Sec. 2221, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-217. Abstract — how made and verified. The abstract mentioned in 70-29-216 may be made by any competent searcher of records and need not be certified by the county clerk and recorder or other officer, but instead of certification it must be verified by the affidavit of the person making it to the effect that the person believes it to be correct. However, the abstract may be corrected from time to time, if found incorrect, under the direction of the court.

History: En. Sec. 1398, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6941, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9574, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 800; re-en. Sec. 9574, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6359; amd. Sec. 2222, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-218. Costs of partition — apportionment among parties — lien. The costs of partition, including reasonable counsel fees, expended by the plaintiff or either of the defendants for the common benefit, fees of referees, or other disbursements must be paid by the parties respectively entitled to share in the lands divided, in proportion to their respective interests therein, and may be included and specified in the judgment. In that case, they shall be a lien on the several shares and the judgment may be enforced by execution against such shares and against other property held by the respective parties. When, however, litigation arises between some of the parties only, the court may require the expense of such litigation to be paid by the parties thereto or any of them.

History: En. Sec. 536, p. 148, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 308, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 357, p. 104, L. 1871; rep. Sec. 674, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1394, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6937, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9570, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 796; re-en. Sec. 9570, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6355.

Cross-References

Civil procedure — costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

70-29-219. Expenses of referees and surveyor. The expenses of the referees, including those of a surveyor and the surveyor's assistants, when employed, must be ascertained and allowed by the court, and the amount of those expenses, together with the fees allowed by the court in its discretion to the referees, must be apportioned among the different parties to the action equitably.

History: En. Sec. 508, p. 143, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 280, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 329, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 380, p. 144, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 380, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 393, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1363, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6906, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9539, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 768; re-en. Sec. 9539, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6324; amd. Sec. 2223, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-220. Disbursements by party — interest allowed. Whenever during the progress of the action for partition any disbursements shall have been made under the direction of the court or the judge thereof by a party thereto, interest must be allowed thereon from the time of making such disbursements.

History: En. Sec. 1399, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6942, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9575, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 801; re-en. Sec. 9575, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6360.

70-29-221. Expenses of previous litigation. If it appears that other actions or proceedings have been necessarily prosecuted or defended by any one of the tenants in common for the protection, confirmation, or perfecting of the title or setting the boundaries or making a survey or surveys of the estate partitioned, the court shall allow to the parties to the action who have paid the expense of the litigation or other proceedings all the expenses necessarily incurred in the litigation or proceedings, except counsel fees, that have accrued to the common benefit of the other tenants in common, with interest on the expenses from the date of making the expenditures, and the expenses must be pleaded and allowed by the court and included in the final judgment and are a lien upon the share of each tenant, respectively, in proportion to the tenant's interest and must be enforced in the same manner that taxable costs of partition are taxed and collected.

History: En. Sec. 1396, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6939, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9572, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 798; re-en. Sec. 9572, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6357; amd. Sec. 2224, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 3
Sale and Disposition of Proceeds

70-29-301. Sale to be at public auction — notice. All sales of real property made by referees under this chapter must be made at public auction to the highest bidder, upon notice published in the manner required for the sale of real property on execution. The notice must state the terms of sale, and if the property or any part of it is to be sold subject to a prior estate, charge, or lien, that must be stated in the notice.

History: En. Sec. 515, p. 145, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 287, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 336, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 387, p. 146, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 387, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 400, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1370, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6913, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9546, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 775; re-en. Sec. 9546, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6331.

Cross-References

Notice of sale on execution, 25-13-701.

70-29-302. Terms of sale to be made known. In all cases of sales of property, the terms must be made known at the time; and if the premises consist of distinct farms and lots, they must be sold separately.

History: En. Sec. 522, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 294, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 343, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 394, p. 147, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 394, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 407, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1377, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6920, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9553, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 782; re-en. Sec. 9553, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6338.

70-29-303. Who may not be purchasers. (1) Neither of the referees nor any person for the benefit of either of them can be interested in any purchase, nor can a guardian of a minor party be interested in the purchase of any real property being the subject of the action except for the benefit of the minor.

(2) All sales contrary to the provisions of this section are void.

History: En. Sec. 523, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 295, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 344, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 395, p. 147, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 395, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 408, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1378, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6921, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9554, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 783; re-en. Sec. 9554, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6339; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 2, L. 1983.

70-29-304. Party or encumbrancer as purchaser. When a party entitled to a share of the property or an encumbrancer entitled to have a lien paid out of the sale becomes a purchaser, the referees may take the purchaser's receipt for as much of the proceeds of the sale as belongs to the purchaser.

History: En. Sec. 526, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 298, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 347, p. 103, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1381, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6924, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9557, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 786; re-en. Sec. 9557, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6342; amd. Sec. 2225, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-305. Court to direct terms of credit and investment. The court must, in the order of sale, direct the terms of credit which may be allowed for the purchase money of any portion of the premises of which it may direct a sale on credit and for that portion of which the purchase money is required by the provisions herein contained to be invested for the benefit of unknown owners, minors, or parties out of this state.

History: En. Sec. 516, p. 145, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 288, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 337, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 388, p. 146, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 388, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 401, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1371, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6914, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9547, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 776; re-en. Sec. 9547, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6332; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 2, L. 1983.

70-29-306. Security for sales on credit. The referees may take separate mortgages and other securities for the whole or convenient portions of the purchase money of parts of the property that are directed by the court to be sold on credit for the:

(1) shares of any known owner of full age, in the name of the owner;

(2) shares of a minor, in the name of the guardian of the minor; and

(3) other shares, in the name of the clerk of the court of the county and the clerk's successors in office.

History: En. Sec. 517, p. 145, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 289, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 338, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 389, p. 146, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 389, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 402, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1372, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6915, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9548, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 777; re-en. Sec. 9548, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6333; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2226, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-307. Security taken and investment made in name of clerk. When the security of the proceeds of sale is taken or when an investment of any proceeds is made, it must be done, except as otherwise provided in this part, in the name of the clerk of the court where the papers are filed and the clerk's successors in office, who shall hold the proceeds for the use and benefit of the persons interested subject to the order of the court.

History: En. Sec. 529, p. 147, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 301, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 350, p. 103, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1384, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6927, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9560, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 789; re-en. Sec. 9560, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6345; amd. Sec. 2227, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-308. Agreement of parties as to security. When security is taken by the referees on a sale and the parties interested in such security, by an instrument in writing under their hands delivered to the referees, agree upon the shares and proportions to which they are respectively entitled or when shares and proportions have been previously adjudged by the court, such securities must be taken in the names of and payable to the parties respectively entitled thereto and must be delivered to such parties upon their receipt therefor. Such agreement and receipt must be returned and filed with the clerk of the court.

History: En. Sec. 530, p. 147, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 302, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 351, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1385, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6928, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9561, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 790; re-en. Sec. 9561, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6346.

70-29-309. Referees' report of sale. (1) After completing a sale of the property or any part thereof ordered to be sold, the referees must report the same to the court with:

(a) a description of the different parcels of land sold to each purchaser;
(b) the price paid or secured;
(c) the terms and conditions of the sale; and
(d) the securities, if any, taken.

(2) The report must be filed in the office of the clerk of the court and a certified copy thereof in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the property is situated.

History: En. Sec. 524, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 296, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 345, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 396, p. 147, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 396, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 409, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1379, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6922, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9555, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 784; re-en. Sec. 9555, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6340.

70-29-310. Execution of conveyances and taking of security. If the sale be confirmed by the court, an order must be entered directing the referees to execute conveyances and take securities pursuant to such sale which they are hereby authorized to do. Such order may also give directions to them respecting the disposition of the proceeds of sale.

History: En. Sec. 525, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 297, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 346, p. 103, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1380, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6923, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9556, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 785; re-en. Sec. 9556, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6341.

70-29-311. Conveyances to be recorded — bar against parties. The conveyances must be recorded in the county where the premises are situated and shall be a bar against all persons interested in the property in any way who shall have been named as parties in the action and against all such parties and persons as were unknown, if the summons was served by publication, and against all persons claiming under them or either of them and against all persons having unrecorded deeds or liens at the commencement of the action.

History: En. Sec. 527, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 299, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 348, p. 103, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1382, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6925, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9558, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 787; re-en. Sec. 9558, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6343.

70-29-312 through 70-29-320 reserved.

70-29-321. Priorities for application of proceeds. The proceeds of the sale of encumbered property must be applied under the direction of the court as follows:

(1) to pay its just proportion of the general costs of the action;
(2) to pay the costs of the reference;
(3) to satisfy and cancel of record the several liens in their order of priority by payment of the sums due and to become due, the amount due to be verified by affidavit at the time of payment;
(4) the residue among the owners of the property sold, according to their respective shares therein.

History: En. Sec. 511, p. 144, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 283, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 332, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 383, p. 145, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 383, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 396, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1366, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6909, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9542, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 771; re-en. Sec. 9542, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6327.

70-29-322. Other securities to be exhausted first. Whenever any party to an action who holds a lien upon the property or any part thereof has other securities for the payment of the amount of such lien, the court may, in its discretion, order such securities to be exhausted before a distribution of the proceeds of sale or may order a just deduction to be made from the amount of the lien on the property on account thereof.

History: En. Sec. 512, p. 144, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 284, p. 193, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 333, p. 100, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 384, p. 145, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 384, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 397, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1367, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6910, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9543, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 772; re-en. Sec. 9543, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6328.

70-29-323. Disposition of proceeds generally. The proceeds of sale and the securities taken by the referees or any part thereof must be distributed by them to the persons entitled thereto whenever the court so directs. But in case no direction be given, all of such proceeds and securities must be paid into the court or deposited therein or as directed by the court.

History: En. Sec. 513, p. 144, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 285, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 334, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 385, p. 145, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 385, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 398, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1368, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6911, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9544, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 773; re-en. Sec. 9544, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6329.

70-29-324. Continuation of action when proceeds paid into court. When the proceeds of the sale of any share or parcel belonging to persons who are parties to the action and who are known are paid into the court, the action may continue as between such parties for the determination of their respective claims thereto which must be ascertained and adjudged by the court. Further testimony may be taken in court or by a referee, at the discretion of the court, and the court may, if necessary, require such parties to present the facts or law in controversy by pleadings, as in an original action.

History: En. Sec. 514, p. 144, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 286, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 335, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 386, p. 145, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 386, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 399, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1369, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6912, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9545, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 774; re-en. Sec. 9545, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6330.

70-29-325. Future interests — ascertainment — share of proceeds. In all cases of sales when it appears that any person has a vested or contingent or future right or estate in any of the property sold, the court must ascertain and settle the proportional value of such contingent or vested right or estate and must direct such proportion of the proceeds of the sale to be invested, secured, or paid over, in such manner as to protect the rights and interests of the parties.

History: En. Sec. 521, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 293, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 342, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 393, p. 147, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 393, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 406, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1376, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6919, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9552, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 781; re-en. Sec. 9552, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6337.

70-29-326. Tenant for life or years — compensation upon sale. (1) The person entitled to a tenancy for life or years or who has a right or inchoate right of dower and whose estate has been sold is entitled to receive a sum that may be considered a reasonable satisfaction for the estate and that the person entitled may consent to accept instead of the right by an instrument in writing filed with the clerk of the court. Upon the filing of the consent, the clerk shall enter the consent in the minutes of the court.

(2) If the consent is not given, filed, and entered, as provided in subsection (1), at or before a judgment of sale is rendered, the court shall ascertain and determine what proportion of the proceeds of the sale, after deducting expenses, will be a just and reasonable sum to be allowed on account of the estate and shall order the sum to be paid to the party or deposited in court for the party, as the case may require.

(3) If the persons entitled to the estate for life or years are unknown, the court shall provide for the protection of their rights in the same manner as if they were known and had appeared.

History: (1)En. Sec. 518, p. 145, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 290, p. 194, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 339, p. 101, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 390, p. 146, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 390, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 403, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1373, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6916, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9549, R.C.M.

1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 778; re-en. Sec. 9549, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6334, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 519, p. 145, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 291, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 340, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 391, p. 146, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 391, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 404, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1374, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6917, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9550, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 779; re-en. Sec. 9550, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6335, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 520, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 292, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 341, p. 102, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 392, p. 147, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 392, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 405, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1375, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6918, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9551, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 780; re-en. Sec. 9551, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-6336, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6334, 93-6335, 93-6336; amd. Sec. 2228, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-29-327. Minor's share of proceeds — payment to guardian. When the share of a minor is sold, the proceeds of the sale may be paid by the referee making the sale to the minor's general guardian or the special guardian appointed for the minor in the action upon giving the security required by law or directed by order of the court.

History: En. Sec. 533, p. 148, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 305, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 354, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1388, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6931, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9564, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 793; re-en. Sec. 9564, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6349; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 2, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2229, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

70-29-328. Incompetent's share of proceeds — payment to guardian. The guardian who may be entitled to the custody and management of the estate of a person committed pursuant to 53-21-127 or other person adjudged incapable of conducting the person's own affairs, whose interest in real property has been sold, may receive on behalf of the person the person's share of the proceeds of the real property from the referees. The guardian may receive the interest on executing an undertaking with a surety. The undertaking must be approved by a judge of the court and must state that the guardian will faithfully discharge the trust placed in the guardian and will make an accurate account to the person entitled to the accounting or to the person's legal representative.

History: En. Sec. 534, p. 148, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 306, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 355, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1389, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6932, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9565, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 794; re-en. Sec. 9565, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6350; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 490, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

70-29-329. Proceeds of sale belonging to persons unknown or out-of-state — how invested. Where there are proceeds of a sale belonging to an unknown owner or to a person without the state who has no legal representative within it, the same must be invested in bonds of this state or the United States for the benefit of the persons entitled thereto.

History: En. Sec. 528, p. 146, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 300, p. 195, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 349, p. 103, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1383, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6926, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9559, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 788; re-en. Sec. 9559, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6344.

70-29-330. Duty of clerk as to security and investments. The clerk of court in whose name a security is taken or by whom an investment is made and the clerk's successors in office:

(1) must receive the interest and principal as it becomes due and shall apply and invest the interest and principal as the court may direct;

(2) shall deposit with the county treasurer all securities taken; and

(3) shall keep an account of investments and money received and the disposition of the investments and money in a book provided and kept for that purpose in the clerk's office that is free for inspection by all persons.

History: En. Sec. 531, p. 147, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 303, p. 196, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 352, p. 104, Cod. Stat. 1871; rep. Sec. 627, p. 215, L. 1877; en. Sec. 1386, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6929, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9562, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 791; re-en. Sec. 9562, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6347; amd. Sec. 2230, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act

70-29-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Ascendant" means an individual who precedes another individual in lineage, in the direct line of ascent from the other individual.

(2) "Collateral" means an individual who is related to another individual under the law of intestate succession of this state but who is not the other individual's ascendant or descendant.

(3) "Descendant" means an individual who follows another individual in lineage, in the direct line of descent from the other individual.

(4) "Determination of value" means a court order determining the fair market value of heirs property under 70-29-410 or 70-29-414 or adopting the valuation of the property agreed to by all cotenants.

(5) "Heirs property" means real property held in tenancy in common that satisfies all of the following requirements as of the filing of a partition action:

(a) there is no agreement in a record binding all the cotenants that governs the partition of the property;

(b) one or more of the cotenants acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased; and

(c) any of the following applies:

(i) 20% or more of the interests are held by cotenants who are relatives;

(ii) 20% or more of the interests are held by an individual who acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased; or

(iii) 20% or more of the cotenants are relatives.

(6) "Partition by sale" means a court-ordered sale of the entire heirs property, whether by auction, sealed bids, or open-market sale conducted under 70-29-414.

(7) "Partition in kind" means the division of heirs property into physically distinct and separately titled parcels.

(8) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(9) "Relative" means an ascendant, descendant, or collateral or an individual otherwise related to another individual by blood, marriage, adoption, or law of this state other than this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-403. Applicability — relation to other laws. (1) This part applies to partition actions filed on or after October 1, 2013.

(2) In an action to partition real property under Title 70, chapter 29, parts 1 through 3, the court shall determine whether the property is heirs property. If the court determines that the property is heirs property, the property must be partitioned under this part unless all of the cotenants otherwise agree in a record.

(3) This part supplements Title 70, chapter 29, parts 1 through 3, and, if an action is governed by this part, replaces provisions of Title 70, chapter 29, parts 1 through 3, that are inconsistent with this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-404. Service — notice by posting. (1) This part does not limit or affect the method by which service of a complaint in a partition action may be made.

(2) If the plaintiff in a partition action seeks notice by publication and the court determines that the property may be heirs property, the plaintiff, not later than 10 days after the court's determination, shall post and maintain while the action is pending a conspicuous sign on the property that is the subject of the action. The sign must state that the action has commenced and identify the name and address of the court and the common designation by which the property is known. The court may require the plaintiff to publish on the sign the name of the plaintiff and the known defendants.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-405. Referees. If the court appoints referees pursuant to 70-29-202, each referee, in addition to the requirements and disqualifications applicable to referees in Title 70, chapter 29, part 2, must be disinterested and impartial and not a party to or a participant in the action.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-406 through 70-29-409 reserved.

70-29-410. Determination of value. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3), if the court determines that the property that is the subject of a partition action is heirs property, the court shall determine the fair market value of the property by ordering an appraisal pursuant to subsection (4).

(2) If all cotenants have agreed to the value of the property or to another method of valuation, the court shall adopt that value or the value produced by the agreed method of valuation.

(3) If the court determines that the evidentiary value of an appraisal is outweighed by the cost of the appraisal, the court, after an evidentiary hearing, shall determine the fair market value of the property and send notice to the parties of the value.

(4) If the court orders an appraisal, the court shall appoint a disinterested real estate appraiser licensed in this state to determine the fair market value of the property assuming sole ownership of the fee simple estate. On completion of the appraisal, the appraiser shall file a sworn or verified appraisal with the court.

(5) If an appraisal is conducted pursuant to subsection (4), not later than 10 days after the appraisal is filed, the court shall send notice to each party with a known address stating:

(a) the appraised fair market value of the property;

(b) that the appraisal is available at the clerk's office; and

(c) that a party may file with the court an objection to the appraisal, not later than 30 days after the notice is sent, stating the grounds for the objection.

(6) If an appraisal is filed with the court pursuant to subsection (4), the court shall conduct a hearing to determine the fair market value of the property not sooner than 30 days after a copy of the notice of the appraisal is sent to each party under subsection (5), whether or not an objection to the appraisal is filed under subsection (5)(c). In addition to the court-ordered appraisal, the court may consider any other evidence of value offered by a party.

(7) After a hearing under subsection (6), but before considering the merits of the partition action, the court shall determine the fair market value of the property and send notice to the parties of the value.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-411. Buyout by cotenant. (1) If any cotenant requested partition by sale, after the determination of value under 70-29-410, the court shall send notice to the parties that any cotenant except a cotenant that requested partition by sale may buy all the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale.

(2) Not later than 45 days after the notice is sent under subsection (1), any cotenant except a cotenant that requested partition by sale may give notice to the court that it elects to buy all the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale.

(3) The purchase price for each of the interests of a cotenant that requested partition by sale is the value of the entire parcel determined under 70-29-410 multiplied by the cotenant's fractional ownership of the entire parcel.

(4) After expiration of the period in subsection (2), the following rules apply:

(a) If only one cotenant elects to buy all the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale, the court shall notify all the parties of that fact.

(b) If more than one cotenant elects to buy all the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale, the court shall allocate the right to buy those interests among the electing cotenants based on each electing cotenant's existing fractional ownership of the entire parcel divided by the total existing fractional ownership of all cotenants electing to buy and send notice to all the parties of that fact and of the price to be paid by each electing cotenant.

(c) If no cotenant elects to buy all the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale, the court shall send notice to all the parties of that fact and resolve the partition action under 70-29-412(1) and (2).

(5) If the court sends notice to the parties under subsection (4)(a) or (4)(b), the court shall set a date, not sooner than 60 days after the date the notice was sent, by which electing cotenants shall pay their apportioned price into the court. After this date, the following rules apply:

(a) If all electing cotenants timely pay their apportioned price into court, the court shall issue an order reallocating all the interests of the cotenants and disburse the amounts held by the court to the persons entitled to them.

(b) If no electing cotenant timely pays its apportioned price, the court shall resolve the partition action under 70-29-412(1) and (2) as if the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale were not purchased.

(c) If one or more but not all of the electing cotenants fail to pay their apportioned price on time, the court shall give notice to the electing cotenants that paid their apportioned price of the interest remaining and the price for all that interest.

(6) Not later than 20 days after the court gives notice pursuant to subsection (5)(c), any cotenant that paid may elect to purchase all of the remaining interest by paying the entire price into the court. After the 20-day period, the following rules apply:

(a) If only one cotenant pays the entire price for the remaining interest, the court shall issue an order reallocating the remaining interest to that cotenant. The court shall issue promptly an order reallocating the interests of all of the cotenants and disburse the amounts held by it to the persons entitled to them.

(b) If no cotenant pays the entire price for the remaining interest, the court shall resolve the partition action under 70-29-412(1) and (2) as if the interests of the cotenants that requested partition by sale were not purchased.

(c) If more than one cotenant pays the entire price for the remaining interest, the court shall reapportion the remaining interest among those paying cotenants, based on each paying cotenant's original fractional ownership of the entire parcel divided by the total original fractional ownership of all cotenants that paid the entire price for the remaining interest. The court shall issue promptly an order reallocating all of the cotenants' interests, disburse the amounts held by it to the persons entitled to them, and promptly refund any excess payment held by the court.

(7) Not later than 45 days after the court sends notice to the parties pursuant to subsection (1), any cotenant entitled to buy an interest under this section may request the court to authorize the sale as part of the pending action of the interests of cotenants named as defendants and served with the complaint but that did not appear in the action.

(8) If the court receives a timely request under subsection (7), the court, after hearing, may deny the request or authorize the requested additional sale on such terms as the court determines are fair and reasonable, subject to the following limitations:

(a) a sale authorized under this subsection may occur only after the purchase prices for all interests subject to sale under subsections (1) through (6) have been paid into court and those interests have been reallocated among the cotenants as provided in those subsections; and

(b) the purchase price for the interest of a nonappearing cotenant is based on the court's determination of value under 70-29-410.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-412. Partition alternatives. (1) If all the interests of all cotenants that requested partition by sale are not purchased by other cotenants pursuant to 70-29-411 or if after conclusion of the buyout under 70-29-411 a cotenant remains that has requested partition in kind, the court shall order partition in kind unless the court, after consideration of the factors listed in 70-29-413, finds that partition in kind will result in great prejudice to the cotenants as a group. In considering whether to order partition in kind, the court shall approve a request by two or more parties to have their individual interests aggregated.

(2) If the court does not order partition in kind under subsection (1), the court shall order partition by sale pursuant to 70-29-414 or, if no cotenant requested partition by sale, the court shall dismiss the action.

(3) If the court orders partition in kind pursuant to subsection (1), the court may require that one or more cotenants pay one or more other cotenants amounts so that the payments, taken together with the value of the in-kind distributions to the cotenants, will make the partition in kind just and proportionate in value to the fractional interests held.

(4) If the court orders partition in kind, the court shall allocate to the cotenants that are unknown, unlocatable, or the subject of a default judgment, if their interests were not bought out pursuant to 70-29-411, a part of the property representing the combined interests of these cotenants as determined by the court and this part of the property must remain undivided.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-413. Partition in kind — considerations. (1) In determining under 70-29-412(1) whether partition in kind would result in great prejudice to the cotenants as a group, the court shall consider the following:

(a) whether the heirs property practicably can be divided among the cotenants;

(b) whether partition in kind would apportion the property in such a way that the aggregate fair market value of the parcels resulting from the division would be materially less than the value of the property if it were sold as a whole, taking into account the condition under which a court-ordered sale likely would occur;

(c) evidence of the collective duration of ownership or possession of the property by a cotenant and one or more predecessors in title or predecessors in possession to the cotenant who are or were relatives of the cotenant or each other;

(d) a cotenant's sentimental attachment to the property, including any attachment arising because the property has ancestral or other unique or special value to the cotenant;

(e) the lawful use being made of the property by a cotenant and the degree to which the cotenant would be harmed if the cotenant could not continue the same use of the property;

(f) the degree to which the cotenants have contributed their pro rata share of the property taxes, insurance, and other expenses associated with maintaining ownership of the property or have contributed to the physical improvement, maintenance, or upkeep of the property; and

(g) any other relevant factor.

(2) The court may not consider any one factor in subsection (1) to be dispositive without weighing the totality of all relevant factors and circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-414. Open market sale — sealed bids — auction. (1) If the court orders a sale of heirs property, the sale must be an open-market sale unless the court finds that a sale by sealed bids or an auction would be more economically advantageous and in the best interest of the cotenants as a group.

(2) If the court orders an open-market sale and the parties, not later than 10 days after the entry of the order, agree on a real estate broker licensed in this state to offer the property for sale, the court shall appoint the broker and establish a reasonable commission. If the parties do not agree on a broker, the court shall appoint a disinterested real estate broker licensed in this state to offer the property for sale and shall establish a reasonable commission. The broker shall offer the property for sale in a commercially reasonable manner at a price no lower than the determination of value and on the terms and conditions established by the court.

(3) If the broker appointed under subsection (2) obtains within a reasonable time an offer to purchase the property for at least the determination of value:

(a) the broker shall comply with the reporting requirements in 70-29-415; and

(b) the sale may be completed in accordance with state law other than this part.

(4) If the broker appointed under subsection (2) does not obtain within a reasonable time an offer to purchase the property for at least the determination of value, the court, after hearing, may:

(a) approve the highest outstanding offer, if any;

(b) redetermine the value of the property and order that the property continue to be offered for an additional time; or

(c) order that the property be sold by sealed bids or at an auction.

(5) If the court orders a sale by sealed bids or an auction, the court shall set terms and conditions of the sale. If the court orders an auction, the auction must be conducted under 70-29-301.

(6) If a purchaser is entitled to a share of the proceeds of the sale, the purchaser is entitled to a credit against the price in an amount equal to the purchaser's share of the proceeds.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-415. Report of open-market sale. (1) Unless required to do so within a shorter time by any other law of this state, a broker appointed under 70-29-412(2) to offer heirs property for open-market sale shall file a report with the court not later than 7 days after receiving an offer to purchase the property for at least the value determined under 70-29-410 or 70-29-414.

(2) The report required by subsection (1) must contain the following information:
(a) a description of the property to be sold to each buyer;
(b) the name of each buyer;
(c) the proposed purchase price;
(d) the terms and conditions of the proposed sale, including the terms of any owner financing;
(e) the amounts to be paid to lienholders;
(f) a statement of contractual or other arrangements or conditions of the broker's commission; and
(g) other material facts relevant to the sale.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-416 through 70-29-418 reserved.

70-29-419. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing this part, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

70-29-420. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. This part modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 263, L. 2013.

CHAPTER 30
EMINENT DOMAIN

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Chapter Cross-References

Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.
Private Property Assessment Act, Title 2, ch. 10, part 1.
Local government subject to Title 70, ch. 30, 7-1-114.
City or Town Council — power of condemnation, 7-5-4106.
County Commissioners — acquisition of right-of-way, 7-14-2107.
Acquisition of land for public ferries and wharves, 7-14-2804, 7-14-2829.
Municipal housing authority — exercise of power of eminent domain, 7-15-4462.
Cemetery association's power of eminent domain, 35-20-104.
Prohibited transactions with foreign adversaries, 35-30-103.
Department of Transportation — exercise of right of eminent domain, 60-4-104.
State airports — acquisition and operation, 67-2-301, 67-2-302.
Municipal airports — acquisition when zoning not sufficient, 67-10-102.
Pipeline carriers — use of power of eminent domain, 69-13-104.
Eminent domain — authorized, 70-1-205.
Mining — right-of-way and eminent domain, Title 82, ch. 2, part 2.
Eminent domain for open-pit mining — purchase of property required, 82-2-221.
Eminent domain — underground storage of natural gas, Title 82, ch. 10, part 3.

Part 1
General and Substantive Provisions

70-30-101. Eminent domain defined. Eminent domain is the right of the state to take private property for public use. This right may be exercised in the manner provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 579, p. 189, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 579, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 597, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2210, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7330, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9933, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1237; re-en. Sec. 9933, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9901.

70-30-102. Public uses enumerated. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the right of eminent domain may be exercised for the following public uses:

(1) all public uses authorized by the government of the United States;

(2) public buildings and grounds for the use of the state and all other public uses authorized by the legislature of the state;

(3) public buildings and grounds for the use of any county, city, town, or school district;

(4) canals, aqueducts, flumes, ditches, or pipes conducting water, heat, or gas for the use of the inhabitants of any county, city, or town;

(5) projects to raise the banks of streams, remove obstructions from streambanks, and widen, deepen, or straighten stream channels;

(6) water and water supply systems as provided in Title 7, chapter 13, part 44;

(7) roads, streets, alleys, controlled-access facilities, and other publicly owned buildings and facilities for the benefit of a county, city, or town or the inhabitants of a county, city, or town;

(8) acquisition of road-building material as provided in 7-14-2123;

(9) stock lanes as provided in 7-14-2621;

(10) parking areas as provided in 7-14-4501 and 7-14-4622;

(11) airport purposes as provided in 7-14-4801, 67-2-301, 67-7-210, and Title 67, chapters 10 and 11;

(12) urban renewal projects as provided in Title 7, chapter 15, parts 42 and 43, except that private property may be acquired for urban renewal through eminent domain only if the property is determined to be a blighted area, as defined in 7-15-4206(2)(a), (2)(h), (2)(k), or (2)(n), and may not be acquired for urban renewal through eminent domain if the purpose of the project is to increase government tax revenue;

(13) housing authority purposes as provided in Title 7, chapter 15, part 44;

(14) city or town athletic fields and civic stadiums as provided in 7-16-4106;

(15) county cemetery purposes pursuant to 7-11-1021, cemetery association purposes as provided in 35-20-104, and state veterans' cemetery purposes as provided in 10-2-604;

(16) preservation of historical or archaeological sites as provided in 23-1-102 and 87-1-209(2);

(17) public assistance purposes as provided in 53-2-201;

(18) highway purposes as provided in 60-4-103 and 60-4-104;

(19) common carrier pipelines as provided in 69-13-104;

(20) water supply, water transportation, and water treatment systems as provided in 75-6-313;

(21) mitigation of the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance as provided in 75-10-720;

(22) the acquisition of nonconforming outdoor advertising as provided in 75-15-123;

(23) screening for or the relocation or removal of junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, and sanitary landfills as provided in 75-15-223;

(24) water conservation and flood control projects as provided in 76-5-1108;

(25) acquisition of water rights for the natural flow of water as provided in 85-1-204;

(26) property and water rights necessary for waterworks as provided in 85-1-209 and 85-7-1904;

(27) conservancy district purposes as provided in 85-9-410;

(28) wharves, docks, piers, chutes, booms, ferries, bridges, private roads, plank and turnpike roads, and railroads;

(29) canals, ditches, flumes, aqueducts, and pipes for:

(a) supplying mines, mills, and smelters for the reduction of ores;

(b) supplying farming neighborhoods with water and drainage;

(c) reclaiming lands; and

(d) floating logs and lumber on streams that are not navigable;

(30) sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water. However, reservoir sites must possess a public use demonstrable to the district court as the highest and best use of the land.

(31) roads, tunnels, and dumping places for working mines, mills, or smelters for the reduction of ores;

(32) outlets, natural or otherwise, for the flow, deposit, or conduct of tailings or refuse matter from mines, mills, and smelters for the reduction of ores;

(33) an occupancy in common by the owners or the possessors of different mines of any place for the flow, deposit, or conduct of tailings or refuse matter from their several mines, mills, or smelters for reduction of ores and sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water for the mines, mills, or smelters. However, the reservoir sites must possess a public use demonstrable to the district court as the highest and best use of the land.

(34) private roads leading from highways to residences or farms;

(35) telephone or electrical energy lines, except that local government entities as defined in 2-7-501, municipal utilities, or competitive electricity suppliers may not use this chapter to acquire existing telephone or electrical energy lines and appurtenant facilities owned by a public utility or cooperative for the purpose of transmitting or distributing electricity or providing telecommunications services;

(36) telegraph lines;

(37) sewerage of any:

(a) county, city, or town or any subdivision of a county, city, or town, whether incorporated or unincorporated;

(b) settlement consisting of not less than 10 families; or

(c) public buildings belonging to the state or to any college or university;

(38) tramway lines;

(39) logging railways;

(40) temporary logging roads and banking grounds for the transportation of logs and timber products to public streams, lakes, mills, railroads, or highways for a time that the court or judge may determine. However, the grounds of state institutions may not be used for this purpose.

(41) underground reservoirs suitable for storage of natural gas;

(42) projects to mine and extract ores, metals, or minerals owned by the condemnor located beneath or upon the surface of property where the title to the surface vests in others. However, the use of the surface of property for strip mining or open-pit mining of coal (i.e., any mining method or process in which the strata or overburden is removed or displaced in order to extract the coal) is not a public use, and eminent domain may not be exercised for this purpose.

(43) projects to restore and reclaim lands that were strip-mined or underground-mined for coal and not reclaimed in accordance with Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, and to abate or control adverse effects of strip or underground mining on those lands.

History: En. Sec. 580, p. 189, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 580, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 598, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2211, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 135, L. 1899; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1907; Sec. 7331, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9934, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1238; re-en. Sec. 9934, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 259, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 375, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9902; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 550, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 451, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 300, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 512, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 286, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 238, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 238, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 24, 2023.

Applicability: Section 7, Ch. 238, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] does not apply to condemnation proceedings commenced pursuant to 70-30-206 before [the effective date of this act]." Effective April 24, 2023.

Cross-References

City or Town Council — water supply and regulation, Title 7, ch. 13, part 44.
Acquisition of land for ferry, 7-14-2829.
Municipal housing authority — exercise of power of eminent domain, 7-15-4462.
Municipal airports, Title 67, ch. 10.
Property for waterworks — public use, 85-1-209.
Conduction of water as public use, 85-2-414.
Use of water for irrigation as public use, 85-7-1931.

70-30-103. What property may be taken. (1) The property that may be taken under this chapter includes:

(a) all real property belonging to any person;

(b) land that belongs to this state or to any county, city, or town and that is not appropriated to some public use;

(c) property appropriated to a public use, but the property may not be taken unless for a more necessary public use than that to which it has already been appropriated;

(d) franchises for roads, bridges, and ferries and all other franchises; but the franchises may not be taken unless for free highways, free bridges, railroads, or another more necessary public use; or

(e) a right-of-way for any public use mentioned in 70-30-102 and any structures and improvements on the right-of-way. The land held and used in connection with the right-of-way must be subject to being connected with, crossed, or intersected by any other right-of-way improvements or structures on the right-of-way. The improvements or structures must also be subject to a limited use in common with the owner of the improvements or structures when necessary. However, the uses, crossings, intersections, and connections must be made in the manner that is most compatible with the greatest public benefit and least private injury.

(2) All classes of private property not enumerated may be taken for public use when the taking is authorized by law.

History: En. Sec. 582, p. 190, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 582, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 600, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2213, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7333, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9936, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1240; re-en. Sec. 9936, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9904; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-104. What estates and rights in land may be taken. (1) The following is a classification of the estates and rights in land subject to taking for public use:

(a) subject to subsection (2), estates or rights that are necessary, up to and including a fee simple interest, when taken for:

(i) public buildings or grounds;

(ii) permanent buildings;

(iii) an outlet for a flow or a place for the deposit of debris or tailings of a mine;

(iv) the mining and extracting of ores, metals, or minerals when the ores, metals, or minerals are owned by the condemnor but are located beneath or upon the surface of property for which the title to the surface vests in others; or

(v) the underground storage of natural gas by a natural gas public utility as defined in 82-10-301. When the taking is for the underground storage of natural gas, all of the right, title, interest, and estate in the real property and in the subsand stratum, formation, or reservoir taken must be determinable and for all purposes terminates upon abandonment or upon cessation for the period of 1 year of the use for which the property was taken. Upon the abandonment or cessation, the ownership of the residue of natural gas remaining in the reservoir vests in the current owners of the surface property over the reservoir space.

(b) the estate or rights in the surface property that are necessary for a reservoir or dam and for the permanent flooding that results from the reservoir or dam, up to the edge of the maximum pool of the reservoir;

(c) an easement, leasehold, or other interest, for as long as the interest is necessary for the purpose described in the complaint, or fee simple interest when taken for any other use;

(d) the right of entry upon and occupation of land and the right to take from the land any earth, gravel, stones, trees, and timber that may be necessary for some public use.

(2) Subject to 60-4-102, an easement is presumed to be sufficient for a project for a public use unless the parties agree that a greater interest should be taken or the condemnor shows by a preponderance of the evidence that a greater interest is necessary.

History: En. Sec. 581, p. 190, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 581, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 599, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2212, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7332, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9935, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1239; re-en. Sec. 9935, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 259, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 216, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 19, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-105. *(Temporary)* **Taking of underground natural gas storage reservoir — effect on owner's right to drill.** (1) The taking of any sand, stratum, or formation for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir is without prejudice to the rights of the owner or owners of the land or of the oil, gas, or other mineral rights in the land to drill or bore through the sand, stratum, or formation taken for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir in order to explore for, produce, process, treat, or market any oil, gas, or other minerals that might be contained in the land above or below the sand, stratum, or formation taken.

(2) Any additional cost or expense required to be incurred in order to protect the underground natural gas storage reservoir against pollution and the escape of the gas from the reservoir by reason of boring or drilling through the sand, stratum, or formation used as an underground natural gas storage reservoir must be paid by the persons, firm, or corporation owning the underground natural gas storage reservoir at the time of the boring or drilling.

70-30-105. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Taking of underground natural gas storage reservoir — effect on owner's right to drill.** (1) The taking of any sand, stratum, or formation for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir is without prejudice to the rights of the owner or owners of the land or of the oil, gas, or other mineral rights in the land to drill or bore through the sand, stratum, or formation taken for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir in order to explore for, produce, process, treat, or market any oil, gas, or other minerals that might be contained in the land above or below the sand, stratum, or formation taken.

(2) Any additional cost or expense required to be incurred in order to protect the underground natural gas storage reservoir against pollution and the escape of the gas from the reservoir by reason of boring or drilling through the sand, stratum, or formation used as an underground natural gas storage reservoir must be paid by the persons, firm, or corporation owning the underground natural gas storage reservoir at the time of the boring or drilling.

(3) After the effective date of this section, if the sand, stratum, or formation is used as a geologic storage reservoir as defined in 82-11-101, it may not be taken for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9903.1; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 474, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 31(1), Ch. 474, L. 2009, provided that this section is effective on the date that the board of oil and gas conservation is granted primacy to administer activities at carbon dioxide sequestration wells by the United States environmental protection agency.

70-30-106. Eminent domain not to be used for coal mining in certain cases — policy. (1) For the reasons contained in this section, the state's power of eminent domain may not be exercised to mine and extract coal owned by the condemnor located beneath the surface of property for which the title to the surface is vested in others.

(2) Because of the large reserves of and the renewed interest in coal in eastern Montana, coal development is potentially more destructive to land and watercourses and underground aquifers and potentially more extensive geographically than the foreseeable development of other ores, metals, or minerals and affects large areas of land and large numbers of people.

(3) In certain areas of Montana referred to in subsection (2), the title to the surface property is vested in an owner other than the mineral owner and the surface owner is putting that surface property to a productive use, and it is the public policy of the state to encourage and foster that productive use by the surface owner. To permit the mineral owner to condemn the surface owner's property is to deprive the surface owner of the right to use the property in the productive manner that the surface owner determines and is also contrary to public policy set forth in subsection (5).

(4) The magnitude of the potential coal development in eastern Montana will subject landowners to undue harassment by excessive use of eminent domain.

(5) It is the public policy of the state to encourage and foster diversity of land ownership, and the surface mining of coal and control of large areas of land by the surface coal mining industry would not promote public policy and further the public interest.

History: En. 93-9902.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 311, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9902.1; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-107. Private roads. Private roads may be opened in the manner prescribed by this chapter, but in every case the necessity of the road and the amount of all damage to be sustained by the opening of the road must be first determined by a jury, and the amount of damages, together with the expenses of the proceeding, must be paid by the person to be benefited.

History: En. Sec. 2232, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7352, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9955, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9955, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9923; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-108. No abrogation of provisions relating to city or county roads. This chapter may not be construed to abrogate or repeal any statute providing for the taking of property in any county, city, or town for road or street purposes.

History: En. Sec. 2233, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7353, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9956, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9956, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9924; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-109. Temporary logging roads and banking grounds. (1) In the event that a temporary road used for logging purposes or land used for banking grounds is taken, the taking includes only the temporary right to use the road or land. The order of condemnation for the road or land must fix the length of time and the date from which the road must be opened or land must be used, and at the expiration of that period, the right to use the road or land ceases. The use of the road or land reverts to the party from whom the road or land was taken or to that party's legal successor in interest. However, land may not be taken for temporary logging roads or banking grounds for a period of time longer than 5 years. When taken for a period of time exceeding 1 year, the amount of damage for each year must be fixed separately, and the amount fixed for each particular year must be paid on or before January 1 of each year. If the amount fixed for any 1 year is not paid as specified in this subsection, then the use of the road or land reverts to the party from whom the road or land was taken or to that party's successor in interest.

(2) In any suit for the opening of any temporary logging road or for the use of any land for banking grounds, the court may not finally order the opening of the road or the right to use the land until the amount assessed as damages has been paid into court for the benefit of the party or parties owning or holding the road or land.

(3) In the event that any road or land taken or used as provided in this section is occupied by a lessee, the lessee must be made a party to the suit, and the final decree of the court must

apportion the amount of compensation received between the lessee and the owner of the road or land. The decree is subject to the right of appeal by any party in interest.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1907; re-en. Secs. 7354, 7355, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 9957, 9958, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Secs. 9957, 9958, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9925, 93-9926; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-110. Survey and location of property to be taken — greatest public good — least private injury. (1) In all cases in which land is required for public use, the state or its agents in charge of the public use may survey and locate the land to be used. The use must be located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury, and the location is subject to the provisions of 70-30-206. The state or its agents in charge of the public use may, after giving 30 days' written notice to the owners and persons in possession of the land, enter upon the land and make examination, surveys, and maps of the land. The entry does not constitute a cause of action in favor of the owners of the land except from injuries resulting from negligence or intentional acts. Upon written request of the state or its agents, the owner shall provide the names and addresses of all persons who are in possession of the owner's land within 14 days from receipt of the written notice. The state or its agents shall within 14 days from receipt of that information furnish written notice to the listed persons.

(2) Prior to or at the time of rejection of the final written offer as referred to in 70-30-111(1)(d), the condemnee may provide to the condemnor the condemnee's claim of appropriate measures that the condemnee considers necessary to minimize damages to the property directly affected by the project as well as to minimize damages incurred to the remaining parcel of property.

History: En. Sec. 584, p. 191, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 584, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 602, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2215, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7335, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9938, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1242; re-en. Sec. 9938, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9906; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 666, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 2013.

70-30-111. Facts necessary to be found before condemnation. (1) Before property can be taken, the condemnor shall show by a preponderance of the evidence that the public interest requires the taking based on the following findings:

(a) the use to which the property is to be applied is a public use pursuant to 70-30-102;

(b) the taking is necessary to the public use;

(c) if already being used for a public use, that the public use for which the property is proposed to be used is a more necessary public use;

(d) an effort to obtain the property interest sought to be taken was made by submission of a final written offer prior to initiating condemnation proceedings and the final written offer was rejected.

(2) Subsection (1)(d) does not prohibit the condemnor from making further offers in an effort to obtain the property interest sought to be taken, but offers made after the final written offer is submitted pursuant to subsection (1)(d) may not be used to determine whether the condemnee prevails pursuant to 70-30-305. The condemnor shall disclose to a property owner that further offers made in accordance with this subsection (2) are not considered the final written offer.

History: En. Sec. 583, p. 191, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 583, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 601, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2214, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9937, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1241; re-en. Sec. 9937, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. 11020, eff. January 1, 1966; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9905(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 371, L. 2013.

70-30-112. Eminent domain not to be used for certain recreational purposes. The right of eminent domain may not be exercised for:

(1) trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, or other recreational uses whose primary purpose is a foot path, equestrian trail, bicycle path, or walkway; or

(2) a public park whose primary purpose is:

(a) as a trail, path, or other way for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use; or

(b) to connect other trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 238, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 24, 2023.

Applicability: Section 7, Ch. 238, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] does not apply to condemnation proceedings commenced pursuant to 70-30-206 before [the effective date of this act]." Effective April 24, 2023.

Part 2
Preliminary Procedure

70-30-201. Applicable rules of practice. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of Titles 25 and 26, including the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure and the Montana Rules of Evidence, are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice in the proceedings mentioned in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2231, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7351, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9954, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1256; re-en. Sec. 9954, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9922; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 622, L. 1983.

70-30-202. Jurisdiction and venue — complaint and summons required. All proceedings under this chapter must be brought in the district court of the county in which the property or some part of the property is situated. A proceeding must be commenced by filing a complaint and issuing a summons. A summons served under this chapter must contain a notice to the condemnee to file and serve an answer. Within 6 months from the date that the summons is served, unless the court shortens or lengthens that time for good cause, the court, sitting without a jury, shall commence a trial on the issue of whether a preliminary condemnation order should be issued.

History: En. Sec. 585, p. 191, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 585, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 603, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2216, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7336, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9939, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1243; re-en. Sec. 9939, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9907; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-203. Contents of complaint. (1) The complaint for condemnation must contain:

(a) the name of the corporation, association, commission, or person in charge of the public use for which the property is sought to be taken, who is the plaintiff;

(b) the names of all owners, purchasers under contracts for deed, mortgagees, and lienholders of record and any other claimants of record of the property sought to be taken, if known, or a statement that they are unknown, who are the defendants;

(c) a statement of the right of the plaintiff to take the property for public use;

(d) statements of each of the facts necessary to be found in 70-30-111(1);

(e) a description of each interest in real property sought to be taken, a statement of whether the property sought to be taken includes the whole or only a part of the entire parcel or tract, and a statement that the interest sought is the minimum necessary interest. All parcels lying in the county and required for the same public use may be included in the same or separate proceedings, at the option of the plaintiff, but the court may consolidate or separate them to suit the convenience of the parties.

(f) a statement of the condemnor's claim of appropriate payment for damages to the property proposed to be taken as well as to any remaining parcel of property. The condemnor's claim of appropriate payment for damages must be the same amount as the final written offer that was rejected pursuant to the facts necessary in 70-30-111(1)(d).

(2) In addition to the items listed in subsection (1), a copy of the current publication produced by the environmental quality council entitled "Eminent Domain In Montana" must be attached to the complaint as an exhibit.

(3) If a right-of-way is sought, in addition to the items listed in subsection (1), the complaint must show the location, general route, and termini and must be accompanied with a map of the route, so far as the route is involved in the action or proceeding.

(4) (a) If a sand, stratum, or formation suitable for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir is sought to be taken, in addition to the items listed in subsection (1), the complaint must include a description of the reservoir and of the land in which the reservoir is alleged to be contained and a description of all other property and rights sought to be taken for use in connection with the right to store natural gas in and withdraw natural gas from the reservoir.

(b) In addition, the complaint must state facts showing that:
(i) the reservoir is subject to being taken by the plaintiff;
(ii) the underground storage of natural gas in the land sought to be taken is in the public interest;
(iii) the reservoir is suitable and practicable for natural gas storage;
(iv) the plaintiff in good faith has been unable to acquire the rights sought to be taken; and
(v) the rights and property sought to be taken are not prohibited by law from being taken.
(c) The complaint must be accompanied by a certificate from the board of oil and gas conservation as provided in 82-10-304.

History: En. Sec. 586, p. 192, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 586, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 604, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2217, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7337, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9940, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1244; re-en. Sec. 9940, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 245, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 259, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9908; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 526, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 666, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 371, L. 2013.

70-30-204. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 622, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 587, p. 192, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 587, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 605, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2218, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7338, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9941, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1245; re-en. Sec. 9941, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 259, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9909.

70-30-205. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 622, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 588, p. 192, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 588, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 606, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2219, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7339, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9942, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1246; re-en. Sec. 9942, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 234, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9910.

70-30-206. Powers of court — preliminary condemnation order. (1) In a condemnation proceeding, the court may:
(a) regulate and determine the place and manner of:
(i) making the connections and crossings and enjoying the common uses mentioned in 70-30-103(1)(e); and
(ii) occupying canyons, passes, and defiles for railroad purposes, as permitted and regulated by the laws of this state or of the United States; or
(b) subject to 70-30-104(2), limit the interest in real property sought to be taken if in the opinion of the court the interest sought is not necessary.
(2) If the court finds and concludes from the evidence presented that the public interest requires the taking of an interest in real property and that the condemnor has met the burden of proof under 70-30-111(1), the court shall enter a preliminary condemnation order providing that the condemnation of the interest in real property may proceed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
(3) (a) If the property sought to be taken is a sand, stratum, or formation suitable for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir and the existence and suitability of the property for that use has been proved by the condemnor based upon substantial evidence, the order of the court must direct the condemnation commissioners to determine the amount to be paid by the condemnor to each person for each person's interest in the property sought to be taken for use as an underground natural gas storage reservoir.
(b) In addition to or in lieu of the amount paid under subsection (3)(a), the court may direct the commissioners to determine the annual rental for:
(i) the use of the underground natural gas storage reservoir;
(ii) the use of so much of the surface as is required in the operation of the reservoir and for the use in connection with the creation, operation, and maintenance of the reservoir; and
(iii) all the native gas contained in the reservoir. However, the amount to be paid for the native gas may not be less than the market value of the gas.
(4) The court shall appoint three persons, qualified and recommended as experts by the board of oil and gas conservation, to assist and advise the commissioners in determining the compensation and damages to be paid by the condemnor to each person for each person's interest in the property sought to be taken. The fees and expenses of the experts are chargeable as costs of the proceedings to be paid by the condemnor.

(5) After a complaint as described in 70-30-203 is filed and prior to the issuance of the preliminary condemnation order, all parties shall proceed as expeditiously as possible, but without prejudicing any party's position, with all aspects of the preliminary condemnation proceeding, including discovery and trial. The court shall give the proceedings expeditious and priority consideration. The preliminary condemnation proceeding must be tried by the court sitting without a jury.

History: En. Sec. 589, p. 193, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 589, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 607, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2220, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7340, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9943, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1247; re-en. Sec. 9943, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 245, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 259, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 234, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9911; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 19, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 371, L. 2013.

70-30-207. Appointment of condemnation commissioners — affidavit — compensation. (1) Within 30 days of entry of a preliminary condemnation order, the condemnee shall file a statement of the condemnee's claim of just compensation. If within 20 days of service of the condemnee's claim the condemnor fails to accept the claim, the court shall appoint condemnation commissioners. The commission hearing may be waived by written consent of both parties, in which case the proceeding must be conducted in the district court as if the case had been appealed from an award by the commissioners.

(2) The court shall appoint three qualified, disinterested condemnation commissioners, unless appointment has been waived. One of the commissioners must be nominated by the condemnor. One of the commissioners must be nominated by the condemnee. The third commissioner is the presiding officer and must be nominated by the two commissioners previously nominated. However, if the two commissioners fail to make the choice at the time of their appointment, then the nomination must be made by the presiding judge.

(3) Each commissioner:

(a) must have sufficient knowledge of the English language;

(b) must be a resident of a county within the judicial district in which the action is pending;

(c) may not be related within the sixth degree of consanguinity to any party; and

(d) may not stand in the relation of guardian and ward, master and servant, debtor and creditor, principal and agent, or partner or surety to any party.

(4) At the time of the meeting and nominations, there must be filed with the court by each nominating party or judge an affidavit of the person nominated stating substantially the following:

(a) that the person has not formed an unqualified opinion or belief as to the compensation to be awarded in the proceeding or as to the fairness or unfairness of the condemnor's offer for the lands and improvements of the condemnee;

(b) that the person has no enmity against or bias in favor of any party and has not discussed, communicated, overheard, or read any discussion or communication from any party relating to values of the lands in question or the compensation offered, demanded, or to be awarded;

(c) that if selected as a condemnation commissioner, the person is willing to serve and will try the issues of compensation and render a decision according to the evidence and in compliance with the instructions of the court; and

(d) that the person will not discuss the case with anyone except the other commissioners until a decision has been filed with the court.

(5) The court shall specify the compensation of the condemnation commissioners, which may not exceed $250 for each hearing day, including expenses. The condemnor shall pay the compensation of the commissioners.

History: En. Sec. 608, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 269, L. 1891; amd. Sec. 2221, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7341, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9944, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1248; re-en. Sec. 9944, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 234, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9912(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 666, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Part 3
Hearing, Judgment, and Subsequent Proceedings

70-30-301. Hearing — judge to preside — determinations by condemnation commissioners. (1) The condemnation commissioners shall meet at the time and place stated in the order appointing them. The meeting time may not be more than 10 days after the order of appointment. The commissioners shall examine the lands sought to be taken. At a time appointed by the judge and within the 10-day period, the commissioners shall hear the allegations and evidence of all persons interested in each parcel of land.

(2) The hearing must be attended by and presided over by the presiding judge, who shall make all necessary rulings upon procedure and the admissibility of evidence.

(3) (a) At the conclusion of the hearing, the judge shall instruct the commissioners as to the law applicable to their deliberations and shall instruct them that their duty is to determine, based solely upon their examination of lands, the evidence produced at the hearing or hearings, and the instructions of the court, the appropriate findings provided for in subsections (3)(b) through (3)(d).

(b) The commissioners shall determine the current fair market value of the real property sought to be taken and all improvements pertaining to the real property and of each separate estate and interest in the real property and improvements. If the real property consists of different parcels, the current fair market value of each parcel and each estate or interest in the real property must be separately assessed.

(c) (i) If the property sought to be taken constitutes only a part of a larger parcel, the commissioners shall determine the depreciation in current fair market value that will accrue to the remaining parcel by reason of the condemnation and the construction of the improvements in the manner proposed by the condemnor.

(ii) The commissioners shall also determine how much the remaining parcel and each estate or interest in the remaining parcel will be benefited, if at all, by the construction of the improvements proposed by the condemnor. If the benefit is equal to the amount assessed under subsection (3)(c)(i), the compensation to the condemnee is limited to the value of the portion taken. However, if the benefit is less than the amount assessed under subsection (3)(c)(i), the benefit to the condemnee must be deducted from the amount assessed under subsection (3)(c)(i) and the remainder is the only amount allowed in addition to the current fair market value.

(d) If the property sought to be taken is for a railroad, the commissioners shall also determine the cost of good and sufficient fences along the line of the railroad and the cost of cattle guards where fences may cross the line of the railroad.

(e) Through examination of the property, the commissioners shall determine the appropriate payment for damages to the property taken, as well as to any remaining parcel of property that may be adversely impacted by the project, to assist the court in making a final determination pursuant to 70-30-309.

(4) When there are two or more estates or divided interests in property sought to be taken, the condemnor is entitled to have the amount of the award for the property first determined as between the condemnor and all condemnees claiming any interest in the property. In the same proceeding, the respective rights of each of the condemnees in and to the total award must be determined by the commissioners, under supervision and instruction of the court, and the award must be apportioned accordingly.

History: **En. Sec. 608, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 269, L. 1891; amd. Sec. 2221, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7341, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9944, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1248; re-en. Sec. 9944, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 234, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9912(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 20, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

70-30-302. Assessing compensation — date and measure — interest. (1) For the purpose of assessing compensation, the right to compensation is considered to have accrued at the date of the service of the summons, and the property's current fair market value as of that date is the measure of compensation for all property to be actually taken and the basis of depreciation in the current fair market value of property not actually taken but injuriously affected. This subsection may not be construed to limit the amount of compensation payable by the department of transportation under the provisions of any legislation enacted pursuant to the federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965.

(2) If an order is made allowing the condemnor to take possession, as provided in 60-4-104(4) and (5) and 70-30-311, the full amount finally awarded must draw interest at the rate of 10% a year from the date of the service of the summons to the earlier of the following dates:

(a) the date on which the right to appeal to the Montana supreme court expires or, if an appeal is filed, the date of final decision by the supreme court; or

(b) the date on which the condemnee withdraws from the court the full amount finally awarded.

(3) If the condemnee withdraws from the court a fraction of the amount finally awarded, interest on that fraction ceases on the date it is withdrawn but interest on the remainder of the amount finally awarded continues to the earlier of the dates referred to in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) until the full amount is withdrawn from the court.

(4) None of the amount finally awarded draws interest after the date on which the right to appeal to the Montana supreme court expires.

(5) Improvements put upon the property subsequent to the date of the service of summons may not be included in the assessment of compensation or depreciation in current fair market value and may not be used as the basis of computing compensation or depreciation.

History: En. Sec. 591, p. 194, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 591, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 609, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2222, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7342, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9945, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1249; re-en. Sec. 9945, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 234, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 212, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 208, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 534, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9913; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 330, L. 2003.

70-30-303. Final report and award of condemnation commissioners — procedure on failure to agree. (1) The report of the condemnation commissioners must be made on forms that are provided for their use by the court. The report must be filed within 10 days after the completion of the hearing or within any additional time allowed by the judge upon a clear showing of necessity. The report must be filed with the clerk of court. The clerk shall notify the parties that the report has been filed. The notice, together with a copy of the report, must be served upon all the parties in the same manner as a summons.

(2) A concurrence of two commissioners is necessary to the making of a final report or award as to any parcel of property or interest in a parcel of property. If two of the commissioners are unable to agree as to the amount of any award, the commissioners shall report the fact to the judge or court within the time specified in subsection (1) and the court shall impanel and appoint new commissioners. The new commissioners shall proceed as provided in this part to determine any award upon which the previous commissioners failed to agree.

(3) The report of the commissioners must include a statement of the number of days or portions of days worked by the commissioners in performance of their duties.

History: En. Sec. 2223, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7343, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9946, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9946, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 234, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9914; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 115, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-304. Appeal to district court from assessment of condemnation commissioners. (1) Any party may appeal from any assessment made by the condemnation commissioners in the court in which the report of the commissioners is filed. The appeal must be taken within 30 days after the service upon the parties of the notice of the filing of the award. The appealing party shall serve notice of the appeal upon the opposing party or the opposing party's attorney and shall file the notice of appeal in the district court in which the action is pending. The appeal must be tried upon the same notice and in the same manner as other civil actions. Unless a jury is waived by the consent of all parties to the appeal, the appeal must be tried by a jury. The amount to which the condemnee may be entitled, by reason of the taking of the condemnee's property, must be reassessed as prescribed in this part for the assessment of that amount by the commissioners.

(2) Upon any verdict or assessment by the commissioners becoming final, judgment must be entered declaring that upon payment of the amount of the verdict or assessment, together with the interests and costs allowed by law, if any, the condemnor has the right to construct and

maintain the public use project and to take the property described in the verdict or assessment for the use and purposes for which the property has been taken. The rights granted in the verdict or assessment remain in the condemnor and the condemnor's heirs, successors, or assigns forever.

(3) If the party appealing from the award of the commissioners does not succeed in changing to the appellant's advantage the amount finally awarded in the proceeding, the appellant may not recover the costs of the appeal, but all the costs of the appellee in the appeal must be taxed against and recovered from the appellant. However, upon the trial of the appeal, the appellant may contest the right of any party to any of the property mentioned and set forth or involved in the appeal that was located after the preliminary survey of any highway or railroad, seeking to condemn a right-of-way pursuant to the provisions of this chapter if the condemnation proceedings are begun within 1 year after the preliminary survey.

History: **En. Sec. 608, p. 220, L. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2224, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7344, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9947, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 9947, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 234, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9915; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

70-30-305. Condemnor to make offer upon appeal — award of expenses of litigation. (1) The condemnor shall, within 30 days after an appeal is perfected from the condemnation commissioner's award or report or not more than 60 days after the waiver of appointment of commissioners, submit to the condemnee a written final offer of judgment for the property sought to be taken, together with the accrued necessary expenses of the condemnee. If at any time prior to 10 days before trial the condemnee serves written notice that the offer is accepted, either party may then file the offer and notice of acceptance, together with proof of service of the acceptance, and judgment must be entered. An offer not accepted is considered withdrawn and evidence of the offer is not admissible at the trial except in a proceeding to determine costs. The fact that an offer is made but not accepted does not preclude a subsequent offer.

(2) In the event of litigation and when the condemnee prevails either by the court not allowing condemnation or by the condemnee receiving an award in excess of the final written offer of the condemnor that was rejected pursuant to the facts necessary in 70-30-111(1)(d), the court shall award necessary expenses of litigation to the condemnee.

History: **En. 93-9921.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9921.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 8, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 371, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.

70-30-306. Necessary expenses of litigation defined. (1) Necessary expenses of litigation as authorized by 70-30-305 mean reasonable and necessary attorney fees, expert witness fees, exhibit costs, and court costs.

(2) Reasonable and necessary attorney fees are the customary hourly rates for an attorney's services in the county in which the trial is held. Reasonable and necessary attorney fees must be computed on an hourly basis and may not be computed on the basis of any contingent fee contract.

(3) Reasonable and necessary expert witness fees may not exceed the customary rate for the services of a witness of that expertise in the county in which the trial is held.

History: **En. 93-9921.2 by Sec. 1, Ch. 48, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9921.2; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

70-30-307. When payment of compensation to be made — deposit of bond. In a proceeding for condemnation for a railroad, the condemnor shall within 30 days after final judgment pay the sum of money assessed but may at the time of or before the payment elect to build any required fences and cattle guards. A condemnor who elects to build the required fences and cattle guards shall execute to the condemnee a bond with sureties to be approved by the court, in double the assessed cost of the fences and cattle guards, conditioned upon building the fences and cattle guards within 8 months from the time the railroad is built on the land taken. If the bond is given, the condemnor is not required to pay the cost of the fences and cattle guards. In an action on the bond, the condemnee may recover reasonable attorney fees.

History: **En. Sec. 593, p. 194, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 593, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 611, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2226, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7346, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9949, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1251; re-en. Sec. 9949, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9917; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

70-30-308. How payment made — execution or annulment for nonpayment. (1) Payment may be made to the condemnee, or the money may be deposited in court for the condemnee and be distributed pursuant to the assessment or judgment. However, at the option of the condemnee, payments may be made:

(a) on an annual basis, using the installment contract method; or

(b) if other land is reasonably available and the condemnor consents, by means of a land exchange between the condemnee and condemnor if the land to be provided by the condemnor in the exchange is of equal or more value than the land being condemned.

(2) If the money is not paid or deposited, the condemnee may have execution as in civil cases, and if the money cannot be executed upon, the court, upon a showing to that effect, shall set aside and annul the entire proceedings and restore possession of the property to the condemnee if possession has been taken by the condemnor.

History: En. Sec. 594, p. 194, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 594, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 612, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2227, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7347, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9950, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1252; re-en. Sec. 9950, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9918; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-309. Final order of condemnation — contents — vesting upon filing. (1) When payments have been made and the bond, if appropriate, has been given as required by 70-30-307 and 70-30-308, the court shall make a final order of condemnation. The order must describe the property condemned, the purposes of the condemnation, and any appropriate payment for damages to the property actually taken as well as to any remaining parcel of property that may be adversely affected by the taking.

(2) A copy of the order must be filed in the office of the county clerk and recorder, and upon filing, the property described in the order vests in the condemnor for the purposes specified in the order.

History: En. Sec. 595, p. 195, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 595, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 613, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2228, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7348, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9951, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1253; re-en. Sec. 9951, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9919; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 20, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-310. New proceedings to cure defective title. If the title to property attempted to be acquired is found to be defective from any cause, the condemnor may again institute proceedings to acquire the property, as prescribed in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 592, p. 194, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 592, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 610, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2225, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7345, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9948, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1250; re-en. Sec. 9948, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9916; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-311. Putting condemnor in possession. (1) At any time after the filing of the preliminary condemnation order pursuant to 70-30-206 or an order as provided in 60-4-104(4) and (5) and while it retains jurisdiction, the court upon application of the condemnor may make an order that:

(a) upon payment into court of the amount of compensation claimed by the condemnee in the condemnee's statement of claim of just compensation under 70-30-207 or the amount assessed either by the commissioners or by the jury, the condemnor is authorized:

(i) if already in possession of the property of the condemnee that is sought to be taken, to continue in possession; or

(ii) if not in possession, to take possession of the property and use and possess the property during the pendency and until the final conclusion of the proceedings and litigation; and

(b) all actions and proceedings against the condemnor on account of the possession are stayed until the final conclusion of the proceedings and litigation.

(2) If the condemnee fails to file a statement of claim of just compensation within the time specified in 70-30-207, the condemnor may obtain an order for possession provided for in subsection (1), subject to the condition subsequent that a condemnor's payment into court must be made within 10 days of receipt of the condemnee's statement of claim.

(3) However, when an appeal is taken by the condemnee, the court may require the condemnor before continuing or taking possession, in addition to paying into court the amount assessed, to give a bond or undertaking with sufficient sureties approved by the court and in an amount that the court may direct, conditioned to pay the condemnee any additional damages

and costs above the amount assessed, which is finally determined as the amount that the condemnee is entitled to for the taking of the property, and all damages that the condemnee may sustain if for any cause the property is not finally taken for public use.

(4) The amount assessed by the commissioners or by the jury on appeal is considered, for the purposes of this section and until reassessed or changed in the further proceedings, as just compensation for the property taken. However, the condemnor, by payment into court of the amount claimed in the answer or the amount assessed or by giving security as provided in subsection (3), may not be prevented from appealing from the assessment but may appeal in the same manner and with the same effect as if money had not been deposited or security had not been given.

(5) (a) Subject to subsection (5)(b), in all cases in which the condemnor deposits the amount of the assessment and continues in possession or takes possession of the property, as provided in this section, the condemnee, if there is no dispute as to the ownership of the property, may at any time demand and receive upon order of the court all or any part of the money deposited. The demand or receipt may not preclude the condemnee's right of appeal from the assessment. However, if the amount of the assessment is finally reduced on appeal by either party, the condemnee who has received all or any part of the amount deposited is liable to the condemnor for any excess of the amount received over the amount finally assessed, with legal interest on the excess from the time the condemnee received the money deposited. The excess, plus interest, may be recovered by a civil action. Upon any appeal from an assessment by the commissioners to a jury, the jury may make a finding for any amount that it considers appropriate.

(b) The court may not order the delivery to any condemnee of more than 75% of the money deposited on the condemnee's account except upon posting of bond by the condemnee equal to the amount in excess of 75%, with sureties to be approved by the court, to repay to the condemnor amounts withdrawn that are in excess of the condemnee's final award in the proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 596, p. 195, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 596, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 614, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2, p. 272, L. 1891; en. Sec. 2229, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7349, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9952, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1254; re-en. Sec. 9952, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 234, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9920; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 622, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 330, L. 2003.

70-30-312. Appeal to supreme court. (1) Any party interested in the proceedings can appeal to the supreme court from any finding or judgment made or rendered under this chapter, as in other cases.

(2) An appeal does not stay any further proceedings under this chapter, except that the district court on motion or ex parte may grant a stay for a period of time and under conditions that the court considers proper.

History: En. Sec. 583, p. 191, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 583, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 601, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2214, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7334, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9937, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1241; re-en. Sec. 9937, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sup. Ct. Ord. 11020, eff. January 1, 1966; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9905(part); amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-313. Current fair market value. Current fair market value is the price that would be agreed to by a willing and informed seller and buyer, taking into consideration, but not limited to, the following factors:

(1) the highest and best reasonably available use and its value for such use, provided current use may not be presumed to be the highest and best use;

(2) the machinery, equipment, and fixtures forming part of the real estate taken; and

(3) any other relevant factors as to which evidence is offered.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 622, L. 1983.

70-30-314. Weed control responsibility. The condemnor, upon taking possession of the land, is responsible for the control and destruction of noxious weeds on the land until natural grasses have taken over the property and noxious weeds have ceased to exist.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Weed control, Title 80, ch. 7, part 7.

70-30-315. Proration of taxes. The condemnor must be assessed the condemnor's pro rata share of taxes for the land being taken as of the date of possession or summons, whichever occurs first. The condemnor must be assessed for all taxes accruing after the date of possession or summons, whichever occurs first.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 531, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-316 through 70-30-320 reserved.

70-30-321. Sale of property acquired for public use when use abandoned — procedure. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), whenever a person who has acquired a real property interest for a public use, whether by right of eminent domain or otherwise, abandons the public use and places the property interest for sale, the seller may sell the interest to the highest bidder at public auction.

(2) If the seller decides to sell an interest in real property as set forth in subsection (1), the seller shall publish notice of the public sale in a newspaper published in the county in which the real property is located once a week for 4 successive weeks. The sale must be held in the county where the real property is located. The notice of sale must contain the information required by 77-2-322.

(3) When an interest, other than a fee simple interest, in property that has been acquired for a public purpose by right of eminent domain, or otherwise, is abandoned or when the purpose for which it was acquired is terminated, the property reverts to the original owner or the original owner's successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 689, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-30-322. Option of original owner or successor in interest to purchase at sale price. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the owner from whom the real property interest was originally acquired by eminent domain or otherwise or the owner's successor in interest, if there is a successor in interest, must be notified by the seller by certified mail and has a 30-day option from the date of a sale provided for in 70-30-321 to purchase the interest by offering an amount of money equal to the highest bid received for the interest at the sale.

(2) If bids are not received by the seller and the optionholder indicates in writing to the seller that the optionholder wishes to exercise the option, the seller must have the real property interest appraised and shall sell the interest at that price to the optionholder.

(3) When an interest, other than a fee simple interest, in property that has been acquired for a public purpose by right of eminent domain, or otherwise, is abandoned or when the purpose for which it was acquired is terminated, the property reverts to the original owner or the original owner's successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 440, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 689, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 666, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 512, L. 2007.

70-30-323. Liability limitation — several liability — defense costs. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a condemnee or a condemnee's successor in interest is not liable for damages that result from the construction, use, or maintenance of a project on property in which the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest has an interest unless the negligence or intentional conduct of the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest is a cause of the damages.

(2) A condemnee or a condemnee's successor in interest who is liable for damages under subsection (1) is severally liable only and is responsible only for the percentage of negligence attributable to the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest.

(3) If a condemnee or a condemnee's successor in interest is joined in an action for damages that are alleged to result from the construction, use, or maintenance of a project on property in which the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest has an interest, the project owner or operator is liable for the costs and attorney fees incurred by the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest unless the condemnee or the condemnee's successor in interest is found liable for damages under subsections (1) and (2).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 31
RELOCATION ASSISTANCE
FAIR TREATMENT OF CONDEMNEES

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70-31-305. Acquisition of buildings and improvements affected.
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70-31-311. Relocation payments and assistance.

Part 1
General Provisions

70-31-101. Purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to:

(1) provide for uniform and equitable treatment of persons displaced from their homes, businesses, or farms as a result of federally assisted programs;

(2) establish uniform and equitable land acquisition policies for federally assisted programs; and

(3) comply with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

70-31-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means a department, agency, or instrumentality of the state of Montana or of a political subdivision of the state, a department, agency, or instrumentality of two or more states or two or more political subdivisions of the state or of two or more states, or a person who has the authority to acquire property by eminent domain as provided in Title 70, chapter 30.

(2) "Appraisal" means a written statement, independently and impartially prepared by a qualified appraiser, setting forth an opinion of defined value of an adequately described property as of a specified date and supported by the presentation and analysis of relevant market information.

(3) "Average annual net earnings" means one-half of any net earnings of a business or farm operation, before federal and state income taxes, during the 2 tax years immediately preceding the tax year in which the business or farm operation moves from real property acquired for a project of an agency (for which federal financial assistance is available to pay all or any part of the cost) or during any other period that the acquiring agency determines to be more equitable for establishing earnings and includes any compensation paid by the business or farm operation to the owner, the owner's spouse, or the owner's dependents during the period.

(4) "Business" means any lawful activity, except a farm operation, conducted:

(a) primarily for the purchase, sale, lease, and rental of personal and real property and for the manufacture, processing, or marketing of products, commodities, or any other personal property;

(b) primarily for the sale of services to the public;

(c) primarily by a nonprofit organization; or

(d) solely for the purposes of paying moving or related expenses to assist in the purchase, sale, resale, manufacture, processing, or marketing of products, commodities, personal property, or services by the erection and maintenance of an outdoor advertising display or displays, whether or not the display or displays are located on the premises on which any of the activities included as a business are conducted.

(5) (a) "Displaced person" means:

(i) any person who moves from real property or moves that person's personal property from real property:

(A) as a direct result of a written notice of intent to acquire or by the acquisition of the real property, in whole or in part, for a program or project undertaken by a displacing agency for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost; or

(B) on which the person is a residential tenant or conducts a small business, farm operation, or a business defined in subsection (4)(d), as a direct result of rehabilitation, demolition, or other displacing activity prescribed by the agency under a program or project undertaken by a displacing agency that has determined that the displacement is permanent and for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost;

(ii) any person who, for purposes of providing moving and related expenses or relocation advisory services only, moves from real property or moves that person's personal property from real property as a direct result of:

(A) a written notice of intent to acquire or as a direct result of the acquisition of other real property, in whole or in part, on which the person conducts a business or farm operation, for a program or project undertaken by a displacing agency; or

(B) the rehabilitation, demolition, or other displacing activity prescribed by the agency under a program or project undertaken by a displacing agency that has determined that the displacement is permanent.

(b) The term "displaced person" does not include a person who:

(i) has been determined, according to criteria established by the agency, to be either unlawfully occupying the displacement dwelling or to have been occupying the dwelling for the purpose of obtaining assistance under this part; or

(ii) occupies property owned by the agency on a short-term rental basis or for a period subject to termination when the property is needed for the program or project and who was not an occupant of the property at the time it was acquired by the agency.

(6) "Farm operation" means any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more agricultural products or commodities, including timber, for sale or home use and customarily producing agricultural products or commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.

(7) "Federal act" means the "Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970" or as that act may be amended.

(8) "Federal financial assistance" means a grant, loan, or contribution provided by the United States, except any federal guarantee or insurance.

(9) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, or association.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9928; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 374, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-31-103. Application to all federally assisted programs. This chapter shall apply to all acquisitions of real property by an agency for a program or project for which federal financial assistance is available to pay all or any part of the cost.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9944.

70-31-104. New rights and powers not created. (1) This chapter may not be construed as creating, in any condemnation proceedings brought under the power of eminent domain as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, any element of value or damage that is not in existence immediately prior to July 1, 1971.

(2) This chapter may not be construed as, directly or indirectly, granting any new or additional power of eminent domain.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9943(2), (3); amd. Sec. 83, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-31-105. Duplication of eminent domain payments not intended. A payment or assistance provided for in this chapter may not be required to be made by an agency if the displaced person receives a payment required under Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30, that is determined by the agency to have substantially the same purpose and effect as a payment under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9942; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-31-106. Payments not income under tax laws or other assistance laws. No payment received by a displaced person under this chapter shall be considered as income or resources for the purpose of determining the eligibility of any person for assistance under any state law or for the purposes of determining income under state tax laws.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9935.

70-31-107 through 70-31-110 reserved.

70-31-111. Rulemaking authority. An agency, as defined in 2-3-102, is authorized to adopt necessary rules to implement this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

Part 2
Relocation Payments, Assistance, and Advisory Services
(Repealed)

70-31-201. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9929.

70-31-202. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9930.

70-31-203. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9931.

70-31-204. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9932.

70-31-205. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Secs. 7, 17, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9933, 93-9943(1).

70-31-206. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9934.

70-31-207. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 374, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9936.

Part 3
Rights and Duties Relating to Condemnation

70-31-301. Appraisal, negotiation, and other condemnation policies mandated. An agency that acquires real property for a program or project (for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost of the program or project) shall comply with the following policies:

(1) The agency shall make every reasonable effort to expeditiously acquire real property by negotiation.

(2) Real property must be appraised before the initiation of negotiations, and the owner or the owner's designated representative must be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the appraiser's inspection of the property. The head of the agency may prescribe a procedure to waive the appraisal in cases involving the acquisition by sale or donation of property with a low fair market value.

(3) Before the initiation of negotiations for real property, an amount must be established that is reasonably believed to be just compensation for the property or interest taken, and that amount must be offered for the property. The amount may not be less than the approved

appraisal of the fair market value of the property. Any decrease or increase in the fair market value of real property prior to the date of valuation caused by the public improvement for which the property is acquired or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for the improvement, other than an amount due to physical deterioration within the reasonable control of the owner, must be disregarded in determining the compensation for the property. The owner of the real property to be acquired must be provided with a written statement of and summary of the basis for the amount established as just compensation. When appropriate, the just compensation for the real property acquired and for damages to remaining real property must be separately stated.

(4) An owner may not be required to surrender possession of real property before the agreed purchase price is paid or before there is deposited with the court, in accordance with applicable law, for the benefit of the owner, an amount not less than the approved appraisal of the fair market value of the property or the amount of the award of compensation in the condemnation proceeding of the property.

(5) The construction or development of a program or project (for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost of the program or project) must be scheduled so that, to the greatest extent practicable, a person lawfully occupying real property is not required to move from a dwelling (assuming a replacement dwelling will be available) or to move the person's business or farm operation without at least 90 days' written notice of the date by which a move is required.

(6) If an owner or tenant is permitted to occupy the real property acquired on a rental basis for a short term or for a period subject to termination by the acquiring agency on short notice, the amount of rent required may not exceed the fair rental value of the property to a short-term occupier.

(7) The time of condemnation may not be advanced, negotiations or condemnation and the deposit of funds in court for the use of the owner may not be deferred, and any other action coercive in nature may not be taken to compel an agreement on the price to be paid for the property.

(8) If an interest in real property is to be acquired by exercise of the power of eminent domain, formal condemnation proceedings must be instituted as provided in Title 70, chapter 30. The acquiring agency may not intentionally make it necessary for an owner to institute legal proceedings to prove the fact of the taking of the owner's real property.

(9) If the acquisition of only part of the property would leave its owner with an uneconomic remnant, an offer to acquire the uneconomic remnant must be made.

(10) A person whose real property is being acquired may, after being fully informed of the person's right to receive just compensation, donate to an agency the property, any interest in the property, or any compensation received for the property.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9937; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 374, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

70-31-302. Reimbursement of closing costs and taxes incurred by owner. An agency acquiring real property for a program or project for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost of the program or project shall, as soon as practicable after the date of payment of the purchase price or the date of deposit into court of funds to satisfy the award of compensation in a condemnation proceeding to acquire real property, whichever is the earlier, reimburse the owner to the extent the acquiring agency considers fair and reasonable for:

(1) expenses the owner necessarily incurred for recording fees, transfer taxes, and similar expenses incidental to conveying the real property to the acquiring agency;

(2) penalty costs for prepayment for any preexisting recorded mortgage or deed of trust entered into in good faith encumbering the real property; and

(3) the pro rata portion of real property taxes paid that are allocable to a period subsequent to the date of vesting title in the acquiring agency or the effective date of possession of the real property by the acquiring agency, whichever is earlier.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9938; amd. Sec. 2231, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-31-303. Inverse condemnation — reimbursement of expenses of proceeding. When an inverse condemnation proceeding is instituted by the owner of any right, title, or interest in real property because of the alleged taking of the owner's property for any program or project for which federal financial assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost of the program or project, the court rendering a judgment for the plaintiff in the proceeding and awarding compensation for the taking of property or the attorney for the acquiring agency effecting a settlement of any proceeding shall determine and award or allow to the plaintiff as a part of the judgment or settlement a sum that will, in the opinion of the court or the attorney, reimburse the plaintiff for the plaintiff's reasonable costs, disbursements, and expenses including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred because of the proceeding.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9940; amd. Sec. 2232, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-31-304. Reimbursement of costs when condemnation proceedings dismissed or abandoned. When a condemnation proceeding is instituted by an agency to acquire real property for a program or project for which federal financial assistance is available and the final judgment is that the real property cannot be acquired by condemnation or that the proceeding is abandoned, the owner of any right, title, or interest in the real property must be paid a sum that will, in the opinion of the court, reimburse the owner for the owner's reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred because of the condemnation proceedings. The award of the sum must be paid by the agency that sought to condemn the property.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9939; amd. Sec. 2233, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-31-305. Acquisition of buildings and improvements affected. (1) When any interest in real property is acquired for a program or project for which federal assistance will be available to pay all or any part of the cost of the program or project, the acquiring agency shall acquire an equal interest in all buildings, structures, or other improvements that are located upon the real property acquired and that are required to be removed from the real property or that the acquiring agency determines will be adversely affected by the use to which the real property will be put.

(2) For the purpose of determining the just compensation to be paid for any building, structure, or other improvement required to be acquired by subsection (1), the building, structure, or other improvement is considered to be a part of the real property to be acquired notwithstanding the right or obligation of a tenant, as against the owner of any other interest in the real property, to remove the building, structure, or improvement at the expiration of the tenant's term. The fair market value that the building, structure, or improvement contributes to the fair market value of the real property to be acquired or the fair market value of the building, structure, or improvement for removal from the real property, whichever is the greater, must be paid to the tenant.

(3) Payment for buildings, structures, or improvements as set forth in subsection (2) may not result in duplication of any payments otherwise authorized by state law. A payment may not be made unless the owner of the land involved disclaims all interest in the improvements of the tenant. In consideration for any payment, the tenant shall assign, transfer, and release all of the tenant's right, title, and interest in and to the improvements. Subsection (2) or this subsection may not be construed to deprive the tenant of any rights to reject payment and to obtain payment for the property interests in accordance with other laws of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 3, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 93-9941; amd. Sec. 2234, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

70-31-306 through 70-31-310 reserved.

70-31-311. Relocation payments and assistance. For any project that results in the displacement of a person from the person's home, business, or farm and for which federal financial assistance may be available to pay all or any part of the cost of displacement, an entity of the state or any public or private entity that has the authority to acquire property by eminent domain under Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30, is authorized to provide relocation assistance and to make relocation payments to the full extent permitted by the federal relocation assistance law, 42 U.S.C. 4601, et seq., as amended. The entity is authorized to do what may be necessary or required to obtain for property owners the full benefit of federal relocation assistance, including the adoption of methods of administration that may be required by federal law or rules to carry out the operation of relocation assistance.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 374, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 32
HOMESTEADS

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Chapter Cross-References

Exemption laws, Art. XIII, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
Residential property tax credit for elderly, 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.
Homestead exempt from execution, 25-13-615.
Exempt property — bankruptcy proceeding, 31-2-106.
UPC — homestead allowance, 72-2-412.
UPC — exempt property, 72-2-413.
UPC — family allowance, 72-2-414.

Part 1
Establishment of the Homestead

70-32-101. Of what homestead consists. The homestead consists of the dwelling house or mobile home, and all appurtenances, in which the claimant resides and the land, if any, on which the same is situated, selected as provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 1670, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4694, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6945, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1237; re-en. Sec. 6945, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-101; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 1981.

70-32-102. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 370, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 1694, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4718, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6969, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1261; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 6969, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 1, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 33-125.

70-32-103. From whose property homestead may be selected — revocable trust disregarded. (1) If the claimant is married, the homestead may be selected from the property of either spouse. When the claimant is not married, the homestead may be selected from any of the claimant's property.

(2) A homestead may be selected from property contributed by the settlor to a revocable trust when the property would otherwise qualify under this chapter if it were not for the transfer of property to the revocable trust. For the purpose of this chapter, the claimant is the husband, wife, or unmarried person that is the settlor of the revocable trust. All provisions of this chapter apply to the settlor claimant in the same manner as an individual claimant, regardless of trust status.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "revocable" and "settlor" have the same meaning as provided in 72-38-103.

History: **En. Sec. 1671, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4695, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6946, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1238; re-en. Sec. 6946, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 1, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 33-102; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 370, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2235, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 2021.**

70-32-104. Limitation on value. (1) A homestead may not exceed the value provided in subsection (3). In a proceeding instituted to determine the value of the homestead, the assessed value of the land with included appurtenances, if any, and of the dwelling house as it appears on the last-completed assessment roll preceding the institution of the proceeding is prima facie evidence of the value of the property claimed as a homestead.

(2) If a claimant who is an owner of an undivided interest in real property claims a homestead exemption, the claimant is limited to an exemption amount proportional to the claimant's undivided interest.

(3) (a) The department of revenue shall adopt administrative rules setting the homestead value limit.

(b) In 2021, the homestead value limit is $350,000.

(c) The homestead value limit must increase by 4% every calendar year after 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 1693, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4717, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6968, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1260; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 6968, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 50, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 33-124; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 370, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 302, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 442, L. 2021.**

70-32-105. Mode of selection — declaration required. The person selecting a homestead must execute and acknowledge, in the same manner as a grant of real property is acknowledged, a declaration of homestead and file the same for record.

History: **En. Sec. 1700, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4719, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6970, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1262; re-en. Sec. 6970, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 1, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 33-126; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 370, L. 1981.**

70-32-106. Contents of declaration. Subject to 70-32-216, the declaration of homestead must contain a statement that the person making it is residing on the premises and claims them as a homestead and a description of the premises.

History: **En. Sec. 1701, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4720, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6971, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1263; re-en. Sec. 6971, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 1, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 33-127; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 370, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

70-32-107. Declaration to be recorded. The declaration must be recorded in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the land is situated.

History: **En. Sec. 1702, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4721, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6972, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1264; re-en. Sec. 6972, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-128.**

Part 2
Homestead Exemption — Execution

70-32-201. Homestead exempt from execution generally. The homestead is exempt from execution or forced sale, except as in this chapter provided.

History: **En. Sec. 1673, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4697, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6948, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1240; re-en. Sec. 6948, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-104.**

Cross-References

Property exempt from execution, Title 25, ch. 13, part 6.

Exempt property — bankruptcy proceeding, 31-2-106.

70-32-202. Execution allowed under certain judgments. The homestead is subject to execution or forced sale in satisfaction of judgments obtained:

(1) on debts secured by construction or vendors' liens upon the premises;

(2) on debts secured by mortgages on the premises, executed and acknowledged by the husband and wife or by an unmarried claimant; or

(3) on debts secured by mortgages on the premises, executed and recorded before the declaration of homestead was filed for record.

History: En. Sec. 1674, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4698, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6949, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1241; re-en. Sec. 6949, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-105(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 370, L. 1981.

70-32-203. Execution under judgments not enumerated — application required. When an execution for the enforcement of a judgment obtained in a case not within the classes enumerated in 70-32-202 is levied upon the homestead, the judgment creditor may apply to the district court of the county in which the homestead is situated or a judge thereof for the appointment of persons to appraise the value thereof.

History: En. Sec. 1678, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4702, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6953, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1245; re-en. Sec. 6953, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-109.

70-32-204. Application for appraisal — contents — filing. (1) The application must be made upon a verified petition showing:

(a) the fact that an execution has been levied upon the homestead;

(b) the name of the claimant;

(c) that the value of the homestead exceeds the amount of the homestead exemption.

(2) The petition must be filed with the clerk of the district court.

History: En. Secs. 1679, 1680, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 4703, 4704, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 6954, 6955, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1246, 1247; re-en. Secs. 6954, 6955, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-110, 33-111.

70-32-205. Service of petition — notice of hearing. A copy of the petition, with a notice of the time and place of hearing, must be served upon the claimant at least 2 days before the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 1681, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4705, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6956, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1248; re-en. Sec. 6956, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-112.

70-32-206. Appointment of appraisers — oath. (1) At the hearing the judge may, upon proof of the service of a copy of the petition and notice and of the facts stated in the petition, appoint three disinterested residents and freeholders of the county to appraise the value of the homestead.

(2) The persons appointed, before entering upon the performance of their duties, must take an oath to faithfully perform the same.

History: En. Secs. 1682, 1683, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 4706, 4707, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 6957, 6958, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 1249, 1250; re-en. Secs. 6957, 6958, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-113, 33-114.

70-32-207. Duty of appraisers. They must view the premises and appraise the value thereof, and if the appraised value exceeds the homestead exemption, they must determine whether the land claimed can be divided without material injury.

History: En. Sec. 1684, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4708, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6959, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1251; re-en. Sec. 6959, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-115.

70-32-208. Report of appraisers — contents. Within 15 days after their appointment they must make to the judge a report in writing, which report must show the appraised value and their determination upon the matter of a division of the land claimed.

History: En. Sec. 1685, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4709, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6960, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1252; re-en. Sec. 6960, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-116.

70-32-209. Order dividing land — execution against remainder over exemption. If from the report it appears to the judge that the land claimed can be divided without material injury, the judge shall by an order direct the appraisers to set off to the claimant as much of the land, including the residence, that will amount in value to the homestead exemption, and the execution may be enforced against the remainder of the land.

History: En. Sec. 1686, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4710, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6961, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1253; re-en. Sec. 6961, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-117; amd. Sec. 2236, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-32-210. Sale when land cannot be divided. If from the report it appears to the judge that the land claimed exceeds in value the amount of the homestead exemption and that it cannot be divided, the judge shall make an order directing its sale under execution.

History: En. Sec. 1687, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4711, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6962, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1254; re-en. Sec. 6962, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-118; amd. Sec. 2237, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

70-32-211. Amount of bid. At such sale no bid must be received unless it exceeds the amount of the homestead exemption.

History: En. Sec. 1688, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4712, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6963, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1255; re-en. Sec. 6963, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-119.

70-32-212. Application of proceeds of sale. If the sale is made, the proceeds thereof, to the amount of the homestead exemption, must be paid to the claimant and the balance applied to the satisfaction of the execution.

History: En. Sec. 1689, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6964, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1256; re-en. Sec. 6964, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-120.

70-32-213. Sale proceeds equal to exemption protected. The money paid to the claimant is entitled, for the period of 18 months thereafter, to the same protection against legal process and the voluntary disposition of either spouse which the law gives to the homestead.

History: En. Sec. 1690, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4714, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6965, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1257; re-en. Sec. 6965, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 1, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 33-121; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 302, L. 1987.

70-32-214. Compensation of appraisers. The court must fix a reasonable amount as compensation for the appraisers.

History: En. Sec. 1691, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4715, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6966, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1258; re-en. Sec. 6966, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-122; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 302, L. 1987.

70-32-215. Costs. The execution creditor must pay the costs of these proceedings in the first instance, but in the cases provided for in 70-32-209 and 70-32-210, the amount so paid must be added as costs on execution and collected accordingly.

History: En. Sec. 1692, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4716, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6967, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1259; re-en. Sec. 6967, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-123.

70-32-216. Tracing homestead proceeds. (1) If property or a part of property that could have been claimed as an exempt homestead has been sold or taken by condemnation, as provided in Title 60, chapter 4, or Title 70, chapter 30, or has been lost, damaged, or destroyed and the owner has been indemnified for the property, the owner is entitled for 18 months to exemption of the proceeds that are traceable.

(2) Proceeds are traceable under this section by application of the principles of first-in first-out, last-in first-out, or any other reasonable basis for tracing selected by the judgment debtor.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 302, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Tracing exempt personal property, 25-13-610.

70-32-217 through 70-32-220 reserved.

70-32-221. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 30, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 590, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1991.

Part 3
Conveyance, Encumbrance, and Abandonment of Homestead

70-32-301. How conveyed or encumbered — instrument. The homestead of a married person cannot be conveyed or encumbered unless the instrument by which it is conveyed or encumbered is executed and acknowledged by both husband and wife.

History: En. Sec. 1675, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4699, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6950, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1242; re-en. Sec. 6950, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-106.

70-32-302. How abandoned — declaration. A homestead can be abandoned only by a declaration of abandonment or a grant thereof executed and acknowledged by:

(1) the husband and wife if the claimant is married;
(2) the claimant if unmarried.

History: **En. Sec. 1676, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4700, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6951, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1243; re-en. Sec. 6951, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-107.**

70-32-303. When declaration effective. A declaration of abandonment is effectual only from the time it is filed in the office in which the homestead was recorded.

History: **En. Sec. 1677, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4701, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6952, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1244; re-en. Sec. 6952, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 33-108.**

CHAPTER 33

MONTANA RESIDENTIAL MOBILE HOME LOT RENTAL ACT

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Part 1
General Provisions

70-33-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as "The Montana Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act".

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-102. Purpose — liberal construction. (1) This chapter must be liberally construed and applied to promote the underlying purposes and policies of this chapter.

(2) The underlying purposes and policies of this chapter are to:

(a) simplify and clarify the law governing the rental of land to owners of mobile homes and manufactured homes and the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants concerning lot rentals;

(b) encourage landlords and tenants to maintain and improve the quality of housing; and

(c) create an exclusive regulatory standard throughout the state and its political subdivisions regarding the rental of land to owners of mobile homes and manufactured homes.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 572, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 572, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Local government with self-government powers prohibited from deviating from Montana Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act, 7-1-111.

70-33-103. Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abandon" means to give up possession of the premises unless the landlord does not accept abandonment or surrender as provided in 70-33-426 or unless the rental agreement has been terminated as provided by law.

(2) "Action" includes recoupment, counterclaim, setoff suit in equity, and any other proceeding in which rights are determined, including an action for possession.

(3) "Actual and reasonable cost" means the actual amount of expenses and labor incurred or expended and the reasonable amount of expenses and labor estimated to be incurred or expended.

(4) "Case of emergency" means an extraordinary occurrence beyond the tenant's control requiring immediate action to protect the premises or the tenant. A case of emergency may include the interruption of essential services, including electricity, gas, running water, and sewer and septic system service, or life-threatening events in which the tenant or landlord has reasonable apprehension of immediate danger to the tenant or others.

(5) "Court" means the appropriate district court, small claims court, justice's court, or city court.

(6) "Good faith" means honesty in fact in the conduct of the transaction concerned.

(7) "Landlord" means:

(a) the owner of:

(i) space or land, including a lot, that is rented to a tenant for a mobile home; or

(ii) a mobile home park;

(b) a person who has written authorization from the owner to act as the owner's agent or assignee for purposes related to the premises or the rental agreement;

(c) a manager of the premises who fails to disclose the managerial position; or

(d) a lessor who has written authorization from the owner of the premises to sublease the premises.

(8) "Lot" means the space or land rented and not a mobile home itself.

(9) "Mobile home" has the same meaning as provided in 15-1-101 and includes manufactured homes as defined in 15-1-101.

(10) "Mobile home owner" means the owner of a mobile home entitled under a rental agreement to occupy a lot.

(11) "Mobile home park" means a trailer court as defined in 50-52-101.

(12) "Organization" includes a corporation, government, governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, and any other legal or commercial entity.

(13) "Person" includes an individual or organization.

(14) "Premises" means a lot and the grounds, areas, and facilities held out for the use of tenants generally or promised for the use of a tenant.

(15) "Rent" means all payments to be made to a landlord, including rent, late fees, or other charges as agreed on in the rental agreement, except money paid as a security deposit.

(16) "Rental agreement" means all agreements, written or oral, and valid rules adopted under 70-33-311 embodying the terms and conditions concerning the use and occupancy of the premises.

(17) "Tenant" means:

(a) a person entitled under a rental agreement to occupy a lot to the exclusion of others; or

(b) a person who, with the written approval of the landlord and pursuant to the rental agreement, has a sublease agreement with the person who is entitled to occupy the dwelling unit under the rental agreement.

(18) "Unauthorized person or trespasser" means a person who:

(a) enters or remains after being asked to leave by the landlord and does not receive written permission by the landlord to remain on the premises;

(b) is in violation of 45-6-201;

(c) is in violation of 45-6-203; or

(d) is in violation of 70-27-102.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 454, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-104. Applicability. (1) This chapter applies to landlord-tenant relationships in which the landlord is renting a lot to the tenant for placement of the tenant's mobile home. This chapter applies to land rental in a mobile home park as well as to the rental of individual parcels of land not in a mobile home park that are for the placement of a tenant's mobile home.

(2) Unless created to avoid the application of this chapter, the following arrangements are not governed by this chapter:

(a) occupancy under a contract of sale of a lot if the occupant is the purchaser or a person who succeeds to the purchaser's interest;

(b) occupancy under a rental agreement covering premises used by the occupant primarily for commercial or agricultural purposes;

(c) occupancy by an employee of a landlord whose right to occupancy is conditional upon employment in and about the premises;

(d) occupancy outside a municipality under a rental agreement that includes hunting, fishing, or agricultural privileges along with the use of the lot; and

(e) any rental premises that are governed by the Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977, Title 70, chapter 24.

(3) The combined rental of the lot and mobile home, when the landlord owns both, are covered by the Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act of 1977.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-105. Supplementary principles of law. Unless superseded by the provisions of this chapter, the principles of law and equity, including the law relating to capacity to contract, mutuality of obligations, principal and agent, real property, public health, safety and fire prevention, estoppel, fraud, misrepresentation, duress, coercion, mistake, bankruptcy, or other validating or invalidating causes, supplement the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-106. Notice. (1) A person has notice of a fact if:

(a) the person has actual knowledge of the fact;

(b) in the case of a landlord, the notice is delivered at the place of business of the landlord through which the rental agreement was made; or

(c) in the case of a landlord or tenant, the notice is personally delivered to the landlord or tenant or mailed with a certificate of mailing or by certified mail to the place held out by the landlord or tenant as the place for receipt of the communication or, in the absence of a designation, to the landlord's or tenant's last-known address. When notice is made by certificate of mailing or certified mail, the service of the notice must be considered to have been made 3 days after the date of mailing.

(2) Notice received by an organization is effective for a particular transaction from the time it is brought to the attention of the individual conducting that transaction on behalf of the organization and, in any event, from the time the notice would have been brought to the individual's attention if the organization had exercised reasonable diligence.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-107. Obligation of good faith. Every duty under this chapter and every act that must be performed as a condition precedent to the exercise of a right or remedy under this chapter imposes an obligation of good faith in its performance or enforcement.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-108. Notice of no contact. (1) Except as provided in 45-5-209, a notice of no contact to a landlord for the benefit of a tenant or to a tenant for the benefit of a landlord may only be authorized pursuant to an order of no contact issued by a court of competent jurisdiction if the person receiving the notice of no contact is acting in accordance with the provisions of Title 70, chapter 24, 25, or 33.

(2) Except as provided by 45-5-209 or this section, or if issued pursuant to an order of protection issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, a notice of no contact to a landlord for the benefit of a tenant or to a tenant for the benefit of a landlord is invalid.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2015.

70-33-109. Application of security deposit laws. The provisions of this chapter are cohesive with the provisions of Title 70, chapter 25, and the two chapters must be read in conjunction when considering, with regards to the Montana Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act, the rights and duties of landlords and tenants, and the availability of remedies and judicial relief to landlords and tenants.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 235, L. 2021.

70-33-110. Emotional support animals — documentation. (1) A tenant with a disability or a disability-related need for an emotional support animal may request and be approved by a landlord to keep an emotional support animal as a reasonable accommodation in housing.

(2) Unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, rule, or regulation, a landlord may:

(a) deny a reasonable accommodation request for an emotional support animal if the animal poses a direct threat to the safety or health of others or poses a direct threat of physical damage to the property that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation;

(b) if a tenant's disability-related need for an emotional support animal is not readily apparent, request supporting information that reasonably supports the tenant's need for the particular emotional support animal being requested. Supporting information may include:

(i) information from a health care practitioner who has personal knowledge of the tenant's disability and is acting within the scope of the practitioner's practice that identifies the particular assistance or therapeutic emotional support provided by the specific animal. Information submitted under this subsection (2)(b)(i) must include the effective date, license number, and type of professional license held by the health care practitioner; and

(ii) information from any other source that the landlord determines to be reliable in accordance with the federal Fair Housing Act and Title 49, chapter 2; and

(c) require proof of compliance with state and local licensure and vaccination requirements for each emotional support animal.

(3) If a tenant requests to keep more than one emotional support animal, information for each emotional support animal must be provided pursuant to subsection (2).

(4) A landlord:

(a) may not request information under this section that discloses a diagnosis or severity of a tenant's disability or any medical records relating to the disability, but a tenant may voluntarily disclose such information or medical records to the landlord at the tenant's discretion; and

(b) shall issue a written determination after receiving supplemental information required in subsection (2) and notice the determination pursuant to 70-33-106.

(5) An emotional support animal registration of any kind, including but not limited to an identification card, patch, certificate, or similar registration obtained electronically or in person, is not, by itself, sufficient information to reliably establish that a tenant has a disability-related need for an emotional support animal.

(6) A tenant with a disability-related need for an emotional support animal is liable for any damage done to the premises or to another person on the premises by the tenant's emotional support animal.

(7) A health care practitioner may be subject to disciplinary action from the health care practitioner's licensing board for a violation of this section.

(8) This section does not apply to a service animal as defined in 49-4-203.

(9) Nothing in this section may be construed to restrict existing federal law and state law related to a person's right to a reasonable accommodation and equal access to housing, including but not limited to the federal Fair Housing Act, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or Title 49, chapter 2.

(10) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Emotional support animal" means an animal that provides emotional, cognitive, or other similar support to an individual with a disability and does not need to be trained or certified. The term does not include service animals as defined in 49-4-203.

(b) "Health care practitioner" means a mental health professional as defined in 53-21-102 who:

(i) has established a client-provider relationship with a tenant at least 30 days prior to providing supporting information requested from a landlord regarding the tenant's need for an emotional support animal;

(ii) completes a clinical evaluation of a tenant regarding the need for an emotional support animal; and

(iii) is acting within the scope of practice of the person's license or certificate.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Rental Agreements

70-33-201. Rental agreements. (1) A landlord and a tenant may include in a rental agreement terms and conditions not prohibited by this chapter or other rule or law.

(2) Unless the rental agreement provides otherwise:

(a) the tenant shall pay as rent the rental value for the use and occupancy of the lot as determined by the landlord;

(b) rent is payable at the landlord's address or using electronic funds transfer to an account designated for the payment of rent by the landlord;

(c) periodic rent is payable at the beginning of a term that is a month or less and otherwise in equal monthly installments at the beginning of each month;

(d) rent is uniformly apportionable from day to day;

(e) the tenancy is from month to month; and

(f) if either party terminates the rental agreement without cause prior to the expiration date of the lease term, the aggrieved party is entitled to monetary damages up to 1 month's rent or an amount that is agreed on in the rental agreement, which may not exceed 1 month's rent. Landlords shall follow 70-33-426(2) and are entitled to rent from defaulting tenants up to the date a new tenancy starts or the date the rental agreement term expires.

(3) Rent is payable without demand or notice at the time and place agreed upon by the parties or as provided by subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-202. Prohibited provisions in rental agreements. (1) A rental agreement may not require a party to:

(a) waive or forego rights or remedies under this chapter;

(b) authorize any person to confess judgment on a claim arising out of the rental agreement; or

(c) agree to the exculpation or limitation of liability resulting from the other party's purposeful misconduct or negligence or to indemnify the other party for that liability or related costs or attorney fees.

(2) A rental agreement or a related document may not permit the receipt of rent free of the obligation to comply with the provisions of 70-33-303.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-203. Effect of unsigned or undelivered rental agreement. (1) If the landlord does not sign and deliver a written rental agreement that has already been signed by the tenant and delivered to the landlord, acceptance of rent without reservation by the landlord gives the rental agreement the same effect as if it had been signed and delivered by the landlord to the tenant.

(2) If the tenant does not sign and deliver to the landlord a written rental agreement that has already been signed by the landlord and delivered to the tenant, acceptance of possession of the premises and payment of rent without reservation by the tenant gives the rental agreement the same effect as if it had been signed and delivered by the tenant to the landlord.

(3) If a rental agreement given effect by the operation of this section provides for a term longer than 1 year, it is effective for only 1 year.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 220, L. 2017.

Part 3
Rights and Duties of Parties

70-33-301. Duty to disclose name of person responsible. (1) A landlord or a person authorized to enter into a rental agreement on a landlord's behalf shall disclose to the tenant in writing at or before the commencement of the tenancy the name and address of:

(a) the person authorized to manage the premises; and

(b) the owner of the premises or a person authorized to act for the owner for the purpose of service of process and receiving notices and demands.

(2) The information required to be furnished by this section must be kept current and in writing, and this section is enforceable against any successor landlord, owner, or manager.

(3) A person, other than the landlord, who fails to comply with subsection (1) becomes an agent of each person who is a landlord for the purpose of:

(a) service of process and receiving notices and demands; and

(b) performing the obligations of the landlord under this chapter and under the rental agreement and for expending or making available for the purpose of performing those obligations all rent collected from the premises.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-302. Landlord to deliver possession of premises. (1) At the commencement of the rental term, a landlord shall deliver possession of the premises to the tenant in compliance with the rental agreement and 70-33-303. A landlord may bring an action for possession against a person wrongfully in possession.

(2) If a landlord accepts rent or a deposit from a person intending to occupy the premises, the landlord is considered to have given consent for the person to take possession of the property and to have created a landlord-tenant relationship.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-303. Landlord to maintain premises — agreement that tenant perform duties. (1) A landlord shall:

(a) comply with the requirements of applicable building, housing, and health department codes materially affecting health and safety at the time of original construction;

(b) make repairs and do whatever is necessary to put and keep the premises in a fit and habitable condition except when it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain the dwelling unit pursuant to 70-33-321;

(c) keep all common areas of the premises in a clean and safe condition;

(d) for the premises, maintain in good and safe working order and condition all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, supplied or required to be supplied by the landlord;

(e) unless otherwise provided in a rental agreement, provide and maintain appropriate receptacles and conveniences for the removal of ashes, garbage, rubbish, and other waste incidental to the occupancy of the lot and arrange for their removal; and

(f) supply running water at all times unless the lot is not required by law to be equipped for that purpose or the running water is generated by an installation within the exclusive control of the tenant.

(2) If the duty imposed by subsection (1)(a) is greater than a duty imposed by subsections (1)(b) through (1)(f), a landlord's duty must be determined by reference to subsection (1)(a).

(3) A landlord and tenant may agree in writing that the tenant is to perform the landlord's duties specified in subsections (1)(e) and (1)(f) but only if the agreement is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord.

(4) A landlord and tenant may agree that the tenant is to perform specified repairs, maintenance tasks, alterations, or remodeling only if:

(a) the agreement of the parties is entered into in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord and is set forth in a separate writing signed by the parties and supported by adequate consideration;

(b) the work is not necessary to cure noncompliance with subsection (1)(a); and

(c) the agreement does not diminish the obligation of the landlord to other tenants.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-304. Transfer of premises or termination of management — relief from liability. (1) Unless otherwise agreed, a landlord who conveys premises subject to a rental agreement in a good faith sale to a bona fide purchaser is relieved of liability under the rental agreement and this chapter as to events occurring after written notice to the tenant of the conveyance. The landlord remains liable to the tenant for all security recoverable by the tenant pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25, and all prepaid rent.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed, a manager of premises subject to a rental agreement is relieved of liability under the rental agreement and this chapter as to events occurring after written notice to the tenant of the termination of the manager's management duties.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-305. Transfer of premises by tenant. (1) A tenant who vacates a lot during the term of a tenancy may not allow the possession of the property to be transferred to a third person or sublet the property unless the landlord or the landlord's agent has consented in writing.

(2) The sale or rental of a mobile home located upon a lot does not entitle the purchaser or renter to retain rental of the lot unless the purchaser or renter enters into a rental agreement with the owner of the lot.

(3) A mobile home owner who owns the mobile home but rents the lot has the exclusive right to sell the mobile home without interference or conditions by the landlord. The new purchaser shall make suitable arrangements with the landlord in order to become a tenant on the mobile home lot. The purchase of the mobile home does not automatically entitle the purchaser to rent the mobile home lot.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-306 through 70-33-310 reserved.

70-33-311. Landlord authorized to adopt rules. (1) A landlord may adopt a rule concerning the tenant's use and occupancy of the premises. A rule is enforceable against the tenant only if:

(a) its purpose is to promote the convenience, safety, or welfare of the occupants in the premises, preserve the landlord's property from abusive use, or make a fair distribution of services and facilities held out for the tenants generally;

(b) it is reasonably related to the purpose for which it is adopted;

(c) it applies to all occupants in the premises in a fair manner;

(d) it is sufficiently explicit in its prohibition, direction, or limitation of the tenant's conduct to fairly inform the tenant of what the tenant shall or may not do to comply;

(e) it is not for the purpose of evading the obligations of the landlord; and

(f) the tenant has notice of the rule at the time that the tenant enters into the rental agreement or when the rule is adopted.

(2) A rule adopted by a landlord must be in writing and must be given to each tenant residing on the premises and to each new tenant upon arrival.

(3) If a rule is adopted after a tenant enters into a rental agreement that involves a substantial modification of the rental agreement, it is not valid until after 30 days' written notice in the case of month-to-month tenancies.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-312. Access to premises by landlord. (1) A tenant may not unreasonably withhold consent to the landlord or the landlord's agent to enter the lot in order to inspect the premises, make necessary or agreed repairs, alterations, or improvements, supply necessary or agreed services, or exhibit the lot to prospective or actual purchasers, mortgagees, tenants, workers, or contractors.

(2) A landlord may enter the lot without consent of the tenant in case of emergency.

(3) (a) A landlord may not abuse the right of access or use it to harass the tenant. Except in case of emergency or unless it is impracticable to do so, the landlord shall give the tenant at least 24 hours' notice of the intent to enter and may enter only at reasonable times.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (3), in addition to the provisions of 70-33-106, a tenant has notice of the intent to enter if the landlord conspicuously posts the landlord's intent to enter on the main entry door of the dwelling unit.

(4) A landlord has no other right of access except:

(a) pursuant to a court order;

(b) as permitted by 70-33-425 and 70-33-426(1)(b); or

(c) when the tenant has abandoned or surrendered the premises.

(5) A tenant may not remove a lock or replace or add a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises without the written permission of the landlord. If a tenant removes a lock or replaces or adds a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises, the tenant shall provide the landlord with a key to ensure that the landlord will have the right of access as provided by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-313. Lot rules. (1) A landlord may adopt a rule concerning the rental occupancy of a lot and the use of common areas and facilities in accordance with 70-33-311. A rule may not be unreasonable, and a rule that does not apply uniformly to all tenants of a similar class creates a rebuttable presumption, as defined in 70-33-431(3), that the rule is unfair.

(2) Each common area facility must be open or available to residents at all reasonable hours, and the hours of a common recreational facility must be posted at the facility.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-314. Resident associations — meetings. (1) The membership of a resident association may elect officers of the association at a meeting at which a majority of the members are present. All residents may attend meetings, but the landlord and the landlord's employees may not be members and may not attend meetings unless specifically invited by the tenants' resident association. The landlord may not interfere with or prevent the attendance of an invitee at a resident association's meeting.

(2) The landlord may not prohibit meetings by a resident association or tenants relating to:

(a) mobile home living; or

(b) the future plans for the mobile home park, including sale or change of use.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 211, L. 2009.

70-33-315. Road maintenance obligations. In addition to the obligations imposed by 70-33-303, the mobile home park landlord shall maintain common roads within the mobile home park in a safe condition, including arranging for snow plowing as is reasonable to keep the roads passable.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-316 through 70-33-320 reserved.

70-33-321. Tenant to maintain lot. (1) A tenant shall:

(a) comply with all obligations primarily imposed upon tenants by applicable provisions of building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety;

(b) keep that part of the premises that the tenant occupies and uses as reasonably clean and safe as the condition of the premises permits;

(c) dispose of all ashes, garbage, rubbish, and other waste from the lot in a clean and safe manner;

(d) use in a reasonable manner all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and other facilities and appliances, including elevators, in the premises;

(e) conduct oneself and require other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent to conduct themselves in a manner that will not disturb the tenant's neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of the premises; and

(f) use the parts of the premises in a reasonable manner considering the purposes for which they were designed and intended.

(2) This section does not preclude the right of the tenant to operate a limited business or cottage industry on the premises, subject to state and local laws, if the landlord has consented in writing. The landlord may not unreasonably withhold consent if the limited business or cottage industry is operated within reasonable rules of the landlord.

(3) A tenant may not destroy, deface, damage, impair, or remove any part of the premises or permit any person to do so.

(4) A tenant may not engage or knowingly allow any person to engage in any activity on the premises that creates a reasonable potential that the premises may be damaged or destroyed or that neighboring tenants may be injured by any of the following:

(a) criminal production or manufacture of dangerous drugs, as prohibited by 45-9-110;

(b) operation of an unlawful clandestine laboratory, as prohibited by 45-9-132;

(c) gang-related activities, as prohibited by Title 45, chapter 8, part 4;

(d) unlawful possession of a firearm, explosive, or hazardous or toxic substance; or

(e) any activity that is otherwise prohibited by law.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-322. Notice of extended absence. The rental agreement may require that the tenant notify the landlord of an anticipated extended absence from the premises in excess of 7 days not later than the first day of the extended absence.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

Part 4
Remedies

70-33-401. Administration of remedies — enforcement — agreement. (1) The remedies provided by this chapter must be administered so that an aggrieved party may recover appropriate damages. The aggrieved party has a duty to mitigate damages. The aggrieved party may include a reasonable charge for the party's labor.

(2) A right or obligation declared by this chapter is enforceable by action unless the provision declaring it specifies a different and limited effect. Nothing in this chapter prohibits the assignment of a right or the claim of a right by either landlord or tenant. The landlord's or tenant's defenses and obligations may not be affected by an assignment.

(3) Rules and regulations that are not a part of this chapter and that affect the relationship between the landlord and tenant must be uniformly and fairly applied and enforced.

(4) A claim or right arising under this chapter or on a rental agreement, if disputed in good faith, may be settled by agreement.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-402. Prohibited provisions — damages. (1) A provision prohibited by 70-33-202 that is included in a rental agreement is unenforceable.

(2) If one party purposefully uses a rental agreement containing provisions known by that party to be prohibited, the other party may recover, in addition to actual damages, an amount up to 3 months' rent.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-403. Unconscionability — court discretion. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the court, as a matter of law, finds that:

(a) a rental agreement or any provision of the rental agreement is unconscionable, the court, in order to avoid an unconscionable result, may refuse to enforce the agreement or may enforce the remainder of the agreement without the unconscionable provision result; or

(b) a settlement in which a party waives or agrees to forego a claim or right under this chapter or under a rental agreement is unconscionable, the court, in order to avoid an unconscionable result, may refuse to enforce the settlement, may enforce the remainder of the settlement without the unconscionable provision, or may limit the application of any unconscionable provision.

(2) A finding pursuant to subsection (1) may not be made based on a responsibility outlined in a rental agreement that:

(a) a tenant maintain a lot in accordance with 70-33-321; or

(b) a landlord maintain the premises in accordance with 70-33-303.

(3) If unconscionability is put into issue by a party or by the court upon its own motion, the parties must be afforded a reasonable opportunity to present evidence as to the setting, purpose, and effect of the rental agreement or settlement to aid the court in making its determination.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 236, L. 2021.

70-33-404. Landlord's failure to deliver premises — tenant's remedies. (1) If the landlord fails to deliver possession of the lot to the tenant as provided in 70-33-302, rent abates until possession is delivered and the tenant may:

(a) terminate the rental agreement upon at least 5 days' written notice to the landlord and, upon termination, the landlord shall return all prepaid rent and security; or

(b) demand performance of the rental agreement by the landlord and, if the tenant elects, maintain an action for possession of the lot against the landlord or a person wrongfully in possession and recover the actual damages sustained by the tenant.

(2) If a person's failure to deliver possession is purposeful and not in good faith, an aggrieved party may recover from that person an amount of not more than 3 months' rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-405. Landlord's failure to maintain premises — tenant's remedies. (1) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, if there is a noncompliance with 70-33-303 affecting health and safety, the following procedures apply:

(a) The tenant may deliver a written notice to the landlord specifying the nature of the breach and that the rental agreement will terminate upon a date not less than 30 days after receipt of the notice if the breach is not remedied in 14 days. If the noncompliance results in a case of emergency and the landlord fails to remedy the situation within 3 working days after written notice by the tenant of the situation and the tenant's intention to terminate the rental agreement, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement. The rental agreement terminates as provided in the notice subject to the following exceptions:

(i) if the breach is remediable by repairs, the payment of damages, or otherwise and the landlord adequately remedies the breach before the date specified in the notice, the rental agreement does not terminate by reason of the breach;

(ii) if substantially the same act or omission that constituted a prior noncompliance of which notice was given recurs within 6 months, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement upon at least 14 days' written notice specifying the breach and the date of termination of the rental agreement;

(iii) the tenant may not terminate the rental agreement for a condition caused by the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or any other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent.

(b) (i) The tenant may make repairs that do not cost more than 1 month's rent and deduct the cost from the rent if the tenant has given the landlord notice and the landlord has not made the repairs within a reasonable time. If the repair is required in a case of emergency and the landlord has not made the repairs, the tenant may have repairs made only by a person qualified to make the repairs.

(ii) If the landlord fails to comply with the rental agreement or 70-33-303 and the reasonable cost of compliance is less than 1 month's rent, the tenant may recover damages for the breach under subsection (2).

(2) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, the tenant may recover actual damages and obtain injunctive relief for any noncompliance by the landlord with the rental agreement or 70-33-303.

(3) The remedy provided in subsection (2) is in addition to a right of the tenant arising under subsection (1).

(4) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall return all security recoverable by the tenant pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 267, L. 2007.**

70-33-406. Landlord's failure to provide essential services — tenant's remedies. (1) If contrary to the rental agreement or 70-33-303 the landlord purposefully or negligently fails to supply running water, electric, gas, or other essential services, the tenant may give written notice to the landlord specifying the breach and may:

(a) procure reasonable amounts of running water, electricity, gas, and other essential services during the period of the landlord's noncompliance and deduct the actual and reasonable cost from the rent;

(b) recover damages based upon the diminution in the fair rental value of the lot; or

(c) procure reasonable substitute housing during the period of the landlord's noncompliance, in which case the tenant is excused from paying rent for the period of the landlord's noncompliance.

(2) A tenant proceeding under this section may not proceed under 70-33-405 for a landlord's failure to provide essential services.

(3) The rights of a tenant under this section do not arise until the tenant has given notice to the landlord and the landlord has had a reasonable opportunity to correct the conditions.

(4) A tenant does not have rights under this section if the conditions were caused by the act or omission of the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or any other person on the premises with the tenant's consent.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 267, L. 2007.**

70-33-407. Fire or casualty damage — rights and obligations of tenant. (1) (a) If the lot or premises are damaged or destroyed by fire or casualty to an extent that enjoyment of the lot is substantially impaired, the tenant may immediately vacate the premises and notify the landlord in writing within 14 days of vacating the premises that it is the tenant's intention to terminate the rental agreement.

(b) If the tenant complies with the provisions of subsection (1)(a), the rental agreement terminates as of the date the tenant vacates the premises.

(2) If the rental agreement is terminated pursuant to subsection (1), the landlord shall return any prepaid rent and all security recoverable pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25. Accounting or apportionment for rent in the event of termination must be made as of the date of the fire or casualty.

(3) If the tenant's mobile home is damaged or destroyed by fire or casualty to an extent that enjoyment of the mobile home is substantially impaired and 70-33-430 does not apply, it is the obligation of the mobile home owner to remove the mobile home from the lot within 30 days of the damage or destruction.

(4) All terms and conditions of the rental agreement remain in effect until the mobile home is removed from the premises and all required cleanup is completed.

History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 267, L. 2007.**

70-33-408. Unlawful or unreasonable entry by landlord — tenant's remedies. If the landlord makes an unlawful entry or a lawful entry in an unreasonable manner or makes repeated demands for entry that is otherwise lawful but has the effect of unreasonably harassing the tenant, the tenant may either obtain injunctive relief to prevent the recurrence of the conduct or terminate the rental agreement. In either case the tenant may recover actual damages.

History: **En. Sec. 36, Ch. 267, L. 2007.**

70-33-409. Unlawful ouster, exclusion, or diminution of services — tenant's remedies. (1) If a landlord unlawfully removes or excludes the tenant from the premises or purposefully diminishes services to the tenant by interrupting or causing the interruption of running water, electricity, gas, or other essential services, the tenant may recover possession or terminate the rental agreement and, in either case, recover an amount of not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

(2) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall return all security recoverable pursuant to Title 70, chapter 25, and any prepaid rent.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-410. Action for nonpayment of rent — tenant's counterclaim. (1) (a) In an action for possession based upon nonpayment of the rent or in an action for rent when the tenant is in possession, the tenant may counterclaim for any amount recoverable under the rental agreement or this chapter.

(b) (i) The court may order the tenant to pay into court all or part of the rent accrued and afterwards accruing, and the court shall determine the amount due to each party.

(ii) A party to whom a net amount is owed must be paid first from the money paid into court, and the balance must be paid by the other party.

(iii) The court may at any time release money paid into the court to any party if the parties agree or if the court finds a party is entitled to the money.

(c) If there is no rent remaining due after application of this section, judgment must be entered for the tenant in an action for possession.

(2) In an action for rent when the tenant is not in possession, the tenant may counterclaim as provided in subsection (1) but may not be required to pay any rent into court.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-411 through 70-33-421 reserved.

70-33-422. Noncompliance of tenant generally — landlord's right of termination — damages — injunction. (1) If the tenant destroys, defaces, damages, impairs, or removes any part of the premises in violation of 70-33-321(3), the landlord may terminate the rental agreement upon giving 3 days' written notice specifying the noncompliance under the provisions of 70-33-321(3). If the landlord terminates the rental agreement, the tenant shall vacate the premises on termination of the agreement.

(2) If the tenant creates a reasonable potential that the premises may be damaged or destroyed or that neighboring tenants may be injured, as evidenced by the tenant being arrested or charged with an act that violates the provisions of 70-33-321(4), the landlord may terminate the rental agreement upon giving 3 days' written notice specifying the violation and noncompliance under the provisions of 70-33-321(4). If the landlord terminates the rental agreement, the tenant shall vacate the premises on termination of the agreement.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the landlord may recover actual damages and obtain injunctive relief for any noncompliance by the tenant with the rental agreement or 70-33-321. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, if the tenant's noncompliance is purposeful, the landlord may recover treble damages.

(4) Treble damages may not be recovered for the tenant's early termination of the tenancy.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 236, L. 2021.

70-33-423. Waiver of landlord's right to termination. (1) Acceptance by the landlord of full payment of rent due is a waiver of a claimed breach of a rental agreement only when the claimed breach is the nonpayment of rent.

(2) Acceptance of full payment of rent due when a claimed breach is something other than the nonpayment of rent does not constitute a waiver of any right.

(3) The acceptance of partial payment of rent due does not constitute a waiver of any right, including rent due.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 236, L. 2021.

70-33-424. Refusal of access — landlord's remedies. (1) If the tenant refuses to allow lawful access, the landlord may issue a 24-hour notice to correct or obtain immediate injunctive relief to compel access. In either case, the landlord may recover actual damages. If the 24-hour notice to correct is not remedied, the landlord may issue a 3-day notice to terminate the rental agreement.

(2) If a tenant removes a lock or replaces or adds a lock not supplied by the landlord to the premises and fails to provide a key as required by 70-33-312(5), the landlord may issue a 24-hour notice to correct or obtain immediate injunctive relief. If the 24-hour notice to correct is not remedied, the landlord may issue a 3-day notice to terminate the rental agreement.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-33-425. Tenant's failure to maintain lot — landlord's right to enter and repair. If there is noncompliance by the tenant with 70-33-321 affecting health and safety that can be remedied by repair, replacement of a damaged item, or cleaning and the tenant fails to comply as promptly as conditions require in case of emergency or within 14 days after written notice by the landlord specifying the breach and requesting that the tenant remedy the breach within that period of time, the landlord may enter the lot and cause the work to be done in a competent manner and submit an itemized bill for the actual and reasonable cost, the fair and reasonable cost, or the fair and reasonable value of the work as rent on the next date rent is due or, if the rental agreement has terminated, for immediate payment.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-426. Remedies for absence or abandonment. (1) (a) If the rental agreement requires the tenant to give notice to the landlord of an anticipated extended absence in excess of 7 days, as provided for in 70-33-322, and the tenant fails to do so, the landlord may recover actual damages from the tenant.

(b) During an absence of the tenant in excess of 7 days, the landlord may enter the lot when reasonably necessary.

(2) (a) If the tenant abandons the lot, the landlord shall make reasonable efforts to rent the lot at a fair rental. If the landlord rents the lot for a term beginning before the expiration of the rental agreement, the rental agreement terminates as of the date of the new tenancy.

(b) If the landlord fails to use reasonable efforts to rent the lot at a fair rental or if the landlord accepts the abandonment as a surrender, the rental agreement is terminated by the landlord as of the date the landlord has notice of the abandonment.

(c) If the tenancy is from month to month or week to week, the term of the rental agreement for the purposes of this subsection (2) is a month or a week, as appropriate.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-427. Landlord's remedies after termination — action for possession. (1) If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord has a claim for possession, rent, and actual damages for any breach of the rental agreement.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), an action filed pursuant to subsection (1) in a court must be heard within 10 business days after the tenant's appearance or the answer date stated in the summons, except that if the rental agreement is terminated because of noncompliance under 70-33-321(4), the action must be heard within 5 business days after the tenant's appearance or the answer date stated in the summons.

(b) If the action is appealed to the district court, the hearing must be held within 10 business days after the case is transmitted to the district court, except that if the rental agreement is terminated because of noncompliance under 70-33-321(4), the hearing must be held within 5 business days after the case is transmitted to district court.

(c) A hearing for damages for any breach of the rental agreement must be held within 45 days after the claim of possessions and rent has been adjudicated.

(3) The landlord and tenant may stipulate to a continuance of the hearing beyond the time limit in subsection (2) without the necessity of an undertaking.

(4) In a landlord's action for possession filed pursuant to subsection (1), the court shall rule on the action within 5 days after the hearing. If a landlord's claim for possession is granted, the court shall issue a writ of possession immediately.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 454, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-33-428. Landlord's recovery of possession limited. Except in the case of abandonment or surrender or as permitted in this chapter, a landlord may not recover or take possession of the lot by action or otherwise, including purposeful diminution of services to the tenant by interrupting or causing the interruption of running water, electricity, gas, or other essential services.

History: En. Sec. 45, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-429. Holdover remedies — consent to continued occupancy. (1) If the tenant remains in possession without the landlord's consent after expiration of the term of the rental agreement or other termination of the rental agreement, the landlord may bring an action for possession.

(2) If the term is longer than month-to month and the landlord terminates the agreement with cause and the tenant's holdover is purposeful and not in good faith, the landlord may recover an amount of not more than 3 months' rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

(3) If the term of the rental is month-to-month and the landlord terminates the rental agreement without cause and issues a lawful 30-day notice and the tenant remains in the rental unit after the termination date, then the holdover is purposeful and the landlord may recover an amount not more than 3 months' periodic rent or treble damages, whichever is greater.

(4) In an action for possession or unlawful holdover, the provisions of the Montana Justice and City Court Rules of Civil Procedure, Title 25, chapter 23, apply, except that the time for filing an answer under Rule 4C(2)(b) is 5 business days after service of summons and complaint, exclusive of the date of service.

(5) If the landlord consents to the tenant's continued occupancy, 70-33-201(2)(e) applies.

History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 715, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 715, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

70-33-430. Disposition of abandoned personal property. (1) (a) If a tenancy terminates by court order, the personal property is considered abandoned and the landlord may immediately dispose of the personal property as allowed by law.

(b) If a tenancy terminates in any manner other than by court order, if the landlord reasonably believes that the tenant has abandoned all personal property that the tenant has left on the premises, and if at least 48 hours have elapsed since the occurrence of the events upon which the landlord has based the belief of abandonment, the landlord may remove the property from the premises.

(2) The landlord shall inventory and store all personal property of the tenant in a place of safekeeping and shall exercise reasonable care for the property. The landlord may charge a reasonable storage and labor charge if the property is stored by the landlord, plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage. The landlord may store the property in a commercial storage company, in which case the storage cost includes the actual storage charge plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage.

(3) After complying with subsections (1) and (2), the landlord shall:

(a) make a reasonable attempt to notify the tenant in writing that the property must be removed from the place of safekeeping;

(b) notify the local law enforcement office of the property held by the landlord;

(c) make a reasonable effort to determine if the property is secured or otherwise encumbered; and

(d) send a notice by certified mail to the last-known address of the tenant and each known party having a lien or encumbrance of record, stating that at a specified time, not less than 15 days after mailing the notice, the property will be disposed of if not removed.

(4) The landlord may dispose of the property after complying with subsection (3) by:

(a) selling all or part of the property at a public or private sale; or

(b) destroying or otherwise disposing of all or part of the property if the landlord reasonably believes that the value of the property is so low that the cost of storage or sale exceeds the reasonable value of the property.

(5) (a) If the tenant, upon receipt of the notice provided in subsection (3), responds in writing to the landlord on or before the day specified in the notice that the tenant intends to remove the property and does not do so within 7 days after delivery of the tenant's response, the tenant's property is conclusively presumed to be abandoned.

(b) If the tenant removes the property, the landlord is entitled to storage costs for the period that the property remains in safekeeping, plus the cost of removal of the property to the place of storage. Reasonable storage costs are allowed to a landlord who stores the property, and actual storage costs are allowed to a landlord who stores the property in a commercial storage company. A landlord is entitled to payment of the storage costs allowed under this subsection before the tenant may remove the property.

(6) The landlord is not responsible for any loss to the tenant resulting from storage unless the loss is caused by the landlord's purposeful or negligent act, in which case the landlord is liable for actual damages.

(7) A public or private sale authorized by this section must be conducted under the provisions of 30-9A-610 or the sheriff's sale provisions of Title 25, chapter 13, part 7.

(8) The landlord may deduct from the proceeds of the sale the reasonable costs of notice, storage, labor, and sale and, subject to any prior security interest of record, any delinquent rent or damages owing on the premises. The landlord shall remit to the tenant the remaining proceeds, if any, together with an itemized accounting. If the tenant cannot after due diligence be found, the remaining proceeds must be deposited with the county treasurer of the county in which the sale occurred and, if not claimed within 3 years, must revert to the general fund of the county.

(9) The landlord shall ensure that the terms of this section are included in plain and understandable language as a notification upon termination of the lease or rental agreement.

History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-431. Retaliatory conduct by landlord prohibited. (1) Except as provided in this section, a landlord may not retaliate by increasing rent, by decreasing services, or by bringing or threatening to bring an action for possession after the tenant:

(a) has complained of a violation applicable to the premises materially affecting health and safety to a governmental agency charged with responsibility for enforcement of a building or housing code;

(b) has complained to the landlord in writing of a violation under 70-33-303; or

(c) has organized or become a member of a tenant's union, mobile home park resident association, or similar organization.

(2) If the landlord acts in violation of subsection (1) of this section, the tenant is entitled to the remedies provided in 70-33-409 and has a defense in any retaliatory action against the tenant for possession.

(3) In an action by or against the tenant, evidence of a complaint within 6 months before the alleged act of retaliation creates a rebuttable presumption that the landlord's conduct was in retaliation. The presumption does not arise if the tenant made the complaint after notice of a proposed rent increase or diminution of services. For purposes of this subsection, "rebuttable presumption" means that the trier of fact is required to find the existence of the fact presumed unless evidence is introduced that would support a finding of its nonexistence.

(4) Subsections (1) through (3) do not prevent a landlord from bringing an action for possession if:

(a) the violation of the applicable building or housing code was caused primarily by lack of reasonable care by the tenant, a member of the tenant's family, or any other persons on the premises with the tenant's consent;

(b) the tenant is in default in rent; or

(c) compliance with the applicable building or housing code requires alteration, remodeling, or demolition that would effectively deprive the tenant of use of the lot.

(5) The maintenance of an action under subsection (4) of this section does not release the landlord from liability under 70-33-404(2).

History: En. Sec. 48, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-432. Disposition of abandoned mobile home. (1) If a tenancy terminates, if the landlord reasonably believes that the tenant has abandoned a mobile home occupying a mobile home lot, and if at least 5 days have elapsed since the occurrence of events upon which the landlord has formed the belief that the mobile home has been abandoned, the landlord may remove the mobile home from the premises or keep the mobile home stored on the premises.

(2) If the landlord does not keep the mobile home stored on the premises, the landlord shall store the mobile home in a place of safekeeping and in either case shall exercise reasonable care for the mobile home. The landlord may charge the mobile home owner reasonable removal and storage charges.

(3) Regardless of where the landlord stores the mobile home, the landlord shall:

(a) notify the local law enforcement office of the storage;

(b) make a reasonable effort to determine if the mobile home is secured or otherwise encumbered; and

(c) send a notice by certified mail to the last-known address of the mobile home owner and to any person or entity the landlord determines has an interest referred to in subsection (3)(b), stating that at a specified time, not less than 15 days after mailing the notice, the mobile home will be disposed of if the mobile home owner does not respond and remove the mobile home.

(4) If the mobile home owner, within 15 days after receipt of the notice provided for in subsection (3)(c), responds in writing to the landlord that the owner intends to remove the mobile home from where it is stored and does not do so within 20 days after delivery of the owner's response, the mobile home may be conclusively presumed to be abandoned. A landlord is entitled to payment of the removal and storage costs allowed under subsection (2) before the owner may remove the mobile home.

(5) The landlord may dispose of the mobile home after complying with subsection (3) by:

(a) selling the mobile home at a public or private sale; or

(b) destroying or otherwise disposing of the mobile home if the landlord reasonably believes that the value of the mobile home is so low that the cost of a sale would exceed the reasonable value of the mobile home. Disposal may include having the mobile home removed to an appropriate disposal site.

(6) A public or private sale authorized by this section must be conducted under the provisions of 30-9A-610 or the sheriff's sale provisions of Title 25, chapter 13, part 7.

(7) The landlord has a lien on the mobile home and the proceeds of a sale conducted pursuant to subsection (6) for the reasonable costs of removal, storage, notice, sale, or delinquent rent or damages owing on the premises. The sale proceeds are subject to any prior security interest of record. A writing or recording is not necessary to create the lien provided for in this section. In the case of a sheriff's sale, the sheriff shall conduct the sale upon receipt of an affidavit from the landlord stating facts sufficient to warrant a sale under this section. After satisfaction of the lien, the landlord shall remit to the mobile home owner the remaining proceeds, if any. If the owner cannot after due diligence be found, the remaining proceeds must be deposited in the general fund of the county in which the sale occurred and, if not claimed within 3 years, are forfeited to the county.

History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

70-33-433. Grounds for termination of rental agreement. (1) If there is a noncompliance by the tenant with the rental agreement or with a provision of 70-33-321, the landlord may deliver a written notice to the tenant pursuant to 70-33-106 specifying the acts or omissions constituting the noncompliance and stating that the rental agreement will terminate upon the date specified in the notice that may not be less than the minimum number of days after receipt of the notice provided for in this section. The rental agreement terminates as provided in the notice for one or more of the following reasons and subject to the following conditions:

(a) nonpayment of rent, late charges, or common area maintenance fees as established in the rental agreement, for which the notice period is 7 days;

(b) a violation of a rule other than provided for in subsection (1)(a) that does not create an immediate threat to the health and safety of any other tenant or the landlord or manager, for which the notice period is 14 days;

(c) a violation of a rule that creates an immediate threat to the health and safety of any other tenant or the landlord or manager, for which the notice period is 24 hours;

(d) late payment of rent, late charges, or common area maintenance fees, as established in the rental agreement, three or more times within a 12-month period if written notice is given by the landlord after each failure to pay, as required by subsection (1)(a), for which the notice period for termination for the final late payment is 30 days;

(e) a violation of a rule that creates an immediate threat to the health and safety of any other tenant or the landlord or manager whether or not notice was given pursuant to subsection (1)(c) and the violation was remedied as provided in subsection (3), for which the notice period is 14 days;

(f) two or more violations within a 6-month period of the same rule for which notice has been given for each prior violation, as provided in subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c), for which the notice period for the final violation is 30 days;

(g) two or more violations of 70-33-321(1) within a 6-month period, for which the notice period for the final violation is 14 days;

(h) any violation of 70-33-321(3), for which the notice period is as provided in 70-33-422(1);

(i) disorderly conduct that results in disruption of the rights of others to the peaceful enjoyment and use of the premises, for which the notice period is 7 days;

(j) any other noncompliance or violation not covered by subsections (1)(a) through (1)(i) that endangers other tenants or mobile home park personnel or the landlord or manager or causes substantial damage to the premises, for which the notice period is 14 days;

(k) conviction of the mobile home owner or a tenant of the mobile home owner of a violation of a federal or state law or local ordinance, when the violation is detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants or the landlord or manager or the landlord's documentation of a violation of the provisions of Title 45, chapter 9, for which the notice period is 14 days;

(l) changes in the use of the land if the requirements of subsection (2) are met, for which the notice period is 180 days;

(m) any legitimate business reason not covered elsewhere in this subsection (1) if the landlord meets the following requirements:

(i) the termination does not violate a provision of this section or any other state statute; and

(ii) the landlord has given the mobile home owner or tenant of the mobile home owner a minimum of 90 days' written notice of the termination.

(2) If a landlord plans to change the use of all or part of the premises from mobile home lot rentals to some other use, each affected mobile home owner must receive notice from the landlord as follows:

(a) The landlord shall give the mobile home owner and a tenant of the mobile home owner at least 15 days' written notice that the landlord will be appearing before a unit of local government to request permits for a change of use of the premises.

(b) After all required permits requesting a change of use have been approved by the unit of local government, the landlord shall give the mobile home owner and a tenant of the mobile home owner 6 months' written notice of termination of tenancy. If the change of use does not require local government permits, the landlord shall give the written notice at least 6 months prior to the change of use. In the notice the landlord shall disclose and describe in detail the nature of the change of use.

(c) Prior to entering a rental agreement during the 6-month notice period referred to in subsection (2)(b), the landlord shall give each prospective mobile home owner and any tenant of the mobile home owner whose identity and address have been provided to the landlord written notice that the landlord is requesting a change in use before a unit of local government or that a change in use has been approved.

(3) Subject to the right to terminate in subsections (1)(d) through (1)(k), if the noncompliance described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c) is remediable by repairs, the payment of damages, or otherwise and the tenant adequately remedies the noncompliance before the date specified in the notice, the rental agreement does not terminate as a result of that noncompliance.

(4) For purposes of calculating the total number of notices given within a 12-month period under subsection (1)(d), only one notice for each violation per month may be included in the calculation.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 267, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 536, L. 2021.

70-33-434. Attorney fees — costs. In an action on a rental agreement or arising under this chapter, reasonable attorney fees, together with costs and necessary disbursements, may be awarded to the prevailing party notwithstanding an agreement to the contrary.

History: En. Sec. 51, Ch. 267, L. 2007.

TITLE 71

MORTGAGES, PLEDGES, AND LIENS

Ch.
1. Mortgages.
2. Pledges.
3. Liens.

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Montana Title Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 25.

71-1-101. Definition. "Mortgage" is a contract by which specific property is hypothecated for the performance of an act, without the necessity of a change of possession.

History: En. Sec. 3810, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5731, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8246, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2920; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1608; re-en. Sec. 8246, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-101.

Cross-References

"Mortgage" used in reference to security interest in personal property to include security interest under U.C.C., 1-1-205.
Security interest defined, 30-1-201.

71-1-102. Power of attorney to execute. A power of attorney to execute a mortgage must be in writing, subscribed, acknowledged or proved, certified, and recorded in like manner as powers of attorney for grants of real property.

History: En. Sec. 3822, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5743, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8258, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2933; re-en. Sec. 8258, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-113.

Cross-References

Discharge or release by other than mortgagee, 71-1-213.
Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

71-1-103. Mortgage a special lien — on what a lien. (1) The lien of a mortgage is special, unless otherwise expressly agreed, and is independent of possession.

(2) A mortgage is a lien upon everything that would pass by a grant of the property.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3812, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5733, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8248, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2923; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1609; re-en. Sec. 8248, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 52-103, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3815, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5736, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8251, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2926; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1617; re-en. Sec. 8251, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 52-106, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-103, 52-106.

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

71-1-104. Mortgage not a personal obligation. A mortgage does not bind the mortgagor personally to perform the act for the performance of which it is a security unless there is an express covenant therein to that effect.

History: En. Sec. 3817, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5738, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8253, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2928; re-en. Sec. 8253, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-108.

Cross-References

Defendants personally liable — foreclosure proceedings, 71-1-222.

71-1-105. Mortgagee not entitled to possession. A mortgage does not entitle the mortgagee to the possession of the property unless authorized by the express terms of the mortgage, but after the execution of the mortgage, the mortgagor may agree to such change of possession without a new consideration.

History: En. Sec. 3816, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5737, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8252, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2927; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1620; re-en. Sec. 8252, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-107.

71-1-106. Waste prohibited. No person whose interest is subject to the lien of a mortgage may do any act which will substantially impair the mortgagee's security.

History: En. Sec. 3818, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5739, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8254, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2929; re-en. Sec. 8254, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-109.

Cross-References

Injunction to prevent injury to property, 71-1-227.

71-1-107. Transfers of interest. (1) Every transfer of an interest in property, other than in trust, made only as a security for the performance of another act is to be deemed a mortgage, except when in the case of personal property it is accompanied by actual change of possession, in which case it is deemed a pledge.

(2) The fact that a transfer was made subject to defeasance on a condition may, for the purpose of showing such transfer to be a mortgage, be proved (except as against a subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer for value and without notice), though the fact does not appear by the terms of the instrument.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3813, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5734, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8249, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2924; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1610; re-en. Sec. 8249, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 52-104, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 3814, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5735, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8250, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2925; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1612; re-en. Sec. 8250, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 52-105, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-104, 52-105.

71-1-108. Subsequently acquired title. Title acquired by the mortgagor subsequent to the execution of the mortgage inures to the mortgagee as security for the debt in like manner as if acquired before the execution.

History: En. Sec. 3819, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5740, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8255, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2930; re-en. Sec. 8255, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-110.

71-1-109. Mortgage of property adversely held. A mortgage may be created upon property held adversely to the mortgagor.

History: En. Sec. 3811, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5732, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8247, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1614; re-en. Sec. 8247, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-102.

71-1-110. Passage of mortgage by assignment of debt. The assignment of a debt secured by mortgage carries with it the security.

History: En. Sec. 3825, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5746, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8261, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2936; re-en. Sec. 8261, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-115.

71-1-111. Power of sale. A power of sale may be conferred by a mortgage upon the mortgagee or any other person, to be exercised after a breach of the obligation for which the mortgage is a security.

History: En. Sec. 3821, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5742, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8257, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2932; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1615; re-en. Sec. 8257, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-112.

Cross-References

Power of sale, 71-1-223.

71-1-112. Applicable laws. (1) In the event of conflict between any provision of this part and the Uniform Commercial Code, the latter shall govern.

(2) All mortgages and deeds of trust covering both real and personal property executed by a corporation, association, or partnership or by an individual or individuals are governed by the law relating to mortgages or deeds of trust of real property so far as the real property is concerned and by the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions so far as the personal property is concerned.

History: (1)En. 52-117 by Sec. 11-133, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 52-117, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3849, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5756, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8273, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-134, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 52-212, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-117, 52-212.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code, Title 30, ch. 1 through 9A.

71-1-113. Limit on the amount of funds on reserve. Except as provided in 71-1-114, if a lending institution requires a borrower under a mortgage or trust indenture of real property to include in the borrower's regular payment additional payment into a reserve fund held by the lending institution for the future payment of property taxes, insurance premiums, and other expenses, the amount of funds on reserve may not exceed 110% of the projected amount needed to pay those expenses.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2238, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-114. Exception to limitation. If the borrower desires, the lending institution and borrower may enter into a written contract in which they agree that the funds on reserve exceed 110% of the reasonable amount needed to pay such expenses.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 1979.

71-1-115. Record of reserve fund required. Every lending institution shall keep an itemized record of each payment entered into the reserve fund and each disbursement withdrawn from the reserve fund. The lending institution shall annually mail a statement of total receipts and disbursements to each borrower under a mortgage or trust indenture of real property.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 490, L. 1979.

Part 2
Mortgages of Real Property

Part Cross-References

Montana Title Insurance Act, Title 33, ch. 25.

71-1-201. What real property may be mortgaged — debts secured. Any interest in real property which is capable of being transferred may be mortgaged. Such property or interest may be mortgaged to secure existing debts, to secure debts created simultaneously with the execution of the mortgage, and to secure advances then in contemplation but to be made in the future.

History: En. Sec. 3840, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5747, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2947; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 52-201(part).

71-1-202. Mortgage not considered conveyance — recovery of possession. A mortgage of real property shall not be deemed a conveyance, whatever its terms, so as to enable the owner of the mortgage to recover possession of the real property without a foreclosure and sale. When the mortgage confers a power of sale, as mentioned in 71-1-111, possession may be recovered according to the terms of the mortgage.

History: En. Sec. 239, p. 93, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 260, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 309, p. 95, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 359, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 359, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 371, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1316, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6877, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9495, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 744; re-en. Sec. 9495, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6219.

Cross-References

Definition of foreclosure, 71-1-221.
Possession of lands prior to foreclosure upon default and during period of redemption, 71-1-229.

71-1-203. Writing required. A mortgage of real property can be created, renewed, or extended only by writing, with the formalities required in the case of a grant of real property.

History: En. Sec. 3842, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5749, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8264, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2922; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1623; re-en. Sec. re-en. Sec. 8264, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-203.

Cross-References

What contracts must be in writing, 28-2-903.
Transfer of property grants and their interpretation, Title 70, ch. 1, part 5.
Transfer of real property to be in writing — statute of frauds, 70-20-101.
Recording transfers of real property, Title 70, ch. 21.
Recording of mortgages and assignments, 71-1-207.
Period of mortgage — renewal, 71-1-210.

71-1-204. Form of mortgage. A mortgage of real property may be made in substantially the following form:

"This mortgage, made the .... day of ...., in the year ...., by A.B., of ...., mortgagor, to C.D., of ...., mortgagee:

That the mortgagor mortgages to the mortgagee (here describe the property), as security for the payment to the mortgagor of .... dollars, on (or before) the .... day of ...., in the year ...., with interest on that amount (or as security for the payment of an obligation, describing it, etc.).

....

A.B."

History: En. Sec. 3841, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5748, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8263, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2948; re-en. Sec. 8263, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-202; amd. Sec. 2239, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-205. Priorities. Any lien entitled to actual priority over the lien of mortgage by force of any express provision of the laws of this state shall continue to have priority to the extent prescribed by law.

History: En. Sec. 3840, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5747, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2947; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 52-201(part).

Cross-References

Tax on personal property lien on realty, 15-16-402.
Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.

71-1-206. Future advances. (1) The amount of future advances or total indebtedness that may be outstanding at any given time and subject to mortgage protection must be stated in the mortgage. The mortgagee may reserve the right, at the mortgagee's option, to refuse to make all or any part of a future advance. The total amount of indebtedness that may be secured by the mortgage may decrease or increase from time to time, but the total principal amount of the obligations secured at any one time may not exceed the face amount stated in the mortgage together with interest as provided in the instrument secured by the mortgage.

(2) The lien for the stated amount of future advances or total indebtedness shall, notwithstanding the fact that from time to time during the term of the mortgage no indebtedness is due from the mortgagor to the mortgagee, have priority to the same extent as if the amount thereof had been actually advanced by the mortgagee to the mortgagor at the time of the execution of the mortgage. The lien extends to interest as provided in the instrument secured by the mortgage.

(3) The mortgagee shall, upon demand of the mortgagor or a creditor, furnish a statement of all such advances and amounts paid on the principal sum secured, provided such statement shall not impair or affect the lien created for all advances. Upon receipt of such statement or at any other time following the execution and delivery of the mortgage, the mortgagor may deliver written notice, duly acknowledged, to the mortgagee plainly stating that the mortgagor does not desire to request or apply for any future advances if none have been allowed or for any further advances if additional advances have in fact been theretofore allowed under the mortgage, clearly identifying the mortgage by reference to its date, the parties thereto, and the principal amount of the original indebtedness and the limit placed on contemplated future advances, if allowed. Upon the recording of such written notice by the mortgagor in the county and counties where the mortgage is recorded, the lien of the mortgage shall continue to have priority, but only for the aggregate amount of the indebtedness then existing, including any advances theretofore made, interest due, and other charges as evidenced by the original loan-contract and indebtedness thereafter accumulating on such basis, exclusive of any other future advances originally contemplated. The mortgagor retains the right to demand satisfaction of the mortgage at any time the balance is zero.

History: En. Sec. 3840, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5747, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2947; re-en. Sec. 8262, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 52-201(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 1985.

71-1-207. Recording of mortgages and assignments. (1) Mortgages of real property may be acknowledged or proved, certified, and recorded in the same manner and with the same effect as grants of real property.

(2) An assignment of a real estate mortgage may be recorded in the same manner as a real estate mortgage, and the record operates as legal notice to the mortgagor and all persons subsequently deriving title to the mortgage from the assignor as well as to all other persons, including subsequent purchasers, encumbrancers, mortgagees, or other lienholders. An assignment must contain the assignee's post-office address at the assignee's place of residence and may not be recorded or filed unless it contains the post-office address.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3844, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5751, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8266, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2952; re-en. Sec. 8266, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 52-205, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3823, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5744, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8259, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2934; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8259, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-131, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 52-114, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-114, 52-205; amd. Sec. 2240, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Indexes to recorded documents, 7-4-2619.
Assignments generally, 31-2-210.
Recording transfers of real property, Title 70, ch. 21, part 2.
Recording of mortgages, 70-21-202.
Writing required, 71-1-203.

71-1-208. Recording of subordination or waiver agreements. A subordination agreement or a waiver in favor of subsequent purchasers, encumbrancers, or mortgagees as regards any real estate mortgage of record or the property therein included may be recorded in like manner as a real estate mortgage, and such record shall operate as due and legal notice to the mortgagor and the mortgagee and to all other interested persons. Any such subordination agreement or waiver shall be valid and binding so far as the mortgage therein referred to or the property covered by such mortgage is concerned, when executed by the record holder of the mortgage involved.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 126, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 11-132, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-116.

71-1-209. Recording defeasance necessary to affect grant. When a grant of real property purports to be an absolute conveyance but is intended to be defeasible on the performance of certain conditions, the grant is not defeated or affected as against any person other than the grantee or the grantee's heirs or devisees or persons having actual notice unless an instrument of defeasance, duly executed and acknowledged, has been recorded in the office of the county clerk of the county where the property is situated.

History: En. Sec. 3843, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5750, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8265, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2950; re-en. Sec. 8265, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-204; amd. Sec. 2241, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-210. Period of mortgage — renewal. A mortgage of real property made, acknowledged, and recorded as provided by the laws of this state is good against all from the time it is recorded until 8 years after the maturity of the entire debt or obligation secured and no longer unless the mortgagee or the mortgagee's heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, or assigns, within 60 days after the expiration of the 8 years, file in the office of the county clerk where the mortgage is recorded an affidavit setting forth the date of the mortgage, when and where recorded, the amount of the debt secured, and the amount remaining unpaid and that the mortgage is not renewed for the purpose of hindering, delaying, or defrauding creditors of the mortgagor or owner of the land. Upon the filing of the affidavit, the mortgage is valid against all persons for an additional 8 years.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1913; re-en. Sec. 8267, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8267, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-206; amd. Sec. 2242, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Small tract financing — time for foreclosure same as mortgage, 71-1-311.

71-1-211. Satisfaction of mortgage — record thereof. (1) A mortgage must be discharged upon the record by the county clerk in whose custody it is recorded whenever there is presented to the clerk a certificate executed by the mortgagee or the mortgagee's personal representative or assignee, acknowledged or proved and certified as prescribed in this chapter that entitles a conveyance to be recorded, specifying that the mortgage has been paid or otherwise satisfied or discharged.

(2) Every certificate and the proof and acknowledgment must be recorded at full length, and a reference must be made to the book and page containing the record in the mortgagor and mortgagee indexes as to the discharge of the mortgage.

History: En. Secs. 37, 38, p. 485, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 37, 38, p. 402, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Secs. 214, 215, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 272, 273, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Secs. 3846, 3847, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 5753, 5754, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 8269, 8270, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 2939, 2940; re-en. Secs. 8269, 8270, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-208, 52-209; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2243, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-212. Penalties for failure to give certificate of discharge or release after full performance. After the full performance of the conditions of a mortgage and whether before or after a breach of the mortgage, a mortgagee or the personal representative or assignee of the mortgagee who refuses or neglects to execute, acknowledge, and deliver to the mortgagor a certificate of discharge or release of the mortgage within 90 days after a request for one is liable to the mortgagor or the mortgagor's heirs or assigns in the sum of $500 and all actual damages resulting from the neglect or refusal.

History: En. Sec. 39, p. 486, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 39, p. 402, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 216, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 274, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3748, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5755, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8271, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2941; re-en. Sec. 8271, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-210(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

71-1-213. Discharge or release by other than mortgagee. (1) If a discharge or release is made by the personal representative of the mortgagee, it must be accompanied by a certified copy of the personal representative's authority unless the authority is already recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder where the mortgage is recorded.

(2) If the discharge or release is made by an assignee, it must be accompanied by the assignment of the mortgage unless the assignment is already recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder where the mortgage is recorded.

(3) If the discharge or release is executed by an attorney-in-fact, the discharge or release must have attached to it the power of attorney under which it is made unless the power of attorney is already recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder where the mortgage is recorded.

(4) If the discharge or release is executed by the heir or heirs of the mortgagee, the discharge or release must be accompanied by a certified copy of an order or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction showing the authority unless the order or decree is already recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder where the mortgage is recorded.

(5) Foreign administrators and executors may discharge or release mortgages of record in Montana if the discharge or release of mortgages is accompanied by an authenticated copy of their letters of administration or letters testamentary, with the certificate of the clerk of the court in which the appointment was made that the letters have not been revoked and are in full force. The certificate and certified copy of letters must be recorded with the discharge or release of the mortgage. When presented and recorded, the discharge or release has the same effect as if the mortgage was discharged or released by the mortgagee.

History: En. Sec. 39, p. 486, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 39, p. 402, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 216, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 274, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3748, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5755, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8271, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2941; re-en. Sec. 8271, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 52-210(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2244, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Power of attorney to execute, 71-1-102.

71-1-214 through 71-1-220 reserved.

71-1-221. Definition of foreclosure. The term "foreclosure" for the purpose of this part shall include sale or possession of real property made or taken whether by judicial proceedings or otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 9473.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6009.

Cross-References

Redemption of real property, Title 25, ch. 13, part 8.

Mortgage not considered conveyance — recovery of possession, 71-1-202.

Possession of lands prior to foreclosure upon default and during period of redemption, 71-1-229.

71-1-222. Proceedings in foreclosure suits. (1) There is only one action for the recovery of debt or the enforcement of any right secured by a mortgage upon real estate, and that action must be in accordance with the provisions of this part. In the action, the court may, by its judgment, direct:

(a) a sale of the encumbered property or as much of the property as may be necessary;

(b) the application of the proceeds of the sale, including the payment of property taxes due at the time of foreclosure; and

(c) the payment of the costs of the court, the expenses of the sale, and the amount due the plaintiff.

(2) If it appears from the sheriff's return that the proceeds are insufficient and a balance still remains due, judgment can then be docketed for the balance against the defendant or defendants personally liable for the debt, and it becomes a lien upon the real estate of the judgment debtor, as in other cases on which execution may be issued.

(3) A person holding a conveyance from or under the mortgagor of the property mortgaged or having a lien on the property, which conveyance or lien does not appear of record in the proper office at the time of the commencement of the action, does not have to be made a party to the action. The judgment and the proceedings are as conclusive against the party holding the unrecorded conveyance or lien as if the holding party had been made a party to the action.

(4) The one-action limitation in this section does not prohibit an act or proceeding:

(a) to appoint a receiver for or obtain possession of real or personal property collateral for the debt or other obligation;

(b) to enforce a security interest in or the assignment of any rents, issues, profits, or other income of any real or personal property;

(c) to enforce a mortgage or other lien on real or personal property collateral located outside this state that is security for the same debt or other right secured by real property in this state;

(d) to secure a judgment outside this state on a debt or other right secured by real property in this state and by real or personal property collateral located outside this state;

(e) for the exercise of a power of sale conferred pursuant to the provisions of 71-1-223 or a foreclosure by advertisement and sale pursuant to Title 71, chapter 1, part 3;

(f) for the exercise of a right or remedy under the Montana Uniform Commercial Code, except securing a judgment on a secured debt, including a deficiency judgment on a secured debt, in a court in Montana;

(g) for the exercise of a right or remedy under the uniform commercial code of another state;

(h) for claim and delivery of personal property pursuant to the provisions of Title 27, chapter 17;

(i) for the exercise of a right to set off a deposit or share account, to enforce a pledge in a deposit or share account pursuant to a written agreement or pledge, or to enforce a financial institution's statutory lien;

(j) to draw under a letter of credit;

(k) for the recovery of damages arising from the commission of a tort or the recovery of any declaratory or equitable relief;

(l) to collect a debt or enforce a right or obligation secured by a junior mortgage or other junior lien on real property if the property has been sold to satisfy, in whole or in part, a debt or other right or obligation secured by a senior mortgage or other senior lien on the property;

(m) concerning a mortgage securing a debt or right guaranteed, to enforce an agreement with a surety or guarantor of the debt or right secured by a mortgage on real estate, if the surety or guaranty obligation is not secured by the same mortgage;

(n) relating to a proceeding in bankruptcy, including filing a proof of claim, to seek relief from an automatic stay and any other action to determine the amount or validity of a debt or right or obligation secured by a mortgage;

(o) for filing a claim or to enforce a claim disallowed pursuant to the Montana Uniform Probate Code;

(p) that does not include collection of the debt or realization of the collateral securing the debt or other obligation;

(q) that is exempted from the provisions of this section by law;

(r) to recover costs of suit, costs and expenses of sale, attorney fees, and other incidental relief in connection with any act or proceeding authorized in this subsection (4); or

(s) for recovery of a debt or for enforcement of a right secured by a mortgage when the mortgage security in this state has become valueless through no fault of the mortgagee.

History: En. Sec. 223, p. 90, Bannack Stat.; en. Sec. 246, p. 185, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 295, p. 92, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 346, p. 135, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 346, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 358, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1290, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6861, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9467, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 726; re-en. Sec. 9467, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-166, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 80, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Mortgage not personal obligation, 71-1-104.
Deficiency judgment not allowed on foreclosure of purchase price mortgage, 71-1-232.
Attorney fee on foreclosure, 71-1-233.

71-1-223. Power of sale. When a real estate mortgage confers a power of sale, either upon the mortgagee or any other person, to be executed after a breach of the obligation for which the mortgage is a security, either an action may be maintained under this part to foreclose or proceedings may be had under the provisions of the mortgage.

History: En. Sec. 1293, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6864, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9470, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9470, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-167, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6004.

Cross-References

Power of sale conferred by mortgage, 71-1-111.

71-1-224. Sale — notice. Real estate sold under a power of sale given and contained in a mortgage of real estate, except in a trust indenture as defined in the Small Tract Financing Act of Montana, shall be advertised for sale at least 30 days before the date fixed for such sale, in a newspaper in the county in which such real estate is situated, and in case there is no newspaper printed and published in said county, then by posting notices in at least five conspicuous places in said county, one of which notices must be posted on the land so advertised for sale. Two other notices must be posted in conspicuous places in the township in which said land is situated, one in such conspicuous place in said county as will be most likely to give notice to all persons interested in said sale, and one of said notices must be posted in a conspicuous place at the front door of the county courthouse of the county in which said land is located, and in addition to the publication or posting, as hereinbefore provided, notices of such sale must be served personally at least 30 days before the date fixed for such sale upon the occupant of the property so advertised for sale and upon the mortgagor if within the state of Montana and upon every person or persons having or claiming an interest of record in the real estate so advertised for sale who may be found within the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 9471, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9471, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6005.

Cross-References

Right of redemption, 71-1-228.
Petition for attorney fee — notice, 71-1-234.
Small Tract Financing Act of Montana, Title 71, ch. 1, part 3.

71-1-225. Surplus money from sale. If there be surplus money remaining after the payment of the amount due on the mortgage, lien, or encumbrance, with costs, the court may cause the same to be paid to the person entitled to it and in the meantime may direct it to be deposited in court.

History: En. Sec. 247, p. 186, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 296, p. 92, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 347, p. 136, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 347, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 359, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1291, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6862, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9468, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 727; re-en. Sec. 9468, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6002.

71-1-226. Proceedings when debt secured falls due at different times. If the debt for which the mortgage, lien, or encumbrance is held is not all due, as soon as sufficient of the property has been sold to pay the amount due, with costs, the sale must cease; and afterward, as often as more becomes due, for principal or interest, the court may, on motion, order more to be sold. But if the property cannot be sold in portions without injury to the parties, the whole may be ordered to be sold in the first instance and the entire debt and costs paid, there being a rebate of interest where such rebate is proper.

History: En. Sec. 248, p. 186, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 297, p. 92, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 348, p. 136, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 348, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 360, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1292, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6863, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9469, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 728; re-en. Sec. 9469, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6003.

Cross-References

Waste prohibited, 71-1-106.

71-1-227. Injunction to prevent injury to property. The court may, by injunction, upon good cause shown, restrain the party in possession from doing any act to the injury of real property during the foreclosure of a mortgage thereon.

History: En. Sec. 240, p. 93, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 261, p. 188, L. 1867; re-en. Sec. 310, p. 95, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 360, p. 139, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 360, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 372, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1318, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6878, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9496, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 745; re-en. Sec. 9496, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6220(part).

Cross-References

Waste prohibited, 71-1-106.

71-1-228. Rights of redemption applicable. All of the rights, powers, and privileges concerning the redemption from sales of real estate applicable to the sales of real estate under foreclosure proceedings or sales under execution shall be granted and allowed to sales of real estate under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in any mortgage or deed of trust in this state, except to sales of real estate under and by virtue of the power of sale conferred upon a trustee under a trust indenture as defined in the Small Tract Financing Act of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 165, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 9472, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9472, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6006.

Cross-References

Redemption of real property, Title 25, ch. 13, part 8.

71-1-229. Possession of land prior to foreclosure upon default and during period of redemption. The purchaser of land at mortgage foreclosure is not entitled to the possession of the land as against the execution debtor during the period of redemption allowed by law while the execution debtor personally occupies the land as a home for the execution debtor and the debtor's family. It is unlawful to insert in any mortgage of real estate any provision intended to constitute a waiver by the owner of real estate personally occupying land as a home for the owner and the owner's family of the provision of this section or any provision intended to give the mortgagee possession of the land or premises prior to foreclosure upon default of tax, principal, or interest payments. The intention of this section is to ensure to the owner the possession of the land prior to foreclosure and during the year of redemption.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9449, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 9449, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-5841(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 11, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2245, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Mortgage not considered conveyance — recovery of possession, 71-1-202.
Definition of foreclosure, 71-1-221.

71-1-230. Action to redeem mortgage. An action to redeem a mortgage of real property, with or without an account of rents and profits, may be brought by the mortgagor or those claiming under the mortgagor against the mortgagee in possession or those claiming under the mortgagee unless the mortgagee in possession or those claiming under the mortgagee have continuously maintained an adverse possession of the mortgaged premises for 10 years after breach of some condition of the mortgage.

History: En. Sec. 521, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6454, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9044, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 346; re-en. Sec. 9044, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2616; amd. Sec. 2246, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Redemption of real property, Title 25, ch. 13, part 8.
Mortgagee not entitled to possession, 71-1-105.

71-1-231. Redemption by multiple mortgagors. If there is more than one mortgagor or more than one person claiming under a mortgagor, some of whom are not entitled to maintain an action under the provisions of 71-1-230 or Title 27, chapter 2, any one of them who is entitled to maintain an action may redeem in the action a divided or undivided part of the mortgaged premises as the person's interest appears, and have an accounting for a part of the rents and profits proportionate to the person's interest in the mortgaged premises on payment of a part of the mortgage money bearing the same proportion to the whole of the money as the value of person's divided or undivided interest in the premises bears to the whole of the premises.

History: En. Sec. 522, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 6455, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9045, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 347; re-en. Sec. 9045, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-2617; amd. Sec. 2247, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Redemption of real property, Title 25, ch. 13, part 8.

Proceedings when debt secured falls due at different times, 71-1-226.

71-1-232. Deficiency judgment not allowed on foreclosure of purchase price mortgage. Upon the foreclosure of any mortgage, executed to any vendor of real property or to the vendor's heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns for the balance of the purchase price of the real property, the mortgagee is not entitled to a deficiency judgment on account of the mortgage or note or obligation secured by the mortgage.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 9473.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6008; amd. Sec. 2248, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Proceedings in foreclosure suits, 71-1-222.

Deficiency judgment not allowed under Small Tract Financing Act of Montana, 71-1-317.

Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.

71-1-233. Attorney's fee on foreclosure. In an action to foreclose a mortgage of real property, the court must allow as a part of the costs a reasonable attorney's fee, which shall be fixed by the court, any stipulation in the instrument or any agreement between the parties to the contrary notwithstanding.

History: En. Sec. 1862, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7165, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9798, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9798, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-169, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-8613(part).

Cross-References

Inclusion of attorney fees in bill of costs, 25-10-302.

Proceedings in foreclosure suits, 71-1-222.

71-1-234. Attorney fee — petition and notice. If the mortgagee demands attorney fees in case of the sale of real estate under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in any mortgage or deed of trust in this state, except in case of the sale of real estate by virtue of a power of sale conferred upon a trustee under a trust indenture as defined in the Small Tract Financing Act of Montana, the mortgagee shall petition the district court of the county in which the real estate or any part of the real estate is situated to fix the amount of the attorney fees. A copy of the petition must be served upon all parties having or claiming an interest of record in the property to be sold or those parties that may be found within the state, at least 10 days before the day fixed for hearing. Notice of the time and place of the hearing must be served at the same time as the copy of the petition is served. A petition must be acted upon by the district court before the notice of sale by publication or posting, as provided for in this part, is given.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 165, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 9473, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9473, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6007; amd. Sec. 2249, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-235. Instruments — negotiability and remedies. Nothing in this part shall be deemed to affect the negotiability of an instrument, and nothing in this part shall be deemed to limit remedies otherwise available to the purchaser of a promissory note secured by a mortgage unless such purchaser at the time of purchase had notice that the note was so secured.

History: En. 93-6010 by Sec. 11-168, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 93-6010.

Cross-References

When promise or order unconditional, 30-3-105.

Part 3
Small Tract Financing

71-1-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Small Tract Financing Act of Montana".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-401.

71-1-302. Policy. Because the financing of homes and business expansion is essential to the development of the state of Montana and because financing of homes and business expansion, usually involving areas of real estate of not more than 40 acres, has been restricted by the laws relating to mortgages of real property and because more financing of homes and business expansion is available if the parties can use security instruments and procedures not subject to all the provisions of the mortgage laws, it is the public policy of the state of Montana to permit the use of trust indentures for estates in real property of not more than 40 acres as provided in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 52-402; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 2001.**

71-1-303. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Beneficiary" means the person named or otherwise designated in a trust indenture as the person for whose benefit a trust indenture is given or the person's successor in interest, who may not be the trustee.

(2) "Grantor" means the person conveying real property by a trust indenture as security for the performance of an obligation.

(3) "Servicer" means a person who collects loan payments on behalf of a beneficiary.

(4) (a) "Title insurance producer" means a person who holds a valid title insurance producer's license and is authorized in writing by a title insurer to:

(i) solicit title insurance business;

(ii) collect rates;

(iii) determine insurability in accordance with underwriting rules and standards of the insurer; or

(iv) issue policies of the title insurer.

(b) Title insurance producer does not include an approved attorney.

(5) "Title insurer" means an insurer formed and authorized under the laws of this state to transact the business of title insurance in this state or a foreign or alien insurer authorized to transact title insurance in this state.

(6) "Trust indenture" means an indenture executed in conformity with this part and conveying real property to a trustee in trust to secure the performance of an obligation of the grantor or other person named in the indenture to a beneficiary.

(7) "Trustee" means a person to whom the legal title to real property is conveyed by a trust indenture or the person's successor in interest.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 52-403(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 114, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 30, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2005.**

71-1-304. Trust indentures authorized — power of sale for breach in trustee. (1) A transfer in trust of an interest in real property of an area not exceeding 40 acres may be made to secure the performance of an obligation of a grantor or any other person named in the indenture to a beneficiary. However, a trust indenture may not be substituted for a mortgage that was in existence on March 5, 1963.

(2) When a transfer in trust of an interest in real property is made to secure the performance of the obligation referred to in subsection (1), a power of sale is conferred upon the trustee to be exercised after a breach of the obligation for which the transfer is security.

(3) A trust indenture executed in conformity with this part may be foreclosed by advertisement and sale in the manner provided in this part or, at the option of the beneficiary, by judicial procedure as provided by law for the foreclosure of mortgages on real property. The power of sale may be exercised by the trustee without express provision in the trust indenture.

(4) If a trust indenture states that the real property involved does not exceed 40 acres, the statement is binding upon all parties and conclusive as to compliance with the provisions of this part relative to the power to make a transfer, trust, and power of sale.

History: **(1) thru (3)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 1974; Sec. 52-404, R.C.M. 1947; (4) En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 1974; Sec. 52-403, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-403(part), 52-404; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 114, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 30, L. 2001.**

71-1-305. Trust indenture considered to be mortgage on real property. A trust indenture is deemed to be a mortgage on real property and is subject to all laws relating to mortgages on real property except to the extent that such laws are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, in which event the provisions of this part shall control. For the purpose of applying the mortgage laws, the grantor in a trust indenture is deemed the mortgagor and the beneficiary is deemed the mortgagee.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-417.**

71-1-306. Qualifications of trustee — successor trustee. (1) The trustee of a trust indenture under this part must be:

(a) an attorney who is licensed to practice law in Montana;

(b) a bank, trust company, or savings and loan association authorized to do business in Montana under the laws of Montana or the United States; or

(c) a title insurer or title insurance producer or agency authorized to do business in Montana under the laws of Montana.

(2) The beneficiary may appoint a successor trustee at any time by filing for record, in the office of the clerk and recorder of each county in which the trust property or some part of the trust property is situated, a substitution of trustee. The substitution must identify the trust indenture by stating the names of the original parties to the trust indenture and the date of recordation and the book and page where the information is recorded, must state the name and mailing address of the new trustee, and must be executed and acknowledged by all of the beneficiaries designated in the trust indenture or their successors in interest. From the time the substitution is filed for record, the new trustee is vested with all the power, duties, authority, and title of the trustee named in the trust indenture and of any successor trustee.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

71-1-307. Reconveyance upon performance — liability for failure to reconvey. (1) Upon performance of the obligation secured by the trust indenture, the trustee, upon written request of the beneficiary or servicer, shall reconvey the interest in real property described in the trust indenture to the grantor. If the obligation is performed and the beneficiary or servicer refuses to request reconveyance or the trustee refuses to reconvey the property within 90 days of the request, the beneficiary, servicer, or trustee who refuses is liable to the grantor for the sum of $500 and all actual damages resulting from the refusal to reconvey.

(2) If a beneficiary or servicer has received a notice of intent to reconvey pursuant to 71-1-308 and has not timely requested a reconveyance or has not objected to the reconveyance within the 90-day period established in 71-1-308, the beneficiary or servicer is liable to the title insurer or title insurance producer for the sum of $500 and all damages resulting from the failure.

(3) In an action by a grantor, title insurer, or title insurance producer to collect any sums due under this section, the court shall award attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-406; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 413, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Penalties for failure to give certificate of discharge or release after full performance, 71-1-212.

71-1-308. Reconveyance of trust indenture — forms — objections to reconveyance. (1) A title insurer or title insurance producer may reconvey a trust indenture in accordance with the provisions of this section if:

(a) the obligation secured by the trust indenture has been fully paid by the title insurer or title insurance producer; or

(b) the obligation secured by the trust indenture was fully paid by a former title insurer, title insurance producer, or predecessor of the title insurer or title insurance producer.

(2) A title insurer or title insurance producer may reconvey a trust indenture regardless of whether the title insurer or title insurance producer is named as a trustee under a trust indenture.

(3) At the time that the obligation secured by the trust indenture is paid in full, or at any time after payment, the title insurer or title insurance producer shall deliver by certified mail a notice of intent to reconvey and a copy of the reconveyance to be recorded to the beneficiary or servicer at:

(a) the address specified in the trust indenture;

(b) any address for the beneficiary or servicer specified in the last-recorded assignment of the trust indenture;

(c) any address for the beneficiary or servicer specified in a request for notice recorded under 71-1-314; or

(d) the address shown on any payoff statement received by the title insurer or title insurance producer from the beneficiary or servicer.

(4) (a) The notice of intent to reconvey must contain the name of the beneficiary and the servicer if loan payments on the trust indenture are collected by a servicer, the name of the title insurer or title insurance producer, and the date that the notice is signed.

(b) The notice must be substantially in the following form:

"NOTICE OF INTENT TO RECONVEY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU AS FOLLOWS:

1. THIS NOTICE CONCERNS THE (TRUST INDENTURE) DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
(GRANTOR):......................................
(BENEFICIARY):..
RECORDING INFORMATION:................................
DOCUMENT NUMBER:.....................................
BOOK NUMBER:..
PAGE NUMBER:...

2. THE UNDERSIGNED CLAIMS TO HAVE PAID IN FULL OR POSSESSES SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF THE FULL PAYMENT OF THE OBLIGATION SECURED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. THE UNDERSIGNED WILL FULLY RECONVEY THE TRUST INDENTURE DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE STATED ON THIS NOTICE UNLESS:

(A) A RECONVEYANCE OF THE TRUST INDENTURE HAS BEEN RECORDED; OR

(B) THE UNDERSIGNED HAS RECEIVED BY CERTIFIED MAIL A NOTICE STATING THAT THE OBLIGATION SECURED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE HAS NOT BEEN PAID IN FULL OR THAT YOU OTHERWISE OBJECT TO THE RECONVEYANCE OF THE TRUST DEED. NOTICE MUST BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS STATED ON THIS FORM.

(C) PURSUANT TO 71-1-307, MCA, A BENEFICIARY OR SERVICER MAY BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES, COSTS, AND PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO RECONVEY A TRUST INDENTURE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE DATE STATED IN THIS NOTICE IF THE OBLIGATION SECURED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE HAS BEEN FULLY PAID PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF THIS NOTICE.

4. A COPY OF THE RECONVEYANCE OF TRUST INDENTURE IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NOTICE.

....
(SIGNATURE OF TITLE INSURER OR TITLE INSURANCE PRODUCER)

....
(ADDRESS OF TITLE INSURER OR TITLE INSURANCE PRODUCER)"

(5) (a) If, within 90 days from the day on which the title insurer or title insurance producer delivers the notice of intent to reconvey, the beneficiary or servicer does not send by certified mail to the title insurer or title insurance producer a notice that the obligation secured by the trust indenture has not been paid in full or that the beneficiary or servicer objects to the reconveyance of the trust indenture, the title insurer or title insurance producer may execute, acknowledge, and record a reconveyance of a trust indenture.

(b) A reconveyance of a trust indenture must be in substantially the following form:

"RECONVEYANCE OF TRUST INDENTURE

(Name of title insurer or title insurance producer) authorized to conduct business in this state reconveys, without warranty, the following trust property located in (name of county), state of Montana, that is covered by a trust indenture naming (name of grantor) as grantor, and (name of beneficiary) as beneficiary that was recorded on (date) in book .... at page .... as document number ....: (insert a description of the trust property.)

The undersigned title insurer or title insurance producer certifies as follows:

1. The undersigned title insurer or title insurance producer has fully paid the obligation secured by the trust indenture or possesses satisfactory evidence of the full payment of the obligation secured by the trust indenture.

2. As required by 71-1-308, the title insurer or title insurance producer delivered to the beneficiary or servicer a notice of intent to reconvey and a copy of the reconveyance.

3. The trust indenture has not been reconveyed and the title insurer or title insurance producer did not receive, within 90 days from the day on which the title insurer or title insurance producer delivered the notice of intent to reconvey to the beneficiary or servicer, a notice from the beneficiary or servicer, sent by certified mail, that the obligation secured by the trust indenture has not been paid in full or that the beneficiary or servicer objects to the reconveyance of the trust indenture.

....

(Notarization) (Signature of title insurer or title insurance producer)"

(c) (i) A reconveyance of trust indenture executed and notarized in accordance with subsection (5)(b) may be recorded.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (5)(c)(iii), a reconveyance of a trust indenture that is recorded in compliance with subsection (5)(c)(i) is valid regardless of any deficiency in the reconveyance procedure not disclosed in the reconveyance of trust indenture.

(iii) If the title insurer's or title insurance producer's signature on a reconveyance of trust recorded under subsection (5)(c)(i) is forged, the release of mortgage or reconveyance of trust is void.

(6) A reconveyance of trust indenture pursuant to the provisions of this section does not, by itself, discharge any promissory note or other obligation that was secured by the trust indenture at the time that the trust indenture was reconveyed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 413, L. 2005.

71-1-309. Objection to reconveyance. A title insurer or title insurance producer may not record a reconveyance of trust indenture if, within 90 days of the date of the notice of intent to reconvey, the beneficiary or servicer notifies the title insurer or title insurance producer that the obligation has not been paid in full or that the beneficiary or servicer objects to the reconveyance.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 413, L. 2005.

71-1-310. Liability of title insurer or title insurance producer. A title insurer or title insurance producer who reconveys a trust indenture is liable to the beneficiary for damages suffered by the beneficiary as a result of the reconveyance if:

(1) the obligation secured by the trust indenture is not fully paid;

(2) the title insurer or title insurance producer failed to comply with the provisions of 71-1-308; or

(3) the title insurer or title insurance producer acted with gross negligence or in bad faith in reconveying the trust indenture.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 413, L. 2005.

71-1-311. Time for foreclosure same as mortgage. The foreclosure of a trust indenture by advertisement and sale or by judicial procedure shall be commenced within the time, including extensions, provided by law for the foreclosure of a mortgage on real property.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-407.

Cross-References

Period of mortgage — renewal, 71-1-210.

71-1-312. Discontinuance of foreclosure proceedings when entire amount of default paid. (1) Whenever all or a portion of any obligation secured by a trust indenture has, prior to the maturity date fixed in the obligation, become due or been declared due by reason of a breach or default in the performance of any obligation secured by the trust indenture, including a default in the payment of interest or of any installment of principal or by reason of failure of the grantor to pay, in accordance with the terms of the trust indenture, taxes, assessments, premiums for insurance, or advances made by the beneficiary in accordance with the terms of the obligation or of the trust indenture, the grantor or the grantor's successor in interest in the trust property or any part of the trust property or any other person having a subordinate lien or encumbrance of record on the trust property or any beneficiary under a subordinate trust indenture, at any time prior to the time fixed by the trustee for the trustee's sale if the power of sale is to be exercised, may pay to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's successor in interest the entire amount then due under the terms of the trust indenture and the obligation secured by the indenture, including costs and expenses actually incurred and reasonable trustee's fees and attorney fees, other than the portion of the principal that would not then be due if a default had not occurred and cure the existing default.

(2) Upon the payment described in subsection (1), all prior proceedings had or instituted to foreclose the trust indenture must be canceled and the obligation and the trust indenture must be reinstated and remain in force and effect the same as if an acceleration had not occurred.

(3) If the default is cured and the obligation and the trust indenture reinstated in the manner provided, the beneficiary or the beneficiary's assignee shall, on demand of any person having an interest in the trust property, execute, acknowledge, and deliver to the person a request that the trustee execute, acknowledge, and deliver a cancellation of the recorded notice of sale under the trust indenture.

(4) Any beneficiary under a trust indenture or the beneficiary's assignee who, for a period of 30 days after the demand, refuses to request the trustee to execute, acknowledge, and deliver a cancellation is liable to the person entitled to the request for all damages resulting from the refusal.

(5) A cancellation of a recorded notice of sale, when executed and acknowledged, is entitled to be recorded and is sufficient if it sets forth a reference to the trust indenture and the book and page where the indenture is recorded, a reference to the notice of sale and to the book and page where the indenture is recorded, and a statement that the notice of sale is canceled.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-412; amd. Sec. 2250, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

71-1-313. *(Temporary)* **Conditions for foreclosure by advertisement and sale.** The trustee may foreclose a trust indenture by advertisement and sale under this part if:

(1) the trust indenture, any assignments of the trust indenture by the trustee or the beneficiary, and any appointment of a successor trustee are recorded in the office of the clerk and recorder of each county in which the property described in the trust indenture or some part thereof is situated;

(2) there is a default by the grantor or other person owing an obligation or by their successors in interest, the performance of which is secured by the trust indenture, with respect to any provision in the indenture which authorizes sale in the event of default of such provision; and

(3) the trustee or beneficiary shall have filed for record in the office of the clerk and recorder in each county where the property described in the indenture or some part thereof is situated a notice of sale, duly executed and acknowledged by such trustee or beneficiary, setting forth:

(a) the names of the grantor, trustee, and beneficiary in the trust indenture and the name of any successor trustee;

(b) a description of the property covered by the trust indenture;

(c) the book and page of the mortgage records where the trust indenture is recorded;

(d) the default for which the foreclosure is made;

(e) the sum owing on the obligation secured by the trust indenture;

(f) the trustee's or beneficiary's election to sell the property to satisfy the obligation;

(g) the date of sale, which shall not be less than 120 days subsequent to the date on which the notice of sale is filed for record, and the time of sale, which shall be between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., mountain standard time;

(h) the place of sale which shall be at the courthouse of the county or one of the counties where the property is situated or at the location of the property or at the trustee's usual place of business if within the county or one of the counties where the property is situated.

71-1-313. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Conditions for foreclosure by advertisement and sale.** The trustee may foreclose a trust indenture by advertisement and sale under this part if:

(1) the trust indenture, any assignments of the trust indenture by the trustee or the beneficiary, and any appointment of a successor trustee are recorded in the office of the clerk and recorder of each county in which the property described in the trust indenture or some part thereof is situated;

(2) there is a default by the grantor or other person owing an obligation or by their successors in interest, the performance of which is secured by the trust indenture, with respect to any provision in the indenture which authorizes sale in the event of default of such provision; and

(3) the trustee or beneficiary shall have filed for record in the office of the clerk and recorder in each county where the property described in the indenture or some part thereof is situated a notice of sale, duly executed and acknowledged by such trustee or beneficiary, setting forth:

(a) the names of the grantor, trustee, and beneficiary in the trust indenture and the name of any successor trustee;

(b) a description of the property covered by the trust indenture;

(c) the book and page of the mortgage records where the trust indenture is recorded;

(d) the default for which the foreclosure is made;

(e) the sum owing on the obligation secured by the trust indenture;

(f) the trustee's or beneficiary's election to sell the property to satisfy the obligation;

(g) the date of sale, which must not be less than 120 days subsequent to the date on which the notice of sale is filed for record, and the time of sale, which must be between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., mountain daylight time; and

(h) the place of sale, which must be at the courthouse of the county or one of the counties where the property is situated or at the location of the property or at the trustee's usual place of business if within the county or one of the counties where the property is situated.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-408(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 447, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 6, Ch. 447, L. 2021, provided: "(1) [This act] is effective on the first Sunday of November following the day that the governor certifies to the code commissioner that:

(a) not fewer than four western states, including Montana, pass legislation to place all or a portion of those states on year-round daylight saving time, regardless of the time zone; and

(b) (i) legislation enacted by congress goes into effect to amend 15 U.S.C. 260a to authorize states to observe daylight saving time year-round; or

(ii) the United States department of transportation, pursuant to the department authority in 15 U.S.C. 260, et seq., approves the state's transfer from mountain standard time to central standard time.

(2) As used in this section, "western states" means the states of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming."

71-1-314. Requests for copies of notice of sale. At any time subsequent to the recordation of a trust indenture and prior to the recordation of notice of sale under the indenture, any person desiring a copy of any notice of sale under a trust indenture as provided in 71-1-315(1) may cause to be filed for record in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county or counties in which any part or parcel of the real property is situated, a duly acknowledged request for a copy of any notice of sale, showing service upon the trustee. The request shall contain the name and address of the person requesting a copy of the notice and shall identify the trust indenture by stating the names of the parties to the indenture, the date of recordation of the indenture, and the book and page where the indenture is recorded. The county clerk and recorder shall immediately make a cross-reference of the request to the trust indenture either on the margin of the page where the trust indenture is recorded or in some other suitable place. No request, statement, or notation placed on the record pursuant to this section shall affect title to the property or be deemed notice to any person that any person so recording the request has any right, title, interest in, lien, or charge upon the property referred to in the trust indenture.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-415.

71-1-315. Notice — sale — payment. A trust deed may be foreclosed by advertisement and sale in the following manner:

(1) The trustee shall give notice of the sale in the following manner:

(a) At least 120 days before the date fixed for the trustee's sale, a copy of the recorded notice of sale must be mailed by certified mail to:

(i) the grantor, at the grantor's address as set forth in the trust indenture or if the grantor's address is not set forth in the trust indenture at the grantor's last-known address;

(ii) each person designated in the trust indenture to receive notice of sale whose address is set forth in the trust indenture, at that address;

(iii) each person who has filed for record a request for a copy of notice of sale within the time and in the manner provided in this section, at the address of the person as set forth in the request;

(iv) any successor in interest to the grantor whose interest and address appear of record at the filing date and time of the notice of sale, at that address;

(v) any person who has a lien or interest subsequent to the interest of the trustee and whose lien or interest and address appear of record at the filing date and time of the notice of sale, at that address.

(b) At least 20 days before the date fixed for the trustee's sale, a copy of the recorded notice of sale must be posted in some conspicuous place on the property to be sold. Upon request of the trustee, the notice of sale must be posted by a sheriff or constable of the county in which the property to be sold is located.

(c) A copy of the notice of sale must be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in any county in which the property or some part of the property is situated, at least once each week for 3 successive weeks. If there is no newspaper of general circulation published in the county, then copies of the notice of sale must be posted in at least three public places in each county in which the property or some part of the property is situated. The posting or the last publication must be made at least 20 days before the date fixed for the trustee's sale.

(2) On or before the date of sale, there must be recorded in the office of the clerk and recorder of each county where the property or some part of the property is situated, affidavits of mailing, posting, and publication showing compliance with the requirements of this section.

(3) On the date and at the time and place designated in the notice of sale, the trustee or the trustee's attorney shall sell the property at public auction to the highest bidder. The property may be sold in one parcel or in separate parcels, and any person, including the beneficiary under the trust indenture but excluding the trustee, may bid at the sale. The person making the sale may, for any cause the person considers expedient, postpone the sale for a period not exceeding 15 days by public proclamation at the time and place fixed in the notice of sale. No other notice of the postponed sale need be given. If a sale cannot be held at the scheduled time by reason of the automatic stay provision of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. 362, or of a stay order issued by any court of competent jurisdiction, the person making the sale may, as often as the person considers expedient, postpone the sale. Each postponement may not exceed 30 days, and all postponements, in the aggregate, may not exceed 120 days. Each postponement must be effected by a public proclamation at the time and place fixed in the notice of sale or fixed by previous postponement. No other notice of the postponed sale need be given.

(4) The purchaser at the sale shall pay the price bid in cash, and upon receipt of payment, the trustee shall execute and deliver a trustee's deed to the purchaser. If the purchaser refuses to pay the purchase price, the person conducting the sale has the right to resell the property at any time to the highest bidder. The party refusing to pay is liable for any loss occasioned by the refusal, and the person making the sale may also reject any other bid of the refusing person.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 8, Ch. 177, L. 1963; Sec. 52-408, R.C.M. 1947; (1) thru (4)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 177, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 53, L. 1977; Sec. 52-409, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 52-408(2), 52-409; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 55, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 212, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2251, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-316. Disposition of proceeds of sale — notice — surplus funds — attorney fees. (1) (a) The trustee shall apply the proceeds of the trustee's sale as follows:

(i) to the costs and expenses of exercising the power of sale and of the sale, including reasonable trustee's fees and attorney fees;

(ii) to the obligation secured by the trust indenture that is the subject of the sale.

(b) Any surplus funds must be deposited with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the sale took place, along with written notice of the amount of the surplus funds and a copy of the notice of the trustee's sale. The trustee shall mail copies of the notice of the surplus funds, the notice of the trustee's sale, and the affidavit of mailing required under 71-1-315(2) to each party who was sent notice under 71-1-315.

(2) Upon the deposit of the surplus funds, the trustee is discharged from all further responsibility for the surplus funds. The clerk and recorder shall deposit the surplus funds with the county treasurer.

(3) (a) A party seeking disbursement of the surplus funds shall file a petition to request an order for disbursement in the district court for the county in which the surplus funds are deposited. The district court shall determine the order of priority of any interests in or liens or claims of liens against the surplus and shall issue a written order directing the county treasurer to disburse the surplus funds in accordance with the order.

(b) A party with an interest, lien, or claim that was junior to the interest that was the subject of the sale has an interest in the surplus funds in the same order of priority that existed in the property at the time of the sale.

(c) Not less than 20 days prior to the hearing, notice of the petition must be served upon any party who was sent notice of the surplus funds under subsection (1) and any other party who has entered an appearance in the proceeding.

(4) A party who is awarded any portion of the surplus funds because of an existing interest in or lien or claim of lien against the property is entitled to seek costs and attorney fees from the surplus funds. The costs and attorney fees must be allowed to each claimant whose lien is established, and the reasonable attorney fees must be allowed to the defendant against whose property a lien is claimed if a lien is not established.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-413; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 158, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 2015.

71-1-317. Deficiency judgment not allowed. When a trust indenture executed in conformity with this part is foreclosed by advertisement and sale, other or further action, suit, or proceedings may not be taken or judgment entered for any deficiency against the grantor or the grantor's surety, guarantor, or successor in interest, if any, on the note, bond, or other obligation secured by the trust indenture or against any other person obligated on the note, bond, or other obligation.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-414; amd. Sec. 2252, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Deficiency judgment not allowed on foreclosure of purchase price mortgage, 71-1-232.

71-1-318. Trustee's deed. (1) The trustee's deed to the purchaser at the trustee's sale may contain, in addition to a description of the property conveyed, recitals of compliance with the requirements of this part relating to the exercise of the power of sale and the sale, including recitals of the facts concerning the default, the notice given, the conduct of the sale, and the receipt of the purchase money from the purchaser.

(2) When the trustee's deed is recorded in the deed records of the county or counties where the property described in the deed is situated, the recitals contained in the deed and in the affidavits required under 71-1-315(2) are prima facie evidence in any court of the truth of the matters set forth in the recitals, except that the recitals are conclusive evidence in favor of subsequent bona fide purchasers and encumbrancers for value and without notice.

(3) The trustee's deed operates to convey to the purchaser, without right of redemption, the trustee's title and all right, title, interest, and claim of the grantor and the grantor's successors in interest and of all persons claiming by, through, or under them in and to the property sold, including all right, title, interest, and claim in and to the property acquired by the grantor or the grantor's successors in interest subsequent to the execution of the trust indenture.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-410; amd. Sec. 2253, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-1-319. Possession. The purchaser at the trustee's sale shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale, and any persons remaining in possession after that date under any interest, except one prior to the trust indenture, shall be deemed to be tenants at will.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-411.

71-1-320. Trustees' fees and attorneys' fees. Reasonable trustees' fees and attorneys' fees to be charged to the grantor in the event of foreclosure by advertisement and sale shall not exceed, in the aggregate, 5% of the amount due on the obligation, both principal and interest, at the time of the trustee's sale. If prior to the trustee's sale the obligation and the trust indenture shall be reinstated in accordance with provisions of 71-1-312, the reasonable trustees' fees and attorneys' fees to be charged to the grantor shall not exceed the lesser of $1,000 or 1% of the amount due on the obligation, both principal and interest, at the time of default. In no event shall trustees' fees and attorneys' fees be charged to a grantor on account of any services rendered prior to the commencement of foreclosure.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 177, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 52-416; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1983.

71-1-321. Deeds of trust and trust deeds not invalidated. The Small Tract Financing Act of Montana does not invalidate or preclude the use in this state of instruments, sometimes denominated deeds of trust, trust deeds, or trust indentures, which are not executed in conformity with this part, but in which a conveyance for security purposes is made to a trustee or trustees for the benefit of one or more lenders. Such instruments are considered to be mortgages and are subject to all laws relating to mortgages on real property. Every such instrument, recorded as prescribed by law, from the time it is filed for record is constructive notice of its contents to subsequent purchasers and encumbrancers.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 1979.

CHAPTER 2
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71-2-105. Gratuitous pledge holder.
71-2-106. Obligations of pledge holder.
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71-2-110. Debtor's misrepresentation of value of pledge.

Chapter Cross-References

"Entrusting" under U.C.C., 30-2-403.

Part 1
Pledges in General

71-2-101. Definitions. (1) "Pledge" is a deposit of personal property by way of security for the performance of another's act.

(2) A pledgor and pledgee may agree upon a third person with whom to deposit the property pledged, who, if the third person accepts the deposit, is called a "pledge holder".

History: (1)En. Sec. 3890, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5774, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8292, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2986; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1647; re-en. Sec. 8292, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 65-101, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3897, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5781, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8299, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2993; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1654; re-en. Sec. 8299, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 65-108, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 65-101, 65-108; amd. Sec. 2254, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-2-102. When contract considered a pledge. Every contract by which the possession of personal property is transferred as security only is to be deemed a pledge.

History: En. Sec. 3891, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5775, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8293, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2987; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1648; re-en. Sec. 8293, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-102.

71-2-103. Delivery required. The lien of a pledge is dependent on possession, and no pledge is valid until the property pledged is delivered to the pledgee or to a pledge holder, as hereafter prescribed.

History: En. Sec. 3892, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5776, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8294, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2988; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1649; re-en. Sec. 8294, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-103.

71-2-104. Pledgee or pledge holder for reward. A pledgee or a pledge holder for reward assumes the duties and liabilities of a depositary for reward.

History: En. Sec. 3901, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5785, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8303, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2997; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1658; re-en. Sec. 8303, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-112.

Cross-References

Custody of thing other than money, 28-1-1224.

71-2-105. Gratuitous pledge holder. A gratuitous pledge holder assumes the duties and liabilities of a gratuitous depositary.

History: En. Sec. 3902, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5786, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8304, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2998; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1659; re-en. Sec. 8304, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-113.

71-2-106. Obligations of pledge holder. (1) A pledge holder for reward may not be self-exonerated from the pledge holder's undertaking. A gratuitous pledge holder may be self-exonerated only by giving reasonable notice to the pledgor and pledgee to appoint a new pledge holder and, if they fail to agree, by depositing the property pledged with some impartial person, who will then be entitled to a reasonable compensation for that person's care of the property.

(2) A pledge holder shall enforce all the rights of the pledgee unless authorized by the pledgee to waive those rights.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3899, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5783, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8301, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2995; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1656; re-en. Sec. 8301, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 65-110, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3900, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5784, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8302, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2996; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1657; re-en. Sec. 8302, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 65-111, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 65-110, 65-111; amd. Sec. 2255, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-2-107. Property pledged to extent of lien. A person who has a lien upon property may pledge it to the extent of the person's lien.

History: En. Sec. 3894, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5778, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8296, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2990; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1651; re-en. Sec. 8296, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-105; amd. Sec. 2256, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-2-108. When pledge may not be withdrawn. A person who pledges property as security for the obligation of another cannot withdraw the property pledged except in the manner that a personal pledgor might, and if the person receives from the debtor a consideration for the pledge, the person may not withdraw it without the debtor's consent.

History: En. Sec. 3898, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5782, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8300, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2994; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1655; re-en. Sec. 8300, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-109; amd. Sec. 2257, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-2-109. When real owner cannot defeat pledge. A person who has allowed another to assume the apparent ownership of property for the purpose of making any transfer of it may not set up the person's own title to defeat a pledge of the property made by the other to a pledgee who received the property in good faith in the ordinary course of business and for value.

History: En. Sec. 3895, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5779, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8297, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2991; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1652; re-en. Sec. 8297, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-106; amd. Sec. 2258, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-2-110. Debtor's misrepresentation of value of pledge. When a debtor has obtained credit or an extension of time by a fraudulent misrepresentation of the value of property pledged by or for the debtor, the creditor may demand a further pledge to correspond with the value represented and in default of a further pledge may recover the debt immediately, though it is not actually due.

History: En. Sec. 3903, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5787, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8305, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2999; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1660; re-en. Sec. 8305, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 65-114; amd. Sec. 2259, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 3
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Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Montana Anti-Intimidation Act of 1996, Title 27, ch. 1, part 15.

71-3-101. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) A "general lien" is one which the holder of the lien is entitled to enforce as a security for the performance of all the obligations or all of a particular class of obligations that exist in the holder's favor against the owner of the property.

(2) A "lien" is a charge imposed in some mode other than by a transfer in trust upon specific property by which it is made security for the performance of an act. Liens are either general or special.

(3) A "special lien" is one that the holder of the lien can enforce only as security for the performance of a particular act or obligation and of the obligations that may be incidental to the particular act or obligation.

History: (1)Ap. p. Sec. 3730, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5704, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8219, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2872; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1582; re-en. Sec. 8219, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-101, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3731, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5705, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8220, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2873; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1583; re-en. Sec. 8220, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-102, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3732, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5706, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8221, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2874; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1584; re-en. Sec. 8221, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-103, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 3733, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5707, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8222, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2875; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1585; re-en. Sec. 8222, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-104, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-101, 45-102, 45-103, 45-104; amd. Sec. 2260, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Lien, when used in reference to security interest in personal property, to include security interest under ch. 9 of U.C.C., 1-1-205.

Judgment lien — expiration, 25-9-301.

Judgment lien for compensation — attorneys, 37-61-420.

Security interest in livestock, Title 81, ch. 8, part 3.

Financing programs of Board of Housing, 90-6-108.

71-3-102. How liens created. A lien is created:

(1) by contract of the parties; or

(2) by operation of law.

History: En. Sec. 3740, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5710, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8225, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2881; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1587; re-en. Sec. 8225, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-107.

71-3-103. No lien for claim not due. No lien arises by mere operation of law until the time at which the act to be secured thereby ought to be performed.

History: En. Sec. 3741, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5711, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8226, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2882; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1588; re-en. Sec. 8226, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-108.

71-3-104. Lien by agreement. A lien may be created by contract, to take immediate effect, as security for the performance of obligations not then in existence.

History: En. Sec. 3743, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8228, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2884; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1590; re-en. Sec. 8228, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-110.

71-3-105. Lien on future interest. An agreement may be made to create a lien upon property not yet acquired by the party agreeing to give the lien or not yet in existence. Except as otherwise provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, in such case the lien agreed for attaches from the time when the party agreeing to give it acquires an interest in the thing, to the extent of such interest.

History: En. Sec. 3742, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5712, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8227, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2883; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1589; re-en. Sec. 8227, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-118, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-109.

Cross-References

Future advances subject to mortgage protection, 71-1-206.

71-3-106. Extent of lien. The existence of a lien upon property does not of itself entitle the person in whose favor it exists to a lien upon the same property for the performance of any other obligation than that which the lien originally secured.

History: En. Sec. 3753, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5717, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8232, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2891; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1594; re-en. Sec. 8232, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-114.

71-3-107. Prior liens. When the holder of a special lien is compelled to satisfy a prior lien for the holder's own protection, the holder may enforce payment of the amount paid as a part of the claim for which the holder's own lien exists.

History: En. Sec. 3734, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5708, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8223, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2876; re-en. Sec. 8223, R.c.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-105; amd. Sec. 2261, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-108. Lien or contract for lien transfers no title. Notwithstanding an agreement to the contrary, a lien or a contract for a lien transfers no title to the property subject to the lien.

History: En. Sec. 3750, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5714, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8229, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2888; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1591; re-en. Sec. 8229, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-111.

71-3-109. Certain contracts void. Except as otherwise provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, all contracts for the forfeiture of property subject to a lien in satisfaction of the obligation secured thereby and all contracts in restraint of the right of redemption from a lien are void.

History: En. Sec. 3751, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5715, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8230, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2889; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1592; re-en. Sec. 8230, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-119, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-112.

71-3-110. Enforcement of obligation by creditor. The existence of a lien, as security for the performance of an obligation, does not affect the right of the creditor to enforce the obligation without regard to the lien.

History: En. Sec. 3754, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5718, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8233, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1595; re-en. Sec. 8233, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-115.

Cross-References

Proceedings in foreclosure suits — exclusive action, 71-1-222.

71-3-111. Creation of lien not a personal obligation. The creation of a lien does not itself imply that any person is bound to perform the act for which the lien is a security.

History: En. Sec. 3752, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5716, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8231, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2890; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1593; re-en. Sec. 8231, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-113.

71-3-112. Holder of lien not entitled to compensation. Except as otherwise provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, one who holds property by virtue of a lien on the property is not entitled to compensation from the owner of the property for any trouble or expense that the person incurs respecting the property, except to the same extent as a borrower under 70-7-110 and 70-7-111.

History: En. Sec. 3755, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5719, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8234, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2892; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1596; re-en. Sec. 8234, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-120, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-116; amd. Sec. 2262, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-113. Priority of liens. Other things being equal, different liens upon the same property have priority according to the time of their creation.

History: En. Sec. 3770, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5720, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8235, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2897; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1597; re-en. Sec. 8235, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-201.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-114. Priority of purchase money mortgage. Except as otherwise provided by law, a mortgage given for the price of real property at the time of its conveyance has priority over all other liens created against the purchaser, subject to the operation of the recording laws.

History: En. Sec. 3771, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5721, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8236, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2898; re-en. Sec. 8236, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-202.

Cross-References

Deficiency judgment not allowed on foreclosure of purchase price mortgage, 71-1-232.

71-3-115. Order of resort to different funds. When a person has a lien upon several things and other persons have subordinate liens upon or interests in some but not all of the same things, the person having the prior lien, if the prior lienor can do so without risk of personal loss or of injustice to other persons, shall resort to the property in the following order, on the demand of any interested party:

(1) to the things upon which the person has an exclusive lien;

(2) to the things that are subject to the fewest subordinate liens;

(3) in the same manner inversely to the number of subordinate liens upon the same thing; and

(4) when several things are within one of the classes described in subsections (2) and (3) and subject to the same number of liens, resort must be had:

(a) first, to the things that have not been transferred since the prior lien was created;

(b) second, to the things that have been transferred since the prior lien was created without a valuable consideration; and

(c) third, to the things that have been transferred for a valuable consideration in the inverse order of the transfer.

History: En. Sec. 3772, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5722, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8237, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2899; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1599; re-en. Sec. 8237, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-203; amd. Sec. 2263, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-116. Redemption. Redemption from a lien is made by performing or offering to perform the act for the performance of which it is a security and paying or offering to pay the damages, if any, to which the holder of the lien is entitled for delay.

History: En. Sec. 3782, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5725, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8240, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2905; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1602; re-en. Sec. 8240, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-303.

71-3-117. Right to redeem. Except as otherwise provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, a person having an interest in property subject to a lien has a right to redeem it from the lien at any time after the claim is due and before the person's right of redemption is foreclosed.

History: En. Sec. 3780, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5723, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8238, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2903; re-en. Sec. 8238, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-121, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-301; amd. Sec. 2264, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-118. Rights of inferior lienor. A person who has a lien inferior to another upon the same property has a right to:

(1) redeem the property in the same manner as its owner might from the superior lien; and

(2) be subrogated to all the benefits of the superior lien, when necessary for the protection of the person's interests, upon satisfying the claim secured by the superior lien.

History: En. Sec. 3781, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5724, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8239, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2904; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1601; re-en. Sec. 8239, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-302; amd. Sec. 2265, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-119. Lien accessory to performance. A lien is to be accessory to the act for the performance of which it is a security, whether any person is bound for such performance or not, and is extinguishable in like manner with any other accessory obligation.

History: En. Sec. 3790, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5726, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8241, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2909; re-en. Sec. 8241, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-304.

71-3-120. Effect of partial performance. The partial performance of an act secured by a lien does not extinguish the lien upon any part of the property subject thereto, even if it is divisible.

History: En. Sec. 3793, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5729, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8244, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2912; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1606; re-en. Sec. 8244, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-307.

71-3-121. Extinction by sale or wrongful conversion. The sale of any property on which there is a lien in satisfaction of the claim secured thereby or, in case of personal property, its wrongful conversion by the person holding the lien extinguishes the lien thereon.

History: En. Sec. 3791, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5727, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8242, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2910; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1604; re-en. Sec. 8242, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-305.

71-3-122. Lien extinguished by statute of limitations. A lien is extinguished by the lapse of the time within which, under the provisions of Title 27, an action can be brought upon the principal obligation.

History: En. Sec. 3792, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5728, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8243, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2911; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1605; re-en. Sec. 8243, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-306.

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

71-3-123. When restoration extinguishes lien. Except as otherwise provided by the Uniform Commercial Code, the voluntary restoration of property to its owner by the holder of a lien thereon, dependent upon possession, extinguishes the lien as to such property, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, and extinguishes it, notwithstanding any such agreement, as to creditors of the owner and persons subsequently acquiring a title to the property or a lien thereon in good faith and for a good consideration.

History: En. Sec. 3794, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5730, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8245, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2913; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1607; re-en. Sec. 8246, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-122, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-308.

71-3-124. Filing costs and attorney fees to be recovered on foreclosure of liens — offer of judgment. (1) In an action to foreclose any of the liens provided for in Title 71, chapter 3, part 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, or 16, the court shall allow as costs the money paid and attorney fees incurred for filing and recording the lien and reasonable attorney fees in the district and supreme courts. The costs and attorney fees must be allowed to each claimant whose lien is established, and the reasonable attorney fees must be allowed to the defendant against whose property a lien is claimed if the lien is not established.

(2) In an action to foreclose any of the liens provided for in Title 71, chapter 3, part 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, or 16, a defendant may make an offer of judgment as authorized in Rule 68, M.R.Civ.P. If the lienholder rejects the offer to allow judgment to be taken against the defendant and the lienholder obtains a judgment that is not more favorable than the offer, the lienholder shall, in addition to the costs allowed under Rule 68, M.R.Civ.P., pay the attorney fees incurred after the offer is made.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 1863, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7166, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9799, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 19, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 9799, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-8614, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 9799.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-8615, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1864, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7167, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9800, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 9800, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 93-8616, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 15, p. 131, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5833, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8332, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8332, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-415, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 9, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.9, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-909, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 17, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8352, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8352, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-602, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-415(part), 45-602, 45-909, 93-8614, 93-8615, 93-8616; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 240, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Inclusion of attorney fee in bill of cost, 25-10-302.

71-3-125. Filing of agricultural lien statements. (1) Unless a statement of an agricultural lien has been filed in the office of the secretary of state as provided in this chapter, a buyer who, in ordinary course of business as defined in 30-1-201(2)(j), buys a farm product takes it free of any lien created by this chapter even though the lien is otherwise perfected.

(2) A statement of an agricultural lien is sufficient if it:

(a) gives the names and addresses of the debtor and lienor;

(b) describes the type of lien and its statutory authority;

(c) describes the collateral;

(d) contains the notation by the secretary of state of the date of filing and filing number;

(e) is signed by the lienor;

(f) describes the service or product furnished. If the collateral is farm products, the statement must state the county in which the farm products are located, designated by type of farm product.

(g) states the price or wage agreed upon or, if the price or wage was not agreed upon, the reasonable value of the service or product furnished;

(h) states the amount remaining unpaid;

(i) states the terms and period of employment if it is a farm laborer's lien filed pursuant to part 4 of this chapter;

(j) describes the land upon which seed or grain was or will be sown, planted, or used if it is a lien for seed or grain filed pursuant to part 7 of this chapter;

(k) describes the land upon which the grain or crops were grown and the place the grain or crops are presently stored if it is a thresher's lien filed pursuant to part 8 of this chapter;

(l) describes the land upon which the service was performed if it is a lien for spraying or dusting filed pursuant to part 9 of this chapter; and

(m) states the starting date of insurance coverage if it is a lien filed pursuant to part 7 of this chapter.

(3) The agricultural lien statement must be in the form prescribed by the secretary of state.

(4) The secretary of state shall:

(a) record the agricultural lien statement on the centralized computer system as set forth in 30-9A-501; and

(b) establish fees for such recordings as set forth in 30-9A-525.

(5) For the purposes of this section, an agricultural lien means a lien under part 4, 7, 8, or 9 of this chapter.

(6) A statement of an agricultural lien or continuation statement that has been filed at the office of the county clerk and recorder lapses on March 31, 1990, unless prior to that date there is filed in the office of the secretary of state a certified copy of the statement and all related documents on file with the county clerk and recorder.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 305, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 575, L. 2005.**

71-3-126 through 71-3-130 reserved.

71-3-131. Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty. (1) Subject to subsection (2), when a lien authorized under this chapter is paid and satisfied or the claim upon which it is based has been found invalid by final order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, the creditors shall acknowledge satisfaction within 30 days and discharge the lien of record by filing a release of the lien in the office of the county clerk and recorder in each county in which the notice of lien was filed. If any creditor fails to acknowledge satisfaction, the creditor is liable to any person injured by the failure for a civil penalty of $100, plus any other damages provided by law.

(2) If the owner of the property against which a lien is filed pays the underlying claim before an action is filed on that claim or to foreclose the lien, the owner of the property against which the lien was filed shall pay the lienholder's costs and attorney fees incurred for filing and recording the lien before the lien may be released.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 525, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 240, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Indexes to recorded documents, 7-4-2619.
Availability of records, 7-4-2622.
Fees of County Clerk, 7-4-2631.

Part 2
Federal Tax Liens

71-3-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Federal Lien Registration Act".

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1506; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 1983.**

71-3-202. Uniformity of interpretation. This part shall be so construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the laws of those states which enact it.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1505.**

71-3-203. Execution of notices and certificates. Certification by the secretary of the treasury of the United States, by the secretary's delegate, or by any official or entity of the United States responsible for filing or certifying notice of any lien, notices of liens, certificates, or other notices affecting federal liens entitles them to be filed. No other attestation, certification, or acknowledgment is necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1502; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2266, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

71-3-204. Federal liens — place of filing. (1) Notices of liens upon real property for obligations payable to the United States and certificates and notices affecting the liens shall be filed in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county or counties in which the real property subject to the liens is situated.

(2) Notices of liens upon personal property, whether tangible or intangible, for obligations payable to the United States and certificates and notices affecting the liens shall be filed as follows:

(a) if the person against whose interest the lien applies is a corporation or a partnership whose principal executive office is in this state, as these entities are defined in the internal revenue laws of the United States, in the office of the secretary of state;

(b) if the person against whose interest the lien applies is a trust that is not covered by subsection (2)(a), in the office of the secretary of state;

(c) if the person against whose interest the lien applies is the estate of a decedent, in the office of the secretary of state;

(d) in all other cases, in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county where the taxpayer resides at the time of filing of the notice of lien.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1501; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 1983.

71-3-205. Duties of filing officer. (1) If a notice of federal lien, a refiling of a notice of federal lien, or a notice of revocation of any certificate described in subsection (2) is presented to the filing officer and:

(a) the filing officer is the secretary of state, the notice must be marked, held, and indexed in accordance with the provisions of 30-9A-519 as if the notice were a financing statement within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; or

(b) the filing officer is any other officer described in 71-3-204, the filing officer shall endorse on the document the filing officer's identification and the date and time of receipt and file it alphabetically or enter it in an alphabetical index showing the name and address of the person named in the notice, the date and time of receipt, the title and address of the official or entity certifying the lien, and the total amount appearing on the notice of lien.

(2) If a certificate of release, nonattachment, discharge, or subordination of any lien is presented to the secretary of state for filing, the secretary of state shall:

(a) cause a certificate of release or nonattachment to be marked, held, and indexed as if the certificate were a termination statement within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code, except that the notice of lien to which the certificate relates may not be removed from the files; and

(b) cause a certificate of discharge or subordination to be held, marked, and indexed as if the certificate were a release of collateral within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code.

(3) If a refiled notice of federal lien referred to in subsection (1) or any of the certificates or notices referred to in subsection (2) is presented for filing with any other filing officer specified in 71-3-204, the filing officer shall permanently attach the refiled notice or the certificate to the original notice of lien and shall enter the refiled notice or the certificate, with the date of filing, in any alphabetical lien index on the line where the original notice of lien is entered.

(4) Upon request of any person, the filing officer shall issue a certificate showing whether there is on file, on the date and hour stated in the certificate, any notice of lien or certificate or notice affecting the lien, filed on or after July 1, 1967, naming a particular person, and if a notice or certificate is on file, giving the date and hour of filing of each notice or certificate.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1503; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 156, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

71-3-206. Fees. (1) The fee for filing and indexing each notice of lien or certificate or notice affecting the tax lien must be established in accordance with the provisions of 30-9A-519.

(2) The officer shall bill the district directors of internal revenue or other appropriate federal officials on a monthly basis for fees for documents filed by them.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1504; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 156, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 83, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 420, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

71-3-207. Prior filings of tax liens and notices. Filing officers with whom notices of federal tax liens, certificates, and notices affecting such liens have been filed on or before July 1, 1967, shall, after that date, continue to maintain a file labeled "federal tax lien notices filed prior to July 1, 1967", containing notices and certificates filed in numerical order of receipt. If a notice of lien was filed on or before July 1, 1967, any certificate or notice affecting the lien shall be filed in the same office.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 228, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1507.

Part 3
Liens for Salaries and Wages

71-3-301. Priority when assignment of property made. In all assignments of property made by any person to trustees or assignees on account of the inability of the person, at the time of the assignment, to pay the person's debts or in proceedings of insolvency, the wages of the miners, mechanics, salespersons, servants, clerks, or laborers employed by the person, to the amount actually owed and for services rendered within the previous 4 months, are preferred claims and must be paid by the trustees or assignees before any other creditor of the assignor.

History: En. Sec. 2050, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2150, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7302, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8351, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1204; re-en. Sec. 8351, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 45-601; amd. Sec. 2267, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.

71-3-302. Priority in case of death of employer. In case of the death of any employer, the wages of each miner, mechanic, salesperson, clerk, servant, and laborer for services rendered within 4 months next preceding the death of the employer, in the amount actually owed, are preferred debts under 72-3-807(1)(e) and must be paid before other claims against the estate of the deceased person.

History: En. Sec. 2051, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2151, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7303, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8353, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1205; re-en. Sec. 8353, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 263,L. 1975; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 45-603; amd. Sec. 131, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 482, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Classification of claims against estate — priority of payment, 72-3-807.

71-3-303. Priority in cases of execution or attachment. In case of executions, attachments, and writs of similar nature issued against any person, except for claims for labor done, any miners, mechanics, salespersons, servants, clerks, or laborers who have claims against the defendant for labor done may give notice of their claims and the amount of their claims, sworn to by the person making the claim, to the parties plaintiff and defendant to the action in which the execution, attachment, or other writ has been issued and upon the officer executing the attachment or writ. Service of notice required by this section may be made upon the officer charged with the execution of the writ in one or more cases that may be pending against the person, who shall serve a copy of the notice and claim upon the parties plaintiff and defendant if they are found in the county where the action is pending or upon their respective attorneys employed in the case or cases pending.

History: En. Sec. 2052, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2152, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7304, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8354, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1206; re-en. Sec. 8354, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-604; amd. Sec. 2268, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-304. Service of notice. (1) The officer serving the notice and claim described in 71-3-303 shall, after service, make return of service showing the service and where and how it was made.

(2) Service may be made in any case at any time before the actual sale of the property levied upon in the pending action, and unless the claim is disputed by the debtor or a creditor or party plaintiff, the levying officer shall pay the person out of the proceeds of the sale the amount the person is entitled to receive for services rendered within the 4 months preceding the levy of the writ, not exceeding the amount actually owed.

History: En. 2052, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2153, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7305, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8355, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8355, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 45-605(part); amd. Sec. 2269, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-305. Proceeding if claim disputed. (1) If any or all of the claims presented and claiming preference under this part are disputed by either the debtor or a creditor, the person presenting the claim shall commence an action within 10 days after notice of the dispute is served upon the claimant, as provided in subsection (2), for the recovery of the claim. The officer shall retain possession of as much of the proceeds of the sale as may be necessary to satisfy the claim and costs until the final determination of the action. If judgment is given, the costs are a preferred claim, which may include reasonable attorney fees.

(2) The debtor or creditor intending to dispute any claim presented under the provisions of 71-3-303 shall, within 10 days after receiving notice of the claim, serve upon the claimant and officer holding the execution, attachment, or other writ a statement in writing, verified by the oath of the debtor or person disputing the claim for services, setting forth that no part of the claim, not exceeding a sum specified, is justly due from the debtor to the claimant for services rendered within the 4 months preceding the levy of the execution, attachment, or other writ.

(3) If the claimant brings suit on a claim that is disputed in part only and fails to recover a sum exceeding that which was admitted to be due, the claimant may not recover costs, but costs must be adjudged against the claimant. If the claimant fails to bring suit upon a claim that is disputed in part only, the claimant is considered to have waived the disputed portion of the claim.

History: (1)En. 2052, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2153, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7305, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8355, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8355, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 1943; Sec. 45-605, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 2053, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2154, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7306, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8356, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1207; re-en. Sec. 8356, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 109, L. 1943; Sec. 45-606, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-605(part), 45-606; amd. Sec. 2270, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Form of ordinary oath, 1-6-102.
Affirmation or declaration in lieu of oath, 1-6-104.

71-3-306. Preferred claims — no dismissal of original action without consent. Persons having the preferred claims mentioned in this part are entitled to a lien upon the property attached or levied upon, and if said claims are not disputed or if a judgment is recovered for the same, the officer must pay such claims out of the property, and the original action cannot be dismissed without the consent of the owners of such preferred claims.

History: En. Sec. 2155, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7307, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8357, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8357, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-607.

71-3-307. Liens not affected prior to four months of claim. Nothing in this part shall be construed so as to affect any lien, encumbrance, or mortgage held by any creditor of such employer prior to said 4 months.

History: En. Sec. 2054, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2156, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7308, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8358, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8358, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 109, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 45-608.

Part 4
Farm Laborers' Liens

71-3-401. Who may have lien — priority. (1) A person who performs services for another in the capacity of a farm or ranch laborer has a lien on all crops of every kind grown, raised, or harvested by the person for whom the services were performed during that time as security for the payment of any wages due or owing to the person for services performed.

(2) The lien has priority over all other liens, chattel mortgages, or encumbrances except feed sufficient for 3 months for 1 horse, 2 cows and their calves, 4 hogs, and 50 domestic fowls and seed grain and threshers' liens. The wages for which a lien may be claimed may not be in excess of $1,000 or for a period of time exceeding 60 days preceding the date of filing the lien. If a person without cause quits the employment before the expiration of the time for which the person is employed, the person is not entitled to a lien as provided in this part.

(3) If several persons have or obtain liens under the provisions of this part against property of the same employer, they have no priority among themselves but all must be paid pro rata from the proceeds of any foreclosure sale according to the provisions of this part.

History: En. Secs. 1, 4, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Secs. 8374.1, 8374.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-901, 45-904; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 11, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2271, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.

Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-402. How lien obtained. In order to acquire a lien, as specified in 71-3-401, the person performing services shall, within 30 days after the services are fully performed, file in the office of the secretary of state a statement of agricultural lien, as provided in 71-3-125, and the address to which notice must be directed as required by 71-3-404.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-902; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1989.

71-3-403. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 529, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-903; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 1981.

71-3-404. Notice to other lienholders. (1) A person intending to foreclose a lien secured under the provisions of this part shall give a written notice to the owner or the person against whom the lien is claimed and all chattel mortgagees, encumbrancers, and all other lienholders who appear on record in the office of the secretary of state that in not less than 10 days from the date of notice the person will institute proceedings for the foreclosure of the person's lien. Any other labor lienholder to whom notice is given may join in the foreclosure proceedings and is entitled to a pro rata share of the proceeds of the foreclosure sale as provided in this part. However, a notified labor lienholder who does not join in the proceedings is not entitled to share pro rata in the proceeds of the sale.

(2) The lien notice required by this section must be given by certified mail and directed to the last-known address of the owner or the person against whom the lien is claimed and to the addresses of the chattel mortgagees, encumbrancers, and all other lienholders as their addresses appear of record. The return of the foreclosure sale must be accompanied by proof of the giving of notice as required to be given in this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-905; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2272, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Filing costs and attorney fees — recovered on foreclosure of liens, 71-3-124.

71-3-405. Limitations of actions to foreclose liens. All actions for the foreclosure and enforcement of the lien herein provided for must be commenced within 90 days from the filing of the lien.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-910.

71-3-406. Rules of practice. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the provisions of Title 25 are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice in the proceedings mentioned in this part.

(2) The provisions of Title 25 relative to new trials and appeals, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, apply to the proceedings mentioned in this part.

History: (1)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.6, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-906, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.7, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-907, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-906, 45-907.

71-3-407. Parties. All persons interested in the matter in controversy or in property charged with the lien or having liens thereon may be made parties.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-908.

71-3-408. Acknowledgment of satisfaction of lien — penalty. (1) Whenever the indebtedness that is a lien upon any of the crops subject to this part is paid and satisfied, it is the duty of the lienor to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien and to discharge the lien of record. If any lienor fails to acknowledge satisfaction and discharge the lien within 30 days after being requested to do so by a person having a property interest in the crops, the lienor is liable to any person injured by the failure in the amount of the injury and costs of action.

(2) A termination statement as described in 30-9A-513 must be filed with the secretary of state with the same obligations and penalties described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 196, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 8374.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-126, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-911; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

Cross-References
Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

Part 5
Construction Liens

71-3-501. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 332, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 1, p. 509, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 820, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1370, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2130, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7290, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8339, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1183; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 8339, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 45-501.

71-3-502. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Secs. 8 and 9, p. 334, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 8 and 9, p. 511, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Secs. 1 and 2, p. 238, L. 2877; re-en. Sec. 827, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1374, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2, p. 71, Ex. L. 1887; en. Sec. 2133, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7293, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8342, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1185; re-en. Sec. 8342, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-504, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 10, p. 334, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 10, p. 511, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 3, p. 238, L. 1877; amd. Sec. 829, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1376, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2135, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7295, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8344, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1186; re-en. Sec. 8344, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-506, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-504(part), 45-506.

71-3-503. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 1387, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3, p. 72, Ex. L. 1887; amd. Sec. 2140, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7300, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8349, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8349, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 45-511.

71-3-504. Renumbered 71-3-561. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-505. Renumbered 71-3-562. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-506 through 71-3-510 reserved.

71-3-511. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 6, p. 333, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 6, p. 510, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 1, p. 84, L. 1874; re-en. Sec. 825, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1371, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 71, Ex. L. 1887; amd. Sec. 2131, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; En. Sec. 1, p. 162, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 7291, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8340, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1187; re-en. Sec. 8340, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 45-502(1), (2).

71-3-512. Renumbered 71-3-533. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-513. Renumbered 71-3-534. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-514. Repealed. Sec. 17, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

History: (1)En. Secs. 8 and 9, p. 334, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Secs. 8 and 9, p. 511, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Secs. 1 and 2, p. 238, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 827, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1374, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2, p. 71, Ex. L. 1887; en. Sec. 2133, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7293, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8342, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1185; re-en. Sec. 8342, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-504, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 9, p. 334, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 9, p. 511, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 828, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1375, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2134, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7294, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8343, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8343, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-505, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-504(part), 45-505.

71-3-515. Renumbered 71-3-537. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-516. Renumbered 71-3-551. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-517. Renumbered 71-3-552. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-518. Renumbered 71-3-553. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-519. Renumbered 71-3-563. Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-520 reserved.

71-3-521. Scope. This part creates and provides for the attachment and enforceability of a construction lien against real estate in favor of a person furnishing services or materials under a real estate improvement contract. A nonconsensual lien against real estate for improvements made thereon may not arise except as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

71-3-522. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commencement of work" means the date of the first visible change in the physical condition of the real estate caused by the first person furnishing services or materials pursuant to a particular real estate improvement contract.

(2) "Construction lien" or "lien" means a lien against real estate arising under this part.

(3) (a) "Contract price" means the amount agreed upon by the contracting parties for performing services and furnishing materials covered by the contract, increased or diminished by:

(i) the price of change orders or extras;

(ii) any amounts attributable to altered specifications; or

(iii) a breach of contract, including but not limited to defects in workmanship or materials.

(b) If a price is not agreed upon by the contracting parties, the contract price means the reasonable value of all services or materials covered by the contract.

(4) (a) "Contracting owner" means a person who owns an interest in real estate and who, personally or through an agent, enters into an express or implied contract for the improvement of the real estate.

(b) For the purpose of determining whether a person is a contracting owner, agency is presumed, in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary:

(i) between employer and employee;

(ii) between spouses;

(iii) between joint tenants; and

(iv) among tenants in common.

(5) "Original contractor" means a contractor who contracts directly with the contracting owner.

(6) (a) "Real estate improvement contract" means an agreement to perform services, including labor, or to furnish materials for the purpose of producing a change in the physical condition of the real estate, including:

(i) alteration of the surface by excavation, fill, change in grade, or change in a shore, bank, or flood plain of a stream, swamp, or body of water;

(ii) construction or installation on, above, or below the surface of land;

(iii) demolition, repair, remodeling, or removal of a structure previously constructed or installed;

(iv) seeding, sodding, or other landscape operation;

(v) surface or subsurface testing, boring, or analysis; and

(vi) preparation of plans, surveys, or architectural or engineering plans or drawings for any change in the physical condition of the real estate, regardless of whether they are used to produce a change in the physical condition of the real estate.

(b) For the purpose of claiming a construction lien, a real estate improvement contract does not include:

(i) a contract for the mining or removal of timber, minerals, gravel, soil, sod, or things growing on the land or a similar contract in which the activity is primarily for the purpose of making the materials available for sale or use; or

(ii) a contract for the planting, cultivation, or harvesting of crops or for the preparation of the soil for the planting of crops.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 2007.

71-3-523. Who may claim construction lien — limitation. A person who furnishes services or materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract may claim a construction lien, only to the extent provided in this part, to secure the payment of the person's contract price.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2273, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-524. Limitation of lien for materials supplied. (1) A lien for furnishing materials arises only if:

(a) (i) the materials are supplied with the intent that they be used in the course of construction of or incorporated into the improvement in connection with which the lien arises; and

(ii) the intent described in subsection (1)(a)(i) may be shown by a contract of sale, by a delivery order, by delivery to the site by the lien claimant or at the lien claimant's direction, or by other evidence; and

(b) the materials are:

(i) incorporated in the improvement or consumed as normal wastage in construction operations;

(ii) specifically fabricated for incorporation into the improvement and not readily resalable in the ordinary course of the fabricator's business, even though the materials are not actually incorporated into the improvement;

(iii) used for the construction or operation of machinery or equipment used in the course of construction and not remaining in the improvement, subject to diminution by the salvage value of those materials; or

(iv) tools, appliances, or machinery used on the particular improvement. However, a lien for supplying tools, appliances, or machinery used on the improvement is limited as provided by subsection (3).

(2) The delivery of materials to the site of the improvement, whether by the lien claimant or by another, creates a presumption that they were used in the course of construction or were incorporated into the improvement.

(3) A lien arising for the supplying of tools, appliances, or machinery under subsection (1)(b)(iv) is limited as follows:

(a) if they are rented, the lien is for the reasonable rental value for the period of actual use, including any reasonable periods of nonuse provided for in the rental contract; and

(b) if they are purchased, the lien is for the price but arises only if they were purchased for use in the course of the particular improvement and have no substantial value after the completion of the improvement on which they were used.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2274, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-525. Extent of lien. (1) A construction lien extends to the interest of the contracting owner in the real estate, as the interest exists at the commencement of work or is subsequently acquired in the real estate, subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) (a) If an improvement is located wholly on one or more platted lots belonging to the contracting owner, the lien applies to the improvement and to the lots on which the improvement is located.

(b) If an improvement is not located wholly on one or more platted lots, the lien applies to the improvement and to the smallest identifiable tract or parcel of land on which the improvement is located.

(3) If the improvement is to leased premises, the lien attaches to the improvement and to the leasehold term. Except as provided in subsection (4), it does not attach to the lessor's interest unless the lessor contracted for or agreed to the improvement before it was begun.

(4) (a) A construction lien is not impaired to the extent of the value of the work or improvement that is severable from the real estate if the improvement is to premises held by:

(i) a contracting owner who owns less than a fee simple interest; or

(ii) a lessee and the lease is forfeited by the lessee.

(b) If the work or improvement may be removed without harm to the rest of the real estate, the lienholder may have the value determined, the work or improvement sold separately, and the proceeds delivered to the lienholder to satisfy the construction lien. The purchaser shall remove the work or improvement within 45 days of the sale.

(5) If a contracting owner contracts for improvements on real estate not owned by the contracting owner as part of an improvement on the contracting owner's real estate or for the purpose of directly benefiting the contracting owner's real estate, there is a lien against the contracting owner's real estate being improved or directly benefited in favor of persons furnishing services or materials to the same extent as if the improvement had been on the contracting owner's real estate.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2275, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-526. Amount of lien. (1) A person who has furnished services or materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract is entitled to a lien for the unpaid part of the person's contract price, subject to the provisions of 71-3-524.

(2) A person's lien is reduced by the sum of the liens of persons claiming construction liens through that person.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2276, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-527 through 71-3-530 reserved.

71-3-531. Notice of right to claim lien required — exceptions. (1) The following are not required to give notice of the right to claim a lien as required by this section:

(a) an original contractor who furnishes services or materials directly to the owner at the owner's request;

(b) a wage earner or laborer who performs personal labor services for a person furnishing any service or material pursuant to a real estate improvement contract;

(c) a person who furnishes services or materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract that relates to a dwelling for five or more families; and

(d) a person who furnishes services or materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract that relates to an improvement that is partly or wholly commercial in character.

(2) A person who may claim a construction lien pursuant to this part shall give notice of the right to claim a lien to the contracting owner in order to claim a lien.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the notice may not be given later than 20 days after the date on which the services or materials are first furnished to the contracting owner. If notice is not given within this period, a lien is enforceable only for the services or materials furnished within the 20-day period before the date on which notice is given.

(4) When payment for services or materials furnished pursuant to a real estate improvement contract, excluding a contract on an owner-occupied residence, is made by or on behalf of the contracting owner from funds provided by a regulated lender and secured by an interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance for the purpose of paying the particular real estate improvement being liened, the notice required by this section may not be given later than 45 days after the date on which the services or materials are first furnished to the contracting owner. If notice is not given within this period, a lien is enforceable only for the services or materials furnished within the 45-day period before the date on which notice is given.

(5) The notice of the right to claim a lien must be sent to the contracting owner by certified mail or delivered personally to the owner. Notice by certified mail is effective on the date on which the notice is mailed. If the notice is delivered personally to the contracting owner, written acknowledgment of receipt must be obtained from the contracting owner. A person may not claim a construction lien unless the person has complied with this subsection.

(6) (a) A person who may claim a lien shall also file with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the improved real estate is located a copy of the notice of the right to claim a lien, in the form required by 71-3-532. This copy may not be filed later than 5 business days after the date on which the notice of the right to claim a lien is given to the contracting owner. The notice filed with the clerk and recorder must be signed by the person filing the notice or by a person authorized to sign for the person filing the notice.

(b) The county clerk and recorder may allow the notice of the right to claim a lien to be electronically filed. A notice filed electronically with the clerk and recorder must be electronically signed by the person filing the notice or by a person authorized to sign for the person filing the notice.

(c) The notice filed with the clerk and recorder for the purpose of public notice is effective for 1 year from the date of filing. The notice lapses upon the expiration of the 1-year period unless the person who may claim a lien files with the clerk and recorder a 1-year continuation of the notice prior to the date on which the notice lapses. The clerk and recorder may remove the notice from the public record when it lapses.

(d) A continuation of the notice must be signed by the person who filed the original notice of the right to claim a lien or by a person authorized to sign for the person who filed the original notice of the right to claim a lien and must include:

(i) the clerk and recorder's file number of the original notice;

(ii) the date on which the original notice was filed; and

(iii) the name of the person to whom the original notice was given.

(e) If a notice of the right to claim a lien is required under this section, a person may not claim a construction lien pursuant to this part unless there is an unexpired notice of right to claim a construction lien or an unexpired continuation notice filed with the clerk and recorder at the time that the person files the lien.

(7) A contracting owner shall provide in the construction contract with the original contractor:

(a) a street address or legal description that is sufficient to identify the real estate being improved; and

(b) the name and address of the contracting owner.

(8) At the request of any subcontractor or material supplier who may claim a lien through an original contractor providing services or materials to a contracting owner, the original contractor shall furnish to the requestor within 5 business days:

(a) a street address or legal description sufficient to identify the real estate being improved; and

(b) the name and address of the contracting owner.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 357, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 2009.

71-3-532. Content of notice of right to claim lien. (1) The notice of the right to claim a lien must be in writing and state that it is a notice of a right to claim a lien against real estate for services or materials furnished in connection with improvement of the real estate.

(2) The notice must contain a description sufficient to identify the real estate against which the lien may be claimed.

(3) The notice must contain the following information:

(a) date of mailing;

(b) owner's name;

(c) owner's address;

(d) name of person filing notice;

(e) address of person filing notice;

(f) a description sufficient to identify the property that is being improved; and

(g) the following notice:

NOTICE OF THE RIGHT TO CLAIM A LIEN

WARNING: READ THIS NOTICE. PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PAYING ANY CONTRACTOR OR SUPPLIER TWICE FOR THE SAME SERVICE. This is to inform you that .... has begun to provide .... (description of services or materials) ordered by .... for improvements to property you own. The property is located at .... If .... is not paid, a lien may be filed against the property. THIS IS NOT A LIEN. It is a notice sent to you for your protection in compliance with the construction lien laws of the state of Montana.

This notice has been sent to you by:

NAME: ....

ADDRESS: ....

TELEPHONE: ....

Under Montana's laws, those who work on your property or provide materials and are not paid have a right to enforce their claim for payment against your property. This claim is known as a construction lien.

If your contractor fails to pay subcontractors or material suppliers or neglects to make other legally required payments, the people who are owed money may look to your property for payment, even if you have paid your contractor in full.

The law states that all people hired by a contractor to provide you with services or materials are required to give you a notice of the right to claim a lien to let you know what they have provided.

WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF ARE:

— RECOGNIZE that this notice of delivery of services or materials may result in a lien against your property unless all those supplying a notice of the right to lien have been paid.

— LEARN more about the construction lien laws and the meaning of this notice by contacting an attorney or the firm sending this notice.

— WHEN PAYING your contractor for services or materials, you may make checks payable jointly to the contractor and the firm furnishing services or materials for which you have received a notice of the right to claim a lien.

— OBTAIN EVIDENCE that all firms from whom you have received a notice of the right to claim a lien have been paid or have waived the right to claim a lien against your property.

— CONSULT an attorney, a professional escrow company, or your mortgage lender.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 484, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 357, L. 1999.

71-3-533. Notice of completion. (1) The contracting owner may file a notice of completion at any time after the completion of any work or improvement.

(2) The following acts or events constitute completion of any work or improvement for the purpose of filing a notice of completion:

(a) the written acceptance by the contracting owner, the contracting owner's agent, or the representative of the building, improvement, or structure. The filing of a notice of completion may not be considered as an acceptance of the building, improvement, or other structure.

(b) the cessation from labor for 30 days upon any building, improvement, or structure or the alteration, addition to, or repair of the building, improvement, or structure.

(3) The notice of completion, together with an affidavit of publication as required in this section, must be filed in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the property is situated, and the notice must set forth:

(a) the date when the work or improvement was completed or the date on which cessation from labor occurred first and the period of its duration;

(b) the contracting owner's name and address and the nature of the title, if any, of the person signing the notice;

(c) a description of the property sufficient for identification;

(d) the name of the contractor, if any.

(4) The notice must be verified by the contracting owner or the owner's agent.

(5) A copy of the notice of completion must be published once each week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the land on which the work or improvement was performed is situated.

(6) The contracting owner shall give a copy of the notice of completion to any person who has given the contracting owner a notice of a right to claim a lien.

History: (1), (3) thru (5)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1971; Sec. 45-502.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 6, p. 333, Bannack Stat.; amd. Sec. 6, p. 510, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 1, p. 84, L. 1874; re-en. Sec. 825, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; amd. Sec. 1371, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 71, Ex. L. 1887; amd. Sec. 2131, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; En. Sec. 1, p. 162, L. 1901; re-en. Sec. 7291, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8340, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1187; re-en. Sec. 8340, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1971; Sec. 45-502, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-502(3), 45-502.1; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 202, L. 1987; Sec. 71-3-512, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-533 by Code Commissioner, 1987; amd. Sec. 2277, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-534. Filing with county clerk — notification of owner. (1) The county clerk shall endorse upon every lien the day of its filing and make an abstract of the lien in a book to be kept for that purpose and properly indexed, containing the date of the filing, the name of the person holding the lien, the amount of the lien, the name of the person against whose property the lien is filed, and the description of the property to be charged with the lien.

(2) The clerk may not file the lien unless it is accompanied by a certification by the lien claimant or the claimant's agent that a copy of the lien has been served upon each owner of record of the property named in the lien. Service must be made by personal service on each owner or by mailing a copy of the lien by certified mail with return receipt requested to each owner's last-known address. The certification must state that service was made by delivery of certified mail.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 333, Bannack Stat.; re-en. Sec. 7, p. 510, Cod. Stat. 1871; amd. Sec. 2, p. 84, L. 1874; re-en. Sec. 826, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1373, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2132, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7292, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8341, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8341, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-503; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 515, L. 1981; Sec. 71-3-513, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-534 by Code Commissioner, 1987; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 130, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Definition of registered mail, 1-1-202.

71-3-535. Attachment of lien — filing. (1) A person's lien does not attach and may not be enforced unless, after entering into the contract under which the lien arises, the person has filed a lien not later than 90 days after:

(a) the person's final furnishing of services or materials; or

(b) the owner files a notice of completion pursuant to 71-3-533.

(2) (a) The lien must be filed with the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the improved real estate is located, and the county clerk and recorder may allow the lien to be filed electronically.

(b) The person claiming the lien shall certify to the county clerk and recorder that a copy of the lien has been served on the owner of record as provided in 71-3-534(2).

(3) The lien statement must contain:

(a) the name and address of the person claiming the lien;

(b) a description of the real property against which the lien is claimed sufficient to identify it;

(c) the name of the contracting owner;

(d) the name and address of the party with whom the person claiming the lien contracted to furnish services or materials;

(e) a description of the services or materials provided;

(f) the amount unpaid for services or materials or, if no amount is fixed by the contract, a good faith estimate of the amount unpaid, designated as an estimate;

(g) (i) the date on which the services or materials were first furnished; and

(ii) the date on which the services or materials were last furnished; and

(h) a declaration that a notice of a right to claim a lien was given to the contracting owner or an explanation of why the notice was not required.

(4) A lien notice that is filed pursuant to this section before the person claiming the lien has substantially furnished services or materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract is not effective to create a construction lien unless the lien claimant is prevented from fulfilling the lien claimant's obligation because of the fault of another person.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), a lien attaches at the commencement of work as defined in 71-3-522.

(6) A lien attaches when it is filed if it is for the preparation of plans, surveys, or architectural or engineering plans or drawings for any change in the physical condition of land or structures that are not used incident to producing a change in the physical condition of the real estate.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 357, L. 1999.

71-3-536. Content of lien notice. The notice for the lien provided for in 71-3-535 may be filed in substantially this form:

Construction Lien

I, ... (insert name and address of person claiming the construction lien), claim a construction lien pursuant to Title 71, chapter 3, of the Montana Code Annotated.

I claim this lien against .... (give description of the real property against which the lien is claimed sufficient to identify it). The contracting owner is .... (insert name of the person who owns the real estate and name of the person who entered into the contract to improve it).

At the request of .... (give name and address of party with whom person claiming the lien contracted to furnish services or materials), I provided the following: .... (give description of the services or materials provided). The amount remaining unpaid is .... (insert the amount unpaid; if no amount was fixed by the contract, give your good faith estimate of the amount and identify it as an estimate).

I first furnished these services or materials on .... (give date) and last furnished services or materials on .... (give date; if the date has not yet arrived, insert an estimate of the date on which services or materials will be last furnished and identify the date as an estimate).

I gave notice of the right to claim a lien as required by 71-3-531 on .... (give date) to .... (give name of contracting owner). .... (If it is not required to give a notice of the right to claim a lien, state the reason it is not required.)

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 202, L. 1987.

71-3-537. Acknowledgment of satisfaction of lien — penalty. Whenever any indebtedness that is a lien upon any real estate, structure, building, or other improvement is paid and satisfied, it is the duty of the creditors to acknowledge satisfaction of the indebtedness in the same manner as a mortgage. If a creditor fails to acknowledge satisfaction, the creditor is liable to any person injured by the failure to the amount of the injury and the costs of action.

History: En. Sec. 841, 5th Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 1385, 5th Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2141, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7301, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8350, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8350, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-512; Sec. 71-3-515, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-537 by Code Commissioner, 1987; amd. Sec. 2278, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-538. Release of notice of right to claim lien. (1) A person who has filed a notice of the right to claim a lien shall file a release of the notice of the right to claim a lien when the person is paid for the services and materials that are the subject of the notice of the right to claim a lien.

(2) If a person subject to the provisions of subsection (1) has been paid for the services and materials pursuant to a real estate improvement contract, the person shall file a release of the notice of the right to claim a lien within 5 business days of the contracting owner's request that the release be filed.

(3) The release must be filed with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the improved real estate is located and must include:

(a) the clerk and recorder's file number of the notice of the right to claim a lien;

(b) the date on which the notice of the right to claim a lien was filed; and

(c) the name of the person to whom the notice of the right to claim a lien was given.

(4) The release must be signed by the person who filed the notice of the right to claim a lien or by a person authorized to sign for the person who filed the notice of the right to claim a lien.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 2009.

71-3-539 and 71-3-540 reserved.

71-3-541. Priority among holders of construction liens. (1) There is equal priority between or among construction lien claimants who contribute to the same real estate improvement project, regardless of the date on which each lien claimant first contributed services or materials and regardless of the date on which the claimant filed the notice of lien. When the proceeds of a foreclosure sale are not sufficient to pay all construction lien claimants in full, each claimant must receive a pro rata share of the proceeds based on the amount of the claimant's respective lien.

(2) Construction liens attaching at different times have priority in the order of attachment.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2279, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-542. Priority of construction liens as against claims other than construction lien claims. (1) A construction lien arising under this part has priority over any other interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance that may attach to the building, structure, or improvement or on the real property on which the building, structure, or improvement is located and that is filed after the construction lien attaches.

(2) An interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance that is filed before the construction lien attaches has priority over a construction lien arising under this part, except as provided in subsections (3) and (4).

(3) A construction lien has priority, to the extent of the value of the work or improvement that is severable, over an interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance that is filed before the construction lien attaches. If the work or improvement may be removed without harm to the rest of the real property, the lienholder may have the value determined, the work or improvement sold separately on foreclosure, and the proceeds delivered to the lienholder to satisfy the construction lien.

(4) A construction lien has priority over any interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance that is filed before the construction lien attaches if that interest, lien, mortgage, or encumbrance was taken to secure advances made for the purpose of paying for the particular real estate improvement to which the lien was attached.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 202, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2280, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-543 through 71-3-550 reserved.

71-3-551. Substitution of bond allowed — filing — amount — condition. (1) (a) Whenever a construction lien has been filed on real property, entities as provided in subsection (1)(b) may, at any time before the lien claimant has commenced an action to foreclose the construction lien or within 30 days of the service of a complaint in an action to foreclose the construction lien, file a bond with the clerk of the district court in the county in which the property is located or, if the property is located in more than one county, with the clerk of the district court of any county in which a part of the property is located.

(b) The following persons may file a bond as provided in subsection (1)(a):

(i) the contracting owner of any interest in the property, whether legal or beneficial;

(ii) the original contractor as defined in 71-3-522; or

(iii) any subcontractor.

(2) The bond must be in an amount 1½ times the amount of the construction lien and must be either in cash or written by a corporate surety company. If written by a corporate surety, the bond must be approved by a judge of the district court with which the bond is filed.

(3) The bond must be conditioned that if the construction lien claimant is finally adjudged to be entitled to recover on the claim on which the construction lien is based, the principal or the principal's sureties shall pay to the claimant the amount of the claimant's judgment, together with any interest, costs, attorney fees, and other sums that the claimant would be entitled to recover on the foreclosure of a construction lien against the principal. However, the total amount paid by the principal or the principal's sureties may not exceed the amount of the bond provided for in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 45-513; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 202, L. 1987; Sec. 71-3-516, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-551 by Code Commissioner, 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 204, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

71-3-552. Lien discharged upon filing of bond. Upon the filing of a bond as provided in 71-3-551, the lien against the real property shall forthwith be discharged and released in full and the bond shall be substituted for such lien.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 338, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 45-514; Sec. 71-3-517, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-552 by Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-553. Action upon bond — period of limitation same. (1) When a bond is filed prior to the service of a complaint in an action to foreclose upon a construction lien as allowed in 71-3-551, the person filing the construction lien may bring an action upon the bond.

(2) The action must be commenced within the time allowed for the commencement of an action upon foreclosure of a lien, and the statute of limitations applicable to a lien foreclosure applies to an action upon the bond as it would had a bond not been filed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 338, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 45-515; Sec. 71-3-518, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-553 by Code Commissioner, 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 204, L. 2007.

71-3-554 through 71-3-560 reserved.

71-3-561. Parties. All persons interested in the matter in controversy or in property charged with the lien or having liens thereon may be made parties.

History: En. Sec. 2138, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7298, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8347, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8347, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-509; Sec. 71-3-504, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-561 by Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-562. Limitation on actions. All actions under this part must be commenced within 2 years from the date of the filing of the lien.

History: En. Sec. 2139, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7299, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8348, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8348, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-510; Sec. 71-3-505, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-562 by Code Commissioner, 1987.

71-3-563. Rules of practice. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the provisions of Title 25 are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice in the proceedings mentioned in this part.

(2) The provisions of Title 25 relative to new trials and appeals, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, apply to the proceedings mentioned in this part.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2136, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7296, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8345, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1198; re-en. Sec. 8345, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-507, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2137, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7297, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8346, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1199; re-en. Sec. 8346, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-508, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-507, 45-508; Sec. 71-3-519, MCA 1985; redes. 71-3-563 by Code Commissioner, 1987.

Cross-References

Civil Procedure, Title 25.

71-3-564. Arbitration of lien disputes. (1) The parties to a construction lien created under this part may agree prior to the creation of the construction lien or at any time after the construction lien is created to enter into arbitration if a dispute arises between the parties with respect to the construction lien. Arbitration entered into pursuant to this section is subject to the Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, chapter 5.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) do not prohibit a party from substituting a bond for the construction lien as provided in 71-3-551. Upon the filing of the bond, the construction lien is discharged as provided in 71-3-552. The parties may continue with arbitration if they agree to do so.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 2013.

Part 6
Loggers' Liens

71-3-601. Definition of lumber — who may have lien. (1) The term "lumber", as used in this part, means all logs or other timber sawed or split for use, including beams, joists, planks, boards, shingles, laths, staves, hoops, and every article of any nature or description manufactured from sawlogs or other timber.

(2) A person, general partnership, limited partnership, corporation, or association performing labor done upon or that assists in obtaining or securing sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber has a lien upon the product and upon all other sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber that at the time of the filing of the claim or lien provided for in subsection (3) belonged to the person or corporation for whom the labor was performed for the work or labor done upon or in obtaining or securing the particular sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber described in the claim or lien. The lien exists whether the work or labor was done at the request of the owner, the owner's agent, a contractor or subcontractor, or any person on behalf of the owner or the owner's agent or a contractor or subcontractor. The cook in a logging camp must be regarded as a person who assists in obtaining or securing any of the timber mentioned in this subsection.

(3) A person performing work or labor or assisting in manufacturing sawlogs and other timber into lumber and shingles has a lien upon the lumber while the lumber remains at the mill where it was manufactured or in the possession or under the control of the manufacturer, whether the work or labor was done at the request of the owner of the logs, the owner's agent, or any contractor or subcontractor of the owner.

(4) A person who permits another to go upon the person's timberland and cut sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber has a lien upon the sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber for the price agreed to be paid for the privilege or for the price the privilege would be reasonably worth if there was no express agreement fixing the price.

History: (1), (3)En. Sec. 2, p. 127, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5820, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8319, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8319, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-402, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, p. 126, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5819, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 60, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 8318, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3065; re-en. Sec. 8318, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 59, L. 1967; Sec. 45-401, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 3, p. 127, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5821, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8320, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8320, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-403, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-401, 45-402, 45-403; amd. Sec. 2281, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-602. Priority. The liens provided for in this part are preferred liens and prior to any other liens, and no sale or transfer of any sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or manufactured lumber or shingles shall divest the lien thereon as herein provided, and as between liens provided for in this part, those for work and labor shall be preferred. As between liens for work and labor claimed by several laborers on the same logs or lot of logs, the claims for work and labor done or performed on the identical logs proceeded against to the extent that said logs can be identified shall be preferred as against the general claims of liens for work and labor recognized and provided for in this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, p. 127, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5822, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8321, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8321, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-404.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-603. Extent of liens. (1) The person rendering the service or doing the work or labor named in 71-3-601(1) through (3) is only entitled to the liens as provided herein for services, work, or labor for the period of 3 calendar months, or any part thereof next preceding the filing of the claim, as provided in 71-3-605.

(2) The person granting the privilege mentioned in 71-3-601(4) is only entitled to the lien as provided therein for sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber cut during the 3 months next preceding the filing of the claim, as provided in 71-3-606.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, p. 128, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5823, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8322, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8322, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-405, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 6, p. 128, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5824, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8323, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8323, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-406, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-405, 45-406; amd. Sec. 132, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

71-3-604. Duration of lien. No lien provided for in this part binds any sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or lumber and shingles for a longer period than 8 calendar months after the claim as herein provided has been filed, unless a civil action be commenced in a proper court within that time to enforce the same. However, in case such civil action so commenced should for any cause, other than the merits, be dismissed, then the lien shall continue for the term of 1 calendar month, if the 8 months have expired to permit the commencement of another action thereon, which shall be as effective in prolonging the lien as if it had been entered during the term of 8 months hereinbefore stated.

History: En. Sec. 10, p. 129, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5828, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8327, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8327, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-410.

71-3-605. How to obtain lien — form of claim. (1) A person, within 30 days after the close of the rendition of the services or after the close of the work or labor mentioned in 71-3-601, claiming the benefit of this part shall file for record with the county in which the sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber was cut or in which the lumber or shingles were manufactured a claim containing a statement of the person's demand and the amount, after deducting as nearly as possible all just credits and offsets, with the name of the person by whom the person was employed and with a statement of the terms and conditions of the person's contract, if any. If there is no express contract, the claim must state what the service, work, or labor is reasonably worth. It must also contain a description of the property to be charged with a lien sufficient for identification with reasonable certainty, and the claim must be verified by the oath of the person or some other person to the effect that the affiant believes the claim to be true.

(2) The claim must be substantially in the following form:

...., Claimant, vs. ....

Notice is hereby given that .... of .... County, state of Montana, claims a lien upon a .... of ...., being about .... in quantity, which were cut or manufactured in .... County, state of Montana, are marked ...., and are now lying in a .... for labor performed upon and assistance rendered in .... the ....; that the name of the owner or reputed owner is ....; that .... employed .... to perform the labor and render the assistance upon the following terms and conditions: The .... agreed to pay the .... for the labor and assistance ....; that the contract has been faithfully performed and fully complied with on the part of ...., who performed labor upon and assisted in .... for a period of ....; that the labor and assistance were performed and rendered upon .... between the .... day of .... and the .... day of ...., and the rendition of the service was closed on the .... day of ...., and 30 days have not elapsed since that time; that the amount of the claimant's demand for services is ....; that no part of the demand has been paid except ...., and there is now due and remaining unpaid, after deducting all just credits and offsets, the sum of ...., in which amount the claimant claims a lien upon ....; that claimant .... also claims a lien on all .... now owned by .... of the county to secure payment for the work and labor performed in obtaining or securing the logs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber, lumber, or shingles described.

...., Claimant.

State of Montana, County of ....

...., being first duly sworn, on oath says that the claimant is .... named in the foregoing claim, has heard the claim read, and knows the contents of the claim, and believes the same to be true.

....

Subscribed and sworn to before me this .... day of ....

....

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 128, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5825, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8324, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8324, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-407; amd. Sec. 2282, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Form of ordinary oath, 1-6-102.

Affirmation or declaration in lieu of oath, 1-6-104.

71-3-606. Claim for lien of landowner same. Every person mentioned in 71-3-601(4) claiming the benefit must file for record with the county clerk of the county in which such sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber were cut a claim in substance the same as provided in 71-3-605 and verified as therein provided.

History: En. Sec. 8, p. 129, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5826, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8325, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8325, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-408.

71-3-607. Immaterial defects in claim. No mistake or error in the statement of the demand or of the amount of credits and offsets allowed or of the balance asserted to be due to claimant or in the description of the property against which the claim is filed shall invalidate the lien unless the court finds that such mistake or error in the statement of the demand, credits and offsets, or of the balance due was made with intent to defraud or the court shall find that an innocent third party without notice, actual or constructive, has, since the claim was filed, become a bona fide owner of the property subject to the lien and that the notice of claim was so deficient that it did not put the party upon further inquiry in any manner.

History: En. Sec. 13, p. 130, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5831, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8330, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8330, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-413.

71-3-608. Duties of county clerk. The county clerk shall file any claim presented under the provisions of this part, endorse on the claim the time of receipt, keep the claim in the clerk's office for the inspection of all persons, and enter in a book, properly ruled and kept for that purpose, the names of all the parties, alphabetically arranged, the amount of the lien, and the time of filing the lien.

History: En. Sec. 9, p. 129, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5827, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8326, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8326, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-409; amd. Sec. 2283, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-609 and 71-3-610 reserved.

71-3-611. Enforcement of lien. (1) The liens provided for in this part must be enforced by a civil action in the district court of the county in which the lien was filed and must be governed by the laws regulating the proceedings in civil actions relating to the mode and manner of trial and the proceedings and laws to secure property so as to hold it for the satisfaction of any lien that may be against it.

(2) A person who brings a civil action to enforce the lien, a person having a lien, or a person who is made a party to any civil action has the right to demand that the lien be enforced against the whole or any part of the sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or manufactured lumber or shingles upon which the person has performed labor, that the person has assisted in securing or obtaining, or that the person has cut on the person's timberland, any of which occurred during the 3 months preceding the filing of the person's lien, for all the person's labor upon or for all the person's assistance in obtaining or securing the sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or in manufacturing the lumber into shingles during the whole or any part of the 3 months mentioned in 71-3-603 or for timber cut during the whole or any part of the 3 months.

(3) When proceedings are commenced against any lot of sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or lumber or shingles and some of the lienors claim liens against these specific sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, or other timber or lumber or shingles proceeded against and others against the same generally to secure their claim for work and labor, the priority of the liens must be determined as provided in this part.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 11, p. 130, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5829, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8328, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8328, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-411, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 12, p. 130, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5830, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8329, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8329, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-412, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-411, 45-412; amd. Sec. 133, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2284, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

71-3-612. Requirements to be bona fide purchaser. It must be conclusively presumed by the court that a party purchasing the property subject to the lien within the 30 days given in this part to claimants in which to file their liens is not an innocent third party nor that the party has become a bona fide owner of the property subject to the lien unless it appears that the party has paid full value for the property and has seen that the purchase money of the property has been applied to the payment of bona fide claims that are entitled to liens upon the same property under the provisions of this part, according to the priorities established in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 14, p. 131, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5832, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8331, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8331, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-414; amd. Sec. 2285, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

71-3-613. Parties. Any number of persons claiming liens under this part may join in the affidavit in 71-3-605 and may join in the same action and when separate actions are commenced, the court may consolidate them.

History: **En. Sec. 15, p. 131, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5833, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8332, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8332, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-415(part).**

71-3-614. Judgment and execution. In each civil action, judgment must be rendered in favor of each person having a lien for the amount due to the person, and the court shall order any property subject to the lien to be sold by the sheriff of the proper county in the same manner that personal property is sold on execution. The court shall apportion the proceeds of the sale to the payment of each judgment according to the priorities established in this part, pro rata in its class, according to the amount of each judgment.

History: **En. Sec. 16, p. 131, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5834, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8333, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8333, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-416; amd. Sec. 2286, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Execution of judgment, Title 25, ch. 13.

71-3-615. Sale of property to satisfy lien. The court may order any property subject to a lien as provided in this part to be sold by the sheriff as personal property is sold on execution, either before or at the time judgment is rendered, as provided in 71-3-614, and the proceeds of such sale must be paid into court to be applied as directed in 71-3-614.

History: **En. Sec. 17, p. 132, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5835, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8334, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8334, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-417.**

71-3-616. Penalty for destroying means of identification of property. A person who removes, injures, or destroys or who renders difficult, uncertain, or impossible of identification any sawlogs, piling, railroad ties, cordwood, shingles, or other timber upon which there is a lien as provided in this part without the express consent of the person entitled to the lien is liable to a lienholder for the damages to the amount secured by the lienholder's lien. If damage is shown to the court in a civil action to enforce the lien, the court shall enter a personal judgment for the amount in the action against the person, if the person is a party to the action, or the damages may be recovered by a civil action against that person.

History: En. Sec. 18, p. 132, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5836, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8335, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8335, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-418; amd. Sec. 2287, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 7
Crop Liens for Seed or Grain and Liens for Hail Insurance

71-3-701. Lien for seed or grain. A person, company, association, or corporation that furnishes to another seed to be sown or planted or funds or means with which to purchase seed to be sown or planted or to be used in the production or cultivation of a crop or crops on the lands owned or contracted to be purchased, used, leased, occupied, or rented by the other person or held under government entry, upon filing the statement provided for in 71-3-703, has a lien not exceeding the purchase price of the seed or grain furnished upon the crop produced from the seed or grain furnished, or any part of the crop, and upon the seed or grain threshed from the crop to secure the payment of the amount or the value of the seed or grain furnished or the funds or means advanced to purchase the seed or grain.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, Ex. L. 1918; re-en. Sec. 8359, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8359, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-701; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2288, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens on improvements and crops for amount due state — state lands, 77-2-336.
Liens on crops and improvements — state lands, 77-6-112.

71-3-702. Priority. The lien provided by 71-3-701 shall, as to the crop covered thereby, have priority over all other liens and encumbrances thereon.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 3, Ch. 15, Ex. L. 1918; re-en. Sec. 8361, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8361, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-703.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-703. How to obtain lien. A person, company, association, or corporation entitled to a lien under 71-3-701 shall, within 90 days after the seed or grain is furnished or the funds, means, or money is advanced for the seed or grain, file in the office of the secretary of state a statement of agricultural lien as provided in 71-3-125. Unless the person entitled to a lien files the lien statement within the time required, the person is considered to have waived the right to a lien.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, Ex. L. 1918; re-en. Sec. 8360, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8360, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-702; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2289, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-704. Acknowledgment of satisfaction of lien — penalty. (1) Whenever the indebtedness that is a lien upon grain or other crops is paid and satisfied, it is the duty of the lienor to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien and to discharge the lien of record. If any lienor fails to acknowledge satisfaction and discharge of the lien within 30 days after being requested to do so by a person having a property interest in the grain or other crops, the lienor is liable to any person injured by the failure in the amount of the injury and the costs of the action.

(2) A termination statement as described in 30-9A-513 must be filed with the secretary of state with the same obligations and penalties described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 15, Ex. L. 1918; re-en. Sec. 8362, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8362, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-123, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-704; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-705. Destruction of records — when allowed. (1) All seed liens filed for record in the office of any county clerk and recorder must be retained by the county clerk in a file kept for that purpose for a period of 8 years from the time when the seed lien has ceased to be a lien on the property described in the lien.

(2) Upon the expiration of the period of time specified in subsection (1), the county clerk and recorder may destroy all seed liens that have been preserved for the period of time specified in this section, upon approval by the local government records destruction subcommittee provided for in 2-6-1202.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4813.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-112, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 16-2922, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4813.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-113, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 16-2923, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-2922(part), 16-2923(part); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 420, L. 1993.

71-3-706 through 71-3-710 reserved.

71-3-711. Lien for hail insurance. Any person, company, association, or corporation which shall furnish to another hail insurance for the purpose of protecting the party's crop from damage by hail during the hail season of the then-growing or seeded crop, whether the crop be on the land owned or contracted to be purchased, used, leased, occupied, or rented by the insured or held under government entry, shall, upon filing the statement provided for in 71-3-712, have a lien, subject to any seed lien that may then or thereafter be placed on record against the crop, for the amount due the person, company, association, or corporation furnishing the hail insurance from the insured so protected, whether it be on a note given, open account, or assessment, due or to become due, for the current year's protection, upon the crop produced on the land so protected or any part thereof and upon the seed or grain threshed from such crop to secure the payment of the amount due or the assessment levied against the insured for the insurance provided.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8363, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8363, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-705.

71-3-712. How lien obtained. Any person, company, association, or corporation entitled to a lien under 71-3-711 shall, within 30 days after the insurance is issued, file in the office of the secretary of state a statement of agricultural lien as provided in 71-3-125. A mutual company may file a lien for the largest amount that may become due under its assessment power, and if the amount assessed is not as large as the amount of the lien claimed, the amount assessed and due is the amount the mutual insurance company is entitled to under this lien. Unless the person, company, association, or corporation entitled to a lien files the agricultural lien statement within the time required, the person or entity is considered to have waived the right to a lien.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8364, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8364, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-706; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2290, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-713. Acknowledgment of satisfaction of lien — penalty. (1) Whenever the indebtedness that is a lien upon grain or other crops is paid or satisfied on or before November 1 of the current year, it is the duty of the lienor to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien within 20 days after receiving payment and to discharge the lien of record. If any lienor fails to acknowledge satisfaction and discharge of the lien, the lienor is liable to any person injured by the failure in the amount of the injury and the costs of action. If any hail lien is not satisfied on or before March 1 of the next succeeding year after the insurance was carried on the crop, the lien is considered satisfied and released of record.

(2) A termination statement as described in 30-9A-513 must be filed with the secretary of state with the same obligations and penalties described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 223, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8365, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8365, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-124, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-707; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

Part 8
Threshers' Liens

71-3-801. Who may have lien — amount. (1) All threshers or swathers owning or operating threshing or swathing machines and all owners of combine harvesters and threshers have a lien upon the grain and other crops swathed or threshed by the threshing or swathing machine or cut and threshed by the combine harvester and thresher for and on account of the services rendered and the labor performed by them on the grain and crops swathed or threshed. The lien may be claimed by the owner of the grain for the reasonable value of the services if services are performed by the owner. Liens on grain and other crops must be charged for at the prevailing price for that particular locality in which the grain or other crop is threshed, harvested, or combined if notices are given and the lien is filed within the time provided by this part.

(2) If the prevailing price for threshing, harvesting, or combining grain or other crops is disputed by the thresher or swather and the owner of the grain or other crop, the matter may be submitted to arbitration under the provisions of Title 27, chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8366, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 8366, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 45-801; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 684, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2291, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens on improvements and crops for amount due state — state lands, 77-2-336.
Liens on crops and improvements — state lands, 77-6-112.

71-3-802. How lien obtained. (1) A person entitled to a lien under 71-3-801 shall file with the office of the secretary of state a statement of agricultural lien, as provided in 71-3-125, within 30 days after the last service was rendered or labor performed in the threshing of grain or other crops or the cutting and harvesting and threshing by the combined harvester and thresher.

(2) If the grain or other crops cut, harvested, and threshed are being hauled from the machine or combine directly to the elevator or to any other purchaser, the thresher, swather, or owner of the combine desiring to claim a lien shall also serve written notices upon the elevator operator or other private purchaser that the person will claim and file a lien upon the grain or other crops for the person's services or labor performed in threshing or combining and threshing the grain or crops. A copy of the statement of agricultural lien mailed by certified mail is sufficient notice to the elevator operator or other private purchaser.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 1915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8367, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 20, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8367, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 45-802; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 427, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2292, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Agricultural commodities, Title 80, ch. 4.

71-3-803. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 529, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8368, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8368, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-803.

71-3-804. Priority. The lien for work or labor done or services rendered as specified in 71-3-801 shall be prior to and have precedence over any mortgage, encumbrance, or other lien upon said grain or other crops, except the lien for the seed furnished for the purpose of growing this particular crop.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8369, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8369, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-804.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Lien for seed or grain, 71-3-701.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-805. Who considered owners. Every person, including guardians or minors, married persons, and any company, firm, association, or corporation for whose use or benefit the grain or other crops mentioned herein are threshed or the services rendered or labor performed is deemed the owner thereof for the purposes herein mentioned.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8373, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8373, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 535, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 45-808.

71-3-806. Parties. All persons interested in the matter in controversy or the property to be charged with the lien or having liens thereon may be made parties to an action for the foreclosure thereof.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8372, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8372, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-807.

71-3-807. Limitations of actions. All actions for the foreclosure and enforcement of the lien herein provided for must be commenced within 6 months from the filing of the lien.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8370, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 8370, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-805.

71-3-808. Acknowledgment of satisfaction of lien — penalty. (1) Whenever the indebtedness that is a lien upon any grain or other crops is paid and satisfied, it is the duty of the lienor to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien and to discharge the lien of record. If a lienor fails to acknowledge satisfaction and discharge the lien within 30 days after being requested to do so by a person having a property interest in the grain or other crops, the lienor is liable to any person injured by the failure in the amount of the injury and the costs of action.

(2) A termination statement as described in 30-9A-513 must be filed with the secretary of state with the same obligations and penalties described in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8374, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8374, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-125, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-809; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 305, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-809. Rules of practice. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of Title 25 are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice for the enforcement and foreclosure of the lien herein provided for.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 25, L. 1915; re-en. Sec. 8371, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8371, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-806.

71-3-810. Destruction of records — when allowed. (1) All threshers' liens filed for record in the office of any county clerk and recorder must be retained by the county clerk in a file kept for that purpose for a period of 8 years from the time when the threshers' lien has ceased to be a lien on the property described in the lien.

(2) Upon the expiration of the period of time specified in subsection (1), the county clerk and recorder may destroy all threshers' liens that have been preserved for the period of time specified in this section, upon approval by the local government records destruction subcommittee provided for in 2-6-1202.

History: (1)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4813.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-112, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 16-2922, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 4813.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-113, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 16-2923, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-2922(part), 16-2923(part); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 420, L. 1993.

Part 9
Fertilizer and Pesticide Liens

71-3-901. Who may have lien — amount. A person, firm, corporation, or partnership that under contract, express or implied, performs labor or services or furnishes material in crop dusting or spraying grains or crops, whether by aerial or ground application, for the purpose of fertilization or weed, disease, or insect control for promoting the growth of the grains or crops has a lien upon all grains or crops dusted or sprayed for and on account of the labor or service performed and material furnished, upon complying with the provisions of this part. A lien may not exceed the prevailing price charged in the particular locality in which the grain or crops are sprayed or dusted.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1401; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 1993.

71-3-902. How lien obtained. (1) A person, firm, corporation, or partnership that is entitled to a lien under this part shall, within 90 days after the last labor or service was performed or material furnished in crop dusting or spraying grains or crops, file in the office of the secretary of state a statement of agricultural lien as provided in 71-3-125.

(2) A person, firm, corporation, or partnership that is entitled to a lien and that intends to file a lien under this part shall give notice, by certified mail, of intent to file to the person, firm, corporation, or partnership for which labor or service was performed or materials furnished.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 205, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1402; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 529, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1999.**

71-3-903. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 529, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1403.**

71-3-904. Priority. The lien for labor or services performed or material furnished as specified in this part shall be prior to and have precedence over any mortgage, encumbrance, or other lien upon said grain or crops, except the lien for seed, hail insurance, threshing, labor, and warehouse services furnished for the purpose of growing or handling the particular grain or crops.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1404.**

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Liens for salaries and wages, 71-3-301.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Lien for seed or grain, 71-3-701.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Threshers' liens, 71-3-801.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-905. Who considered owners. Every person, including guardians or minors, and any company, firm, association, or corporation for whose use or benefit the grain or other crops mentioned herein are dusted or sprayed or the services or labor performed or material furnished is deemed the owner thereof for the purposes herein mentioned.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1409.**

71-3-906. Parties. All persons interested in the matter in controversy or the property to be charged with the lien or having liens thereon shall be made parties to an action for the foreclosure thereof.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1408.**

71-3-907. Limitations of actions. All actions for the foreclosure and enforcement of the lien herein provided for must be commenced within 1 year from the day of the filing of the lien.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 205, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1405.**

71-3-908. Acknowledgment of satisfaction and discharge of lien — penalty. (1) Whenever the indebtedness that is a lien upon any grain or crops is paid and satisfied, it is the duty of the lienor to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien and to discharge the lien of record. If any lienor fails to acknowledge satisfaction and discharge the lien within 30 days after being requested to do so by a person having a property interest in the grain or crops, the lienor is liable to any person injured by the failure in the amount of the injury and the costs of action.

(2) A termination statement as described in 30-9A-513 must be filed with the secretary of state with the same obligations and penalties described in subsection (1).

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 205, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 11-129, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1410; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 295, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 305, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-909. Rules of practice. (1) Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of Title 25 are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice for the enforcement and foreclosure of the lien herein provided for.

(2) The provisions of Title 25 relative to new trials and appeals, except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this part, apply to the proceedings mentioned in this part.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 205, L. 1953; Sec. 45-1406, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 205, L. 1953; Sec. 45-1407, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1406, 45-1407.**

Cross-References

Civil Procedure, Title 25.

Part 10
Labor and Material Liens on Oil and Gas Wells and Pipelines

71-3-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Furnish" means sell or rent.

(2) "Material" means material, fuel, machinery, equipment, appliances, buildings, structures, tools, bits, or supplies but does not include drilling rigs or hoists or their integral component parts except wire lines.

(3) "Owner" includes a person holding any interest in the legal or equitable title, or both, and purchasers under executory contract.

History: **(1), (2)En. 45-1012 by Sec. 12, Ch. 143, L. 1957; Sec. 45-1012, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 45-1011 by Sec. 11, Ch. 143, L. 1957; Sec. 45-1011, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1011(part), 45-1012.**

71-3-1002. Lien for labor and materials furnished for use on leasehold for oil and gas purposes or pipelines — exceptions. (1) Any person, corporation, or partnership that under expressed or implied contract with the owner of any leasehold for oil and gas purposes or the owner of any gas pipe or oil pipeline or with the trustee or agent of the owner performs labor or furnishes material or services used in the digging, drilling, torpedoing, completing, operating, or repairing of any oil or gas well or oil or gas pipeline or who furnishes any material or services or performs any labor in constructing or putting together any of the machinery used in digging, drilling, torpedoing, operating, completing, or repairing any oil or gas well or oil or gas pipeline, whether or not the material is incorporated into or becomes a part of the oil or gas well or oil or gas pipeline, may have a lien for the amount due, including associated transportation and mileage charges and interest from the date the amount was due, upon:

(a) the whole of the leasehold or oil or gas pipeline;

(b) the appurtenances on the leasehold or oil or gas pipeline;

(c) all material owned by the owner of the leasehold or oil or gas pipeline and used in the digging, drilling, torpedoing, completing, operating, or repairing of the oil or gas well or oil or gas pipeline;

(d) all oil or gas wells located on the leasehold; and

(e) all oil or gas produced from the leasehold, subject to the provisions of Title 71, chapter 3, part 16.

(2) If labor is performed for, or materials or services are furnished to, the owner of the working interest in only a portion of the acreage covered by a lease, the lien granted under subsection (1) must be restricted to the portion of the acreage that is covered by the lease.

(3) A lien granted under subsection (1) does not extend to any royalty interests, overriding royalty interests, or oil payments created prior to the date the first item of material or services are furnished or the date the first labor is performed.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8375, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 8375, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 367, L. 2009.**

71-3-1003. Lien for labor or supplies furnished for contractor. Any person, partnership, or corporation that furnishes materials or services as a subcontractor or to a contractor or a subcontractor or any person who performs labor under a subcontractor with a contractor or who, as an artisan or day laborer in the employ of such contractor or subcontractor, performs any such labor has a lien upon all the property upon which the lien of an original contractor may attach to the same extent as an original contractor, and the lien provided for in this section attaches to all materials and fixtures owned by such original contractor or subcontractor for whom the labor is performed or materials or services furnished and used or employed or furnished to be used or employed in the drilling or operating of such oil and gas wells or in the construction of such pipeline.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 45, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8376, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8376, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1002; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 11, L. 1979.

71-3-1004. How lien perfected. A person, corporation, or partnership claiming a lien under this part shall file with the county clerk of the county in which the land, leasehold, or pipeline or some part of the land, leasehold, or pipeline is situated a statement verified by affidavit setting forth the amount claimed and the items of the claim, the dates on which labor was performed or material or services furnished, the name of the owner of the leasehold or pipeline, if known, the name of the claimant and the claimant's mailing address, a description of the leasehold or pipeline, and if the claimant is a claimant under 71-3-1003, the name of the person for whom the labor was immediately performed or the material or services were immediately furnished. The statement must be filed within 6 months after the date upon which the material or services were last furnished or labor was last performed under contract.

History: En. 45-1004.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 170, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1004.1; amd. Sec. 2293, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1005. Enforcement of liens — duty of county clerks. The liens herein created shall be enforced in the same manner and the duty of county clerks with respect to the filing and abstracting of liens shall be the same as now provided by the laws for materialmen's and construction liens.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 45, L. 1917; re-en. Sec. 8377, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 152, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 8377, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1003.

Cross-References

Attorney fees to be recovered on foreclosure of liens, 71-3-124.
Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.
Construction liens — filing with County Clerk — notification of owner, 71-3-534.

71-3-1006. Date lien arises. The lien provided for in this part arises on the date of the furnishing of the first item of material or services or the date of performance of the first labor.

History: En. 45-1004.2 by Sec. 3, Ch. 170, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1004.2(part).

71-3-1007. Priority. (1) Upon compliance with the provisions of 71-3-1004, such lien shall be preferred to all other titles, charges, liens, or encumbrances which may attach to or upon any of the property upon which a lien is given by this part subsequent to the date the lien herein provided for arises.

(2) All liens affixed by virtue of this part upon the same property shall be of equal standing.

(3) The lien herein provided for shall have no priority over other liens, encumbrances, or mortgages which are filed or recorded prior to the date of the furnishing of the first item of material or services or the date of performance of the first labor.

History: (1), (2)En. 45-1004.2 by Sec. 3, Ch. 170, L. 1973; Sec. 45-1004.2, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. 45-1004.3 by Sec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 1973; Sec. 45-1004.3, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1004.2(part), 45-1004.3.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1202.

71-3-1008. Lien for running account as single contract. All labor performed or materials or services furnished by any person entitled to a lien under this part upon the same leasehold for oil and gas purposes or the same pipeline shall for the purposes of this part be considered as having been performed or furnished under a single contract regardless of whether or not the same was performed or furnished at different times or on separate orders, provided that no more than 6 months shall have elapsed between the date of performance of such labor or the date of furnishing such material or services and the date on which labor is next performed or materials or services are next furnished.

History: En. 45-1007 by Sec. 7, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1007.

71-3-1009. Liability fixed. This part may not be construed to fix a greater liability against the owner of the land or leasehold interest in the land than the price or sum stipulated by the owner to be paid for the materials or services furnished or labor performed. However, the risk of all payments made to the original contractor must be upon the owner if the payments are made after written notice from a person other than an original contractor is received by the owner at the owner's residence or principal place of business. The notice must set forth the name and address of the claimant and the amount and nature of the claim. Payment by the owner to the original contractor of all or any part of the contract price prior to the receipt of the notice must operate to discharge and satisfy all liens attaching to the property of the owner by virtue of this part to the extent of the payment. The owner does not have the right to offset obligations of the original contractor unless the obligations arise out of the original contract.

History: **En. 45-1008 by Sec. 8, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1008; amd. Sec. 2294, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

71-3-1010. Removal of property covered by lien prohibited — effect of wrongful removal. (1) When any lien provided for by this part shall have attached to the property covered thereby, it shall be unlawful for any person to remove such property or any part thereof or cause the same to be removed from the land or premises where located at the time such lien attached or otherwise dispose of the same without the written consent of the holder of such lien.

(2) In the event such property or some part thereof is about to be removed or disposed of in violation of this section, the district court for the county where such property or any part thereof is located may, upon the verified application of the holder of such lien, enjoin all persons alleged in such application to be about to remove or dispose of such property or some part thereof from removing or disposing of the same.

(3) In the event such property or any part thereof shall have been removed or disposed of in violation of this section, the holder of such lien shall be entitled in any action to foreclose the same to the appointment of a receiver to take possession of such removed or disposed of property wherever the same may be located within this state.

(4) This section shall not preclude the appointment of a receiver in actions brought to foreclose liens given by this part upon any equitable grounds warranting such appointment.

History: **En. 45-1009 by Sec. 9, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1009.**

71-3-1011. Notice to purchaser of oil and gas. (1) Any lien claimed under this part that extends to oil or gas or the proceeds of the sale of oil or gas is subject to the provisions of Title 71, chapter 3, part 16, and must meet the requirements of subsection (2) before taking effect.

(2) (a) Written notice of a claim must be delivered to a purchaser at the purchaser's residence or principal place of business. A notice must state the name of the claimant, the claimant's address, the amount for which the lien is claimed, and a description of the interest upon which the lien is claimed. The notice must be delivered personally to the purchaser or by certified letter deposited in the United States mail.

(b) Until the notice is delivered as provided in subsection (2)(a), a purchaser is not liable to the claimant for any oil or gas produced upon which the lien is claimed or money from the sale of proceeds of the oil or gas upon which the lien is claimed. A purchaser shall withhold payments for oil or gas to the extent of the lien amount being claimed until delivery of notice in writing that the claim has been paid.

History: **En. 45-1010 by Sec. 10, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1010; amd. Sec. 2295, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 367, L. 2009.**

71-3-1012. Effect on interest which is less than fee interest. If a lien provided for in this part attaches to an estate less than the fee, forfeiture of such estate shall not impair any lien as to material, appurtenances, and fixtures located thereon and to which said lien has attached prior to forfeiture. If a lien provided for in this part attaches to an equitable interest or to a legal interest contingent upon the happening of a condition subsequent, failure of such interest to ripen into legal title or such condition subsequent to be fulfilled shall not impair any lien as to material, appurtenances, and fixtures located thereon and to which said lien attached prior to such failure.

History: **En. 45-1011 by Sec. 11, Ch. 143, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1011(part).**

Part 11
Liens of Certain Health Care Providers

Part Cross-References

Assignment of right to periodic installments for certain future damages, 25-9-405.

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-1101. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 532, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8395.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1201.

71-3-1102. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 532, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8395.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1202.

71-3-1103. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 532, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 57, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8395.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1203.

71-3-1104. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 532, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 57, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8395.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1204.

71-3-1105. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 532, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 57, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 8395.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1205.

71-3-1106 through 71-3-1110 reserved.

71-3-1111. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Physician, Nurse, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Acupuncturist, Chiropractor, Dentist, Psychologist, Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Hospital, Optometrist, Naturopathic Physician, Podiatrist, Ambulance Service, Rehabilitation Facility, Long-Term Care Facility, and Outpatient Center for Surgical Services Lien Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2015.

71-3-1112. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish lien rights for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, acupuncturists, chiropractors, dentists, hospitals, optometrists, naturopathic physicians, podiatrists, ambulance services, rehabilitation facilities, long-term care facilities, and outpatient centers for surgical services for the value of services rendered and products provided for the diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions and to establish lien rights for psychologists, licensed social workers, and licensed professional counselors for services rendered and products provided when a person receiving treatment:

(1) is injured through the fault or neglect of another; or

(2) is either insured or a beneficiary under insurance.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 454, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 2015.

71-3-1113. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Ambulance service" means a person providing ground or air ambulance transport, licensed under 50-6-306, that:

(a) is in-network with at least two insurers that together provide coverage for at least 25% of health insurance insureds in the state; or

(b) accepts insurance, including copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles, as payment in full and does not offer memberships under Title 33, chapter 2, part 22.

(2) "Beneficiary" means a person entitled to insurance benefits.

(3) "Dentist" means a person practicing dentistry as provided in 37-4-101.

(4) "Insurance" means a contract through which a person, the insurer, undertakes to indemnify another, the insured, or pay or provide a determinable amount or benefit upon determinable contingencies.

(5) "Insurer" has the meaning of a health insurance issuer provided in 33-22-140.

(6) "Outpatient center for surgical services" means a facility registered as provided in 50-32-314.

(7) "Person" means an individual, a corporation, an organization, or other legal entity.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 314, L. 2017.

71-3-1114. Liens of certain health care providers and health care facilities. (1) (a) Upon the required notice of a lien being given, there is a lien as provided in subsection (1)(b) whenever:

(i) a physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, hospital, outpatient center for surgical services, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, or ambulance service renders services or provides products for the diagnosis and treatment of a medical condition; or

(ii) a psychologist, licensed social worker, or licensed professional counselor renders services or provides products; and

(iii) the services rendered or products provided under subsection (1)(a)(i) or (1)(a)(ii) are rendered or provided to a person injured through the fault or neglect of another.

(b) The physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, hospital, outpatient center for surgical services, ambulance service, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, psychologist, licensed social worker, or licensed professional counselor has a lien for the value of services rendered or products provided on:

(i) any claim or cause of action that the injured person or the injured person's estate or successors may have for injury, disease, or death;

(ii) any judgment that the injured person or the estate or successors may obtain for injury, disease, or death; and

(iii) all money paid in satisfaction of the judgment or in settlement of the claim or cause of action.

(2) (a) If a person is an insured or a beneficiary under insurance that provides coverage in the event of injury or disease, there is a lien as provided in subsection (2)(b) upon required notice of a lien being given by:

(i) a physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, hospital, outpatient center for surgical services, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, or ambulance service for the value of services rendered or products provided for the diagnosis and treatment of a medical condition; or

(ii) a psychologist, licensed social worker, or licensed professional counselor for services rendered or products provided.

(b) The lien is on all proceeds or payments, except payments for property damage, payable by the insurer.

(3) A physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, hospital, outpatient center for surgical services, ambulance service, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, psychologist, licensed social worker, or licensed professional counselor claiming a lien under this part is not liable for attorney fees and costs incurred by the injured person, the injured person's estate or successors, or a beneficiary in connection with obtaining payments or benefits subject to a lien under this part. The lien of an attorney provided for in 37-61-420 has priority over a lien created by this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 454, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 236, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 224, L. 2015.

71-3-1115. Notice of lien. (1) A physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, hospital, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, ambulance service, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, or outpatient center for surgical services claiming a lien shall serve written notice upon the person and upon the insurer, if any, against whom liability for injury, disease, counseling service, or death is asserted, stating the nature of the services, for whom and when rendered, the value of the services, and that a lien is claimed.

(2) A physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, hospital, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, ambulance service, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, or outpatient center for surgical services claiming a lien upon

proceeds or payments payable by an insurer shall serve written notice upon the insurer against whom the lien is asserted, stating the nature of the services, for whom and when rendered, the value of the services, and that a lien is claimed.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 224, L. 2015.**

71-3-1116. Notice of lien — filing with clerk of court. If an action is commenced for recovery for injury, disease, or death, a copy of the notice of lien may be filed in the office of the clerk of court in which the action is pending, and the filing is notice to all parties to the action.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 532, L. 1979.**

71-3-1117. Liability for failure to recognize lien. If any insurer or person, after receiving notice of a lien, makes payment on account of injury, disease, counseling service, or death and the amount of the lien claimed by any physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, ambulance service, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, hospital, or outpatient center for surgical services has not been paid, the insurer or person is liable to the physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, ambulance service, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, hospital, or outpatient center for surgical services for the reasonable value of the services.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 224, L. 2015.**

71-3-1118. Applicability. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), this part does not apply to compensation awarded to workers for injury, disease, or death pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act.

(2) This part applies to all payments awarded for medical, therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic, dentistry, counseling, and hospital services pursuant to the acts referred to in subsection (1).

(3) This part does not apply to any benefits payable under:

(a) a policy of life insurance or group life insurance;

(b) a contract of disability insurance, except benefits payable in reimbursement for services rendered by a physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, acupuncturist, chiropractor, dentist, optometrist, naturopathic physician, podiatrist, ambulance service, rehabilitation facility, long-term care facility, psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed professional counselor, hospital, or outpatient center for surgical services; or

(c) an annuity contract or to pension benefits payable under a qualified pension plan.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 532, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 496, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 85, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 469, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 384, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 86, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 416, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 502, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 224, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Workers' Compensation Act, Title 39, ch. 71.

Part 12
Agisters' Liens and Liens for Service

Part Cross-References

Bailment — deposit, Title 70, ch. 6.
Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-1201. Liens for service — towing and storage lien — extension of lien to certain personal property contained in motor vehicle that is subject to lien — nonpossessory special liens. (1) If there is an express or implied contract for collecting, processing, packaging, or storing embryos or semen from livestock, a reproductive technology business to whom embryos or semen is entrusted and who still has possession has a lien upon the embryos or semen for the amount due for collecting, processing, packaging, or storing the embryos or semen and may retain possession of the embryos or semen until the sum due is paid.

(2) (a) A person who, while lawfully in possession of an article of personal property, renders any service to the owner or lawful claimant of the article by labor or skill employed for

the making, repairing, protection, improvement, safekeeping, carriage, towing, or storage of the article or tows or stores the article as directed under authority of law has a special lien on the article. Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), the lien is dependent on possession and is for the compensation, if any, that is due to the person from the owner or lawful claimant for the service and for material, if any, furnished in connection with the service. If the service is towing or storage, the lien is for the reasonable cost of the towing or storage.

(b) Any personal property that is in a motor vehicle that is subject to a lien as provided in subsection (2)(a) is also subject to the lien, except for the following:

(i) food items;
(ii) perishable goods;
(iii) prescription items;
(iv) operators' licenses and other identifying documents;
(v) cash, credit cards, debit cards, checks, or checkbooks;
(vi) personal records, legal records, and business records;
(vii) child safety items; and
(viii) wallets, purses, bags, or other containers that contain the items listed in subsections (2)(b)(iv) through (2)(b)(vi).

(c) A special lien is not dependent on possession if the person asserting the lien gives the owner or the owner's agent, or attaches to the article, a document identifying the article and its owner, the services performed, the cost of those services, the cost to the owner of any parts, accessories, or equipment installed, and the signature and contact information of the person asserting the nonpossessory special lien. The person desiring to assert a special lien upon the property must also file a financing statement in the office designated for filing as provided in 30-9A-501. A nonpossessory special lien may be asserted on:

(i) implements of husbandry as defined in 61-1-101;
(ii) construction equipment as defined in 61-10-102;
(iii) motorized lawncare and landscaping equipment; and
(iv) forestry equipment.

(d) The special lien created under subsection (2)(c) may not take precedence over perfected security interests under the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions or other recorded liens on the property involved unless, within 30 days from the time of the completion of the service, repair, or improvement of the property, the person desiring to assert a special lien upon the property gives notice in writing to the secured party or other lienholder stating the intention to assert a special lien on the property under the terms of subsection (2)(c) and stating the nature and approximate amount of the work performed or other services furnished and the cost of any parts, accessories, or equipment installed. Service may be made either by personal service or by mailing by registered or certified mail a copy of the notice to the secured party or other lienholder at the last-known post office address. Service must be considered complete upon the deposit of the notice in the post office.

History: En. Sec. 3935, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5805, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8383, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3051; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1696; re-en. Sec. 8383, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-127, Ch. 264, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1106(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 11, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 444, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 124, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Bailment — deposit, Title 70, ch. 6.

71-3-1202. Priority. (1) Subject to subsection (4), the lien created may not take precedence over perfected security interests under the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions or other recorded liens on the property involved unless, within 30 days from the time of receiving the property, the person desiring to assert a lien upon the property gives notice in writing to the secured party or other lienholder, stating the intention to assert a lien on the property, under the terms of this part, and stating the nature and approximate amount of the work performed or feed or other services furnished or intended to be performed or furnished.

(2) Service may be made either by personal service or by mailing by registered or certified mail a copy of the notice to the secured party or other lienholder at the last-known post-office address. Service must be considered complete upon the deposit of the notice in the post office.

(3) Within 20 days after the date of mailing or 10 days after personal service, the secured party or other lienholder or the secured party's or other lienholder's representative has the right to take possession of the property upon payment of the amount of the lien. A failure on the part of the secured party or other lienholder to take possession of the property constitutes a waiver of the priority of the security interest or other lien over the lien created by this part.

(4) With regard to a reproductive technology business, the lien created may not take precedence over perfected security interests under the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions or other recorded liens on the embryos or semen involved unless, within 30 days from the time of harvesting or collecting the embryos or semen, the person desiring to assert a lien upon the embryos or semen gives notice in writing to the secured party or other lienholder stating the intention to assert a lien on the embryos or semen under the terms of this part and stating the nature and approximate amount of the work performed or other services furnished or intended to be performed or furnished.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 3935, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5805, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8383, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3051; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1696; re-en. Sec. 8383, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-127, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 45-1106, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 117, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8384, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3052; re-en. Sec. 8384, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 11-128, Ch. 264, L. 1963; Sec. 45-1107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1106(part), 45-1107; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Secured transactions — U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A.
Secured transactions — perfection and priority under U.C.C., Title 30, ch. 9A, part 3.
Priority in general, 71-3-113.
Priority of purchase money mortgage, 71-3-114.
Priority — farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Priority — loggers' liens, 71-3-602.
Priority — liens for seed or grain, 71-3-702.
Priority — threshers' liens, 71-3-804.
Priority — crop or grain liens for spraying or dusting, 71-3-904.
Priority — labor and material liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, 71-3-1007.

71-3-1203. Enforcement of lien — sale. If payment for work, labor, or services performed or feed or material furnished is not made within 30 days after the performance of the work, labor, or services or furnishing of the feed or material, the lienor under the provisions of this part may enforce the lien in the following manner:

(1) The lienor may file a lien enforcement action in the district court of the county in which the:

(a) contract between the lienor and the owner of the property was entered into;

(b) owner resided at the time the lien enforcement action commenced; or

(c) property is located.

(2) When a claim is made under this section for a lien other than a nonpossessory special lien, an affidavit must be made by the lienor claiming the property or by someone on the lienor's behalf, stating:

(a) the facts that the lienor performed a service for the property owner entitling the lienor to a lien on the owner's property pursuant to 71-3-1201;

(b) that the service described in subsection (2)(a) was performed at the written or verbal request of the owner or owner's agent;

(c) a particular property upon which the lien is claimed; and

(d) an itemized list of the charges that are due and unpaid under the lien.

(3) When a claim is made under this section for a nonpossessory special lien, the lienor shall submit to the court:

(a) a copy of the document required by 71-3-1201(2)(c); and

(b) a statement of the charges that are due and unpaid under the lien.

(4) (a) If satisfactory, the court shall order the owner of the property to show cause why the property should not be sold pursuant to the procedures in this section. The order must include the date and time for a hearing. The hearing may not be held more than 20 working days after the date of the issuance of the order.

(b) The court order provided for in subsection (4)(a) must be served pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure on the owner at least 5 days before the hearing date.

(5) The lienor shall deliver to the sheriff of the county in which the property is located a copy of the court's lien enforcement judgment.

(6) Upon receipt of the court's lien enforcement judgment, the sheriff shall advertise and sell at public auction as much of the property covered by the lien as will satisfy the lien.

(7) The sale must be advertised, conducted, and held in the same manner as prescribed in 25-13-701(1)(b).

(8) The owner of the property may request a hearing in district court to contest any matter regarding the sale of the property.

(9) The sheriff shall apply the proceeds of the sale to the discharge of the lien and the cost of the proceedings in selling the property and enforcing the lien, and the remainder, if any, or a part that is required to discharge the claims, must be turned over by the sheriff to the holders, in the order of their precedence, of the chattel mortgages or other lien claimants of record against the property, and the balance of the proceeds must be turned over to the owner of the property.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 117, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8385, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 130, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 8385, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1108; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 88, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2296, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 2021.

71-3-1204. Lien not lost by fraudulent taking of property. The lien created by this part shall not be lost by reason of any forcible or fraudulent taking of the property from the possession of the person entitled to said lien, but in all such cases the person entitled to such lien shall be entitled to recover possession of the property by proper action instituted in court against any person in whose possession the property may be found.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 117, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8386, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 8386, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1109.

71-3-1205. Definition. For the purposes of this part, "reproductive technology business" means a business that collects, processes, packages, and stores embryos or semen from animals or provides breeding services for compensation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 2003.

71-3-1206 through 71-3-1210 reserved.

71-3-1211. Agister's lien — finding — who may hold lien. (1) The legislature finds that agisters' liens require expeditious action to protect the welfare of the stock and to ensure that the cost to feed and care for the stock covered by the lien does not exceed the market value of the stock.

(2) (a) If there is an express or implied contract for keeping, feeding, herding, pasturing, or ranching stock, a rancher, farmer, agister, herder, hotelkeeper, livery, stablekeeper, or reproductive technology business to whom any horses, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs, or other stock are entrusted has an agister's lien upon the stock for the amount due for keeping, feeding, herding, pasturing, or ranching the stock.

(b) A person holding an agister's lien pursuant to subsection (2)(a) may retain possession of the stock until the amount due is paid.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2013.

71-3-1212. Priority. (1) An agister's lien created under 71-3-1211 does not take precedence over perfected security interests under the Uniform Commercial Code—Secured Transactions or other recorded liens on the stock involved unless, within 30 days from the time of receiving the stock, the person desiring to assert a lien upon the stock gives notice in writing to the secured party or other lienholder stating the intention to assert a lien on the stock under the terms of 71-3-1211 through 71-3-1214 and stating the nature and approximate amount of the work performed or feed furnished or other services furnished or intended to be performed or furnished.

(2) A new notice is not required for the offspring of the stock covered in the initial notice, but all other additional stock must be noticed separately.

(3) Service may be made either by personal service or by mailing a copy of the notice by certified mail to the secured party or other lienholder at the last-known post-office address. Service is considered complete upon the deposit of the notice in the post office.

(4) Within 20 days after the date of mailing or 10 days after personal service, the secured party or other lienholder or the secured party's or other lienholder's representative has the right

to take possession of the stock upon payment of the amount of the lien. A failure on the part of the secured party or other lienholder to take possession of the stock constitutes a waiver of the priority of the security interest or other lien over the lien created by 71-3-1211 through 71-3-1214.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 2013.**

71-3-1213. Enforcement of agister's lien — sale. If payment for keeping, feeding, herding, pasturing, or ranching stock is not made within 30 days after the performance of the keeping, feeding, herding, pasturing, or ranching, the person entitled to a lien under the provisions of 71-3-1211 through 71-3-1214 may enforce the lien in the following manner:

(1) The person shall deliver to the sheriff of the county in which the property is located an affidavit of the amount of the person's claim against the stock and the name of the owner of the stock or of the person at whose request the feed or material was furnished.

(2) Upon receipt of the affidavit, the sheriff shall advertise and sell at public auction as much of the stock covered by the lien as will satisfy the lien.

(3) Notice of the sale must be provided in the manner prescribed in 25-13-701(1)(b).

(4) (a) Before the sheriff sells the stock at public auction, the sheriff shall give notice of the sale to the owner or person at whose request the feed or material was furnished.

(b) Notice must be given at least 10 days before the sale to the owner or person at whose request the feed or material was furnished and to any other person holding a lien on the animals.

(c) The notice must state:

(i) the time and place of the sale;

(ii) the amount of the claim against the stock;

(iii) a description of the stock;

(iv) the name of the owner or person at whose request the feed or material was furnished; and

(v) the name of the person claiming the lien.

(d) The notice may be given by personal service or by mailing a copy of the notice by certified mail to the last-known post-office address of the owner or person at whose request the feed or material was furnished.

(e) If the sheriff is not able to effect personal service or service by mail because the location and mailing address of the owner or person at whose request the feed or material was furnished is unknown, the sheriff may give notice by posting notice of the sale in three public places in the county in which the property is located.

(5) The sheriff shall apply the proceeds of the sale to the discharge of the lien and the cost of the proceedings in selling the stock and enforcing the lien. The remainder, if any, or a part that is required to discharge the claims must be turned over by the sheriff to the holders, in the order of their precedence, of the chattel mortgages or other lien claimants of record against the stock, and the balance of the proceeds must be turned over to the owner of the stock.

(6) Before seizing stock under the provisions of this section, the sheriff may require an indemnity bond from the lienor. The indemnity bond may not exceed double the amount of the claim against the stock. The sheriff shall approve the bond and the surety or sureties on the bond.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 2013.**

71-3-1214. Lien not lost by fraudulent taking of property. (1) The forcible or fraudulent taking of stock from the person holding an agister's lien pursuant to 71-3-1211 through 71-3-1214 does not extinguish the lien.

(2) The person holding the agister's lien may recover possession of the stock by proper action instituted in court against any person possessing the stock.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 124, L. 2013.**

Part 13
Liens on Real Estate

Part Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-1301. Lien of seller of real property — waiver. (1) A person who sells real property has a vendor's lien on the real property, independent of possession, for as much of the price as remains unpaid and unsecured other than by the personal obligation of the buyer.

(2) When a buyer of real property gives to the seller a written contract for payment of all or part of the price, an absolute transfer of the contract by the seller waives the seller's lien to the extent of the sum payable under the contract. However, a transfer of the contract in trust to pay debts and return the surplus is not a waiver of the lien.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3930, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5800, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8378, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3046; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1691; re-en. Sec. 8378, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-1101, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3931, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5801, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8379, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3047; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1692; re-en. Sec. 8379, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 45-1102, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1101, 45-1102; amd. Sec. 2297, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1302. Purchaser's lien on real property. A person who pays to the owner any part of the price of real property under an agreement for the sale of real property has a special lien upon the property, independent of possession, for the part of the amount paid that the person is entitled to recover in case of a failure of consideration.

History: En. Sec. 3934, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5804, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8382, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3050; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1695; re-en. Sec. 8382, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1105; amd. Sec. 2298, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1303. Extent of liens. The liens defined in 71-3-1301 and 71-3-1302 are valid against everyone claiming under the debtor, except a purchaser and encumbrancer in good faith and for value.

History: En. Sec. 3932, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5802, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8380, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3048; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1693; re-en. Sec. 8380, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1103.

Part 14
Hotel Liens

Part Cross-References

Bailment — innkeepers, Title 70, ch. 6, part 5.

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-1401. Lien of hotelkeepers. Hotelkeepers and boardinghouse and lodginghouse keepers have a lien upon the baggage and other property of value brought into the hotel, inn, boardinghouse, or lodginghouse by a guest, boarder, or lodger for the guest's, boarder's, or lodger's accommodation, board, or lodging and room rent and extras that are furnished at the guest's, boarder's, or lodger's request, with the right of the possession of the baggage or other property of value until all charges are paid. This section may not be construed to give a lien upon property sold on the installment plan, title to which is to remain in the vendor until final payment.

History: En. Sec. 2502, Civ. C. 1895; amd. Sec. 1, p. 132, L. 1899; re-en. Sec. 5166, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7675, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1861; re-en. Sec. 7675, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-103; amd. Sec. 2299, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Agisters' liens and liens for service, 71-3-1201 through 71-3-1204.

71-3-1402. Enforcement of lien. Any hotelkeeper or innkeeper who has a lien upon any of the goods, baggage, or other chattel property of the hotelkeeper's or innkeeper's guests may, at the expiration of 6 months from the date of the departure of the guest from the hotel or inn, sell and dispose of the baggage or property at public auction and to the highest bidder for cash or as much that is necessary to pay the sum due the hotelkeeper or innkeeper, together with the cost of storage, advertisement, and sale.

History: En. Sec. 2512, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5175, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7682, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7682, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-110; amd. Sec. 2300, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1403. Notice of sale. Before proceeding to the sale of the property of any guest, as provided in 71-3-1402, the hotelkeeper or innkeeper shall cause a notice of the sale, containing a description of the property to be sold and the time and place where the property will be sold, to be published once each week for 2 successive weeks in a newspaper published in the city or town in which the hotel or inn is situated or, if a newspaper is not published in the city or town, in a newspaper published nearest to the city or town. If any balance arising from the sale is not claimed by the rightful owner within 30 days from the day of the sale, the balance must be paid into the treasury of the county in which the sale took place. If the balance is not claimed by the owner or the owner's legal representatives within 1 year, the balance must be paid into the school fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 2513, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5176, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7683, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7683, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 34-111; amd. Sec. 2301, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 15
Miscellaneous Liens

Part Cross-References

Acknowledgment of lien satisfaction — penalty, 71-3-131.

71-3-1501. Lien of factor. A factor has a general lien, dependent on possession, for all that is due to the factor upon all articles of commercial value that are entrusted to the factor by the same principal.

History: En. Sec. 3936, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5806, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8387, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3053; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1697; re-en. Sec. 8387, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1110; amd. Sec. 2302, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1502. Banker's lien. A banker has a general lien, dependent on possession, upon all property in the banker's hands belonging to a customer for the balance due to the banker from the customer in the course of the business.

History: En. Sec. 3937, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5807, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8388, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3054; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1698; re-en. Sec. 8388, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1111; amd. Sec. 2303, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1503. Officer's lien. An officer who levies an attachment or execution upon personal property acquires a special lien, dependent on possession, upon that property, which authorizes the officer to hold it until the process is discharged or satisfied or a judicial sale of the property is had.

History: En. Sec. 3940, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5810, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8391, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3057; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1701; re-en. Sec. 8391, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1114; amd. Sec. 2304, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1504. Judgment lien. The lien of a judgment is regulated by Title 25.

History: En. Sec. 3941, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5811, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 8392, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 3058; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1703; re-en. Sec. 8392, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 45-1115.

Cross-References

Judgment liens — expiration, 25-9-301.

71-3-1505. Lien for rental on frozen food compartments. A person who operates a frozen food plant that offers individual compartments to the public has a lien on the property in the person's possession for rentals or other charges due. Liens may be foreclosed in the same way provided for chattel mortgages.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 17, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 27-623; amd. Sec. 2305, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

71-3-1506. Tax deficiency lien. A municipality has a lien for tax deficiency payments as described in a properly filed agreement for tax deficiency payment pursuant to 7-15-4294. The lien has the same priority as a lien for general property taxes. Lien proceeds must be disbursed pursuant to 7-15-4286(2)(a).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 545, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 689, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 689, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Part 16
Oil and Gas Owners' Lien

71-3-1601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Oil and Gas Owners' Lien Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "First purchaser" means the first person who under contract purchases oil or gas from an interest owner at or after the time the oil or gas is severed.

(2) "Interest owner" means a person:

(a) who owns an entire or a fractional interest of any kind or nature in the oil or gas at the time it is severed; or

(b) who has a right, either express or implied, to receive a monetary payment determined by the value of the severed oil or gas.

(3) "Leasehold" means a tenant's leasehold interest, as defined in 30-2A-103, in property on which the oil or gas well is located.

(4) "Operator" means any person engaged in the severance of oil or gas on the operator's own behalf, on behalf of the operator and other persons, or on behalf of other persons.

(5) "Person" means any individual, executor, administrator, agent, trustee, or receiver or an estate, institution, business trust, trust of any other kind, firm, corporation, partnership, cooperative, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, sole proprietorship, government agency, association, or any other group acting as a unit.

(6) "Purchaser" means a person who under contract purchases oil or gas from a first purchaser.

(7) "Severed" or "severance" means the taking, extraction, or production from the leasehold of oil or gas in any manner.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1603. Extent of lien — dispute resolution — notice — buyer in ordinary course of business. (1) To secure payment from the sale of oil or gas, an interest owner, subject to 71-3-1606(2) and subsection (4) of this section, has a continuing security interest in and the right to a lien upon the severed oil or gas or the proceeds from the sale of severed oil or gas to the extent of the interest owner's interest until the purchase price has been paid to the interest owner.

(2) If there is a bona fide dispute about the amount due to the interest owner, the security interest and lien do not accrue if the person holding the proceeds upon which the interest owner's security interest and lien are based makes a good faith determination of the amount of payment due to the interest owner and pays the interest owner that amount.

(3) (a) To have effect, a security interest or lien claimed under this part must be perfected as provided in 71-3-1605, and a copy of the notice of the lien, as provided in 71-3-1605, must be provided by an interest owner claiming the security interest or lien to other interest owners, if any, and to the operator, first purchaser, or purchaser by registered or certified mail.

(b) A security interest or lien is not valid under this part unless the provisions in subsection (3)(a) have been met.

(4) (a) A buyer in the ordinary course of business, as described in Title 30, chapter 9A, and subsection (4)(b), is entitled to the severed oil or gas free of the security interest and a lien filed by the interest owner under this part.

(b) A buyer in the ordinary course of business is:

(i) a first purchaser or purchaser who has paid the purchase price for severed oil or gas to the interest owner; or

(ii) a person who pays the purchase price for severed oil or gas to a person authorized to receive payment on behalf of an interest owner.

(c) The property of the first purchaser or purchaser described under subsection (4)(b)(ii) also is free from and not subject to a security interest or lien granted to an interest owner under this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1604. Validity of lien — transferability. (1) The security interest and lien granted to an interest owner under this part are not dependent on the interest owner's or operator's possession of the severed oil or gas.

(2) A change or transfer of the actual or constructive possession of or title to the severed oil or gas from an interest owner or an operator to a first purchaser or purchaser does not void or impair the security interest or lien.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1605. Perfection of lien — verified notice — effect of instruments — effective date. (1) An interest owner who does not receive proceeds or payment for severed oil or gas when the proceeds are due may perfect the security interest and lien claimed under 71-3-1603 by filing a notice, as provided in subsection (2), in the office of the county clerk and recorder in which the leasehold is located.

(2) A sworn affidavit must be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF OIL AND GAS OWNER'S LIEN

Notice is hereby given that: [name of interest owner for whom notice is filed], whose address is [address of named interest owner] claims [a fractional or decimal] interest in the oil or gas severed or proceeds of the sale from the [name of the leasehold], operated by [name and address of the operator]. The leasehold is located on the following [described land] in [name of county], Montana.

Oil or gas severed from the leasehold has been and is now or may be taken and the above-named interest owner has a security interest in and lien upon the oil or gas and the oil or gas proceeds to secure payment under the provisions of the Montana Oil and Gas Owners' Lien Act.

The signatories of this notice recognize that, if a sworn affidavit is not filed within 90 days of the time in which the payment to [the interest owner] is due, the security interest is not perfected and [the interest owner] does not receive a priority over any perfected security interest in the oil or gas described in this notice or the proceeds of the oil or gas described in this notice.

Dated:..............................

Signed by [interest owner]................

(3) An instrument filed with the county clerk and recorder that accompanies the notice filed in subsection (1) is effective as a financing statement recognized under Title 30, chapter 9A, with or without the signature of the debtor. An instrument described in this subsection may be terminated in the same manner as a financing statement under the provisions of Title 30, chapter 9A.

(4) (a) Upon filing of the notice as provided in this section, the effective date of the interest owner's security interest and lien is the date on which the oil or gas severance occurred.

(b) Except as provided in 71-3-1606(2) and subsection (4)(c) of this section, a security interest and lien filed under this section have priority over the rights of any person whose rights or claims arise or attach to the severed oil or gas for which the purchase price has not been paid or to the proceeds of oil or gas if the oil or gas has been sold, including the severed oil or gas or the oil or gas proceeds that arise or attach between the time the security interest and lien attach and the time of filing.

(c) The security interest and the lien filed under this section do not have a priority over the security interest or lien previously created and perfected under Title 71, chapter 3, part 10, or an operating agreement or other voluntary agreement for the development and operation of the leasehold.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1606. Rights of first purchasers. (1) The following are not affected by the provisions of this part or the filing of any instrument permitted under this part:

(a) transfer of the legal title to oil or gas from an interest owner or operator to a first purchaser;

(b) ownership of oil or gas before the oil or gas is severed, as reflected by records affecting real property; or

(c) the right of a first purchaser to take or receive oil or gas under the terms of a division order or a similar agreement for the sale and purchase of oil or gas.

(2) A first purchaser or purchaser is free to transport oil or gas products out of the state or to sell oil or gas products without permission or release of a lien perfected under 71-3-1605.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

71-3-1607. Expiration of lien — enforcement — consolidation — costs — personal actions — other rights and remedies. (1) A security interest and lien claimed by an interest owner under 71-3-1603 and perfected under 71-3-1605 are attached to oil or gas that has not been paid for or to the proceeds of oil or gas if the oil or gas has been sold. The security interest and lien expire 1 year after the date of the filing of the notice of the lien under 71-3-1605 unless within that year the interest owner files a personal right of action, as provided in subsection (2), in a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the leasehold is located. The interest owner may request an extension of the security interest and lien as part of the personal right of action filing.

(2) Any number of persons claiming security interests and liens with respect to the oil or gas from the same leasehold may join a personal right of action. The court may consolidate any separate personal rights of action.

(3) The court may allow to the prevailing party costs as provided in 71-3-124 and any money paid for copying or obtaining records filed under this part.

(4) If the personal right of action is commenced after the filing of an instrument, as provided in 71-3-1605, the instrument must be considered as a lien upon the severed oil or gas or on the proceeds from the sale of the severed oil or gas, if sold, to the extent of the interest owner's claim for payment of the amount due the interest owner or the amount of the security interest and lien recorded under 71-3-1605 by the interest owner. The security interest and lien may be further enforced as provided in 71-3-124.

(5) The provisions of this part do not impair or affect the right of a person to whom a debt may be due to maintain a personal right of action to recover the debt against a person who is liable for the debt.

(6) The provisions of this part are cumulative to the provisions of Title 30, chapter 9A, and not a limitation on or a substitution or impairment of any rights or remedies provided to a creditor against a debtor under Title 30, chapter 9A.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 367, L. 2009.

TITLE 72

ESTATES, TRUSTS, AND FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIPS

Ch.
1. Uniform Probate Code — General Provisions.
2. UPC — Intestacy, Wills, and Donative Transfers.
3. UPC — Probate and Administration.
4. UPC — Foreign Personal Representatives and Ancillary Administration.
5. UPC — Persons Under Disability — Guardianship and Conservatorship.
6. Nonprobate Transfers on Death.
7. Uniform Powers of Appointment Act.
Chapter 8 reserved.
9. Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death.
10. Supplementary General Provisions on Probate and Succession. Repealed.
11. Intestate Succession.
12. Probate and Administration — Supplementary Provisions.
13. Persons Under Disability Supplementary Provisions. Repealed.
14. Escheated Estates.
15. Public Administrator.
16. Estate and Generation-Skipping Taxes.
17. Anatomical Gift Act.
Chapters 18 and 19 reserved.
20. Trusts in General. Repealed.
21. Trustees' Powers Act. Repealed.
22. Conveyance of Trust Property by Court Order. Repealed.
23. Trusts for Benefit of Third Persons. Repealed.
24. Trusts in Relation to Real Property. Repealed.
25. Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act. Repealed.
26. Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.
27. Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to Trusts. Renumbered and Repealed.
Chapters 28 and 29 reserved.
30. Management of Institutional Funds.
31. Miscellaneous Provisions Relating to Fiduciaries.
Chapter 32 reserved.
33. Trust Code General Provisions. Repealed.
34. Principal and Income.
35. Trust Code — Judicial Proceedings Concerning Trusts. Repealed.
36. Trust Code — Rights of Third Persons. Renumbered and Repealed.
37. Funeral Plan Trusts. Repealed.
38. Montana Uniform Trust Code.
39. Uniform Trust Decanting Act.
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CHAPTER 1
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
GENERAL PROVISIONS

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Chapter Cross-References

Gifts and devises to estates, Title 70, ch. 1, part 7.

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Part 1

Short Title, Definitions, Construction, and General Provisions

72-1-101. Short title — purpose. (1) Chapters 1 through 5 and chapter 16, part 6, shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniform Probate Code".

(2) (a) This code shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies.

(b) The underlying purposes and policies of this code are to:

(i) simplify and clarify the law concerning the affairs of decedents, missing persons, protected persons, minors, and incapacitated persons;

(ii) discover and make effective the intent of a decedent in distribution of the decedent's property;

(iii) promote a speedy and efficient system for liquidating the estate of the decedent and making distribution to the decedent's successors;

(iv) facilitate use and enforcement of certain trusts; and

(v) make uniform the law among the various jurisdictions.

History: (1)En. 91A-1-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-101; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-1-102. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. 91A-1-102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-102.

72-1-103. General definitions. Subject to additional definitions contained in the subsequent chapters that are applicable to specific chapters, parts, or sections and unless the context otherwise requires, in chapters 1 through 6, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agent" includes an attorney-in-fact under a durable or nondurable power of attorney, an individual authorized to make decisions concerning another's health care, and an individual authorized to make decisions for another under a natural death act.

(2) "Application" means a written request to the clerk for an order of informal probate or appointment under chapter 3, part 2.

(3) "Beneficiary", as it relates to:

(a) a trust beneficiary, includes a person who has any present or future interest, vested or contingent, and also includes the owner of an interest by assignment or other transfer;

(b) a charitable trust, includes any person entitled to enforce the trust;

(c) a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, refers to a beneficiary of:

(i) an account with POD designation or a security registered in beneficiary form (TOD); or

(ii) any other nonprobate transfer at death; and

(d) a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument, includes a grantee of a deed, a devisee, a trust beneficiary, a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, a donee, and a person in whose favor a power of attorney or a power held in any individual, fiduciary, or representative capacity is exercised.

(4) "Beneficiary designation" refers to a governing instrument naming a beneficiary of:

(a) an account with POD designation or a security registered in beneficiary form (TOD); or

(b) any other nonprobate transfer at death.

(5) "Child" includes an individual entitled to take as a child under chapters 1 through 5 by intestate succession from the parent whose relationship is involved and excludes a person who is only a stepchild, a foster child, a grandchild, or any more remote descendant.

(6) (a) "Claims", in respect to estates of decedents and protected persons, includes liabilities of the decedent or protected person, whether arising in contract, in tort, or otherwise, and liabilities of the estate that arise at or after the death of the decedent or after the appointment of a conservator, including funeral expenses and expenses of administration.

(b) The term does not include estate taxes or demands or disputes regarding title of a decedent or protected person to specific assets alleged to be included in the estate.

(7) "Clerk" or "clerk of court" means the clerk of the district court.

(8) "Conservator" means a person who is appointed by a court to manage the estate of a protected person.

(9) "Court" means the district court in this state having jurisdiction in matters relating to the affairs of decedents.

(10) "Descendant" of an individual means all of the individual's descendants of all generations, with the relationship of parent and child at each generation being determined by the definition of child and parent contained in this code.

(11) "Devise" when used as a noun means a testamentary disposition of real or personal property and when used as a verb means to dispose of real or personal property by will.

(12) "Devisee" means a person designated in a will to receive a devise. For purposes of chapter 3, in the case of a devise to an existing trust or trustee or to a trustee or trust described by will, the trust or trustee is the devisee and the beneficiaries are not devisees.

(13) "Disability" means cause for a protective order as described by 72-5-409.

(14) "Distributee" means any person who has received property of a decedent from the decedent's personal representative other than as a creditor or purchaser. A testamentary trustee is a distributee only to the extent of distributed assets or increment to distributed assets remaining in the trustee's hands. A beneficiary of a testamentary trust to whom the trustee has distributed property received from a personal representative is a distributee of the personal representative. For purposes of this provision, "testamentary trustee" includes a trustee to whom assets are transferred by will, to the extent of the devised assets.

(15) "Estate" includes the property of the decedent, trust, or other person whose affairs are subject to chapters 1 through 5 as originally constituted and as it exists from time to time during administration.

(16) "Exempt property" means that property of a decedent's estate that is described in 72-2-413.

(17) "Fiduciary" includes a personal representative, guardian, conservator, and trustee.

(18) "Foreign personal representative" means a personal representative appointed by another jurisdiction.

(19) "Formal proceedings" means proceedings conducted before a judge with notice to interested persons.

(20) "Governing instrument" means a deed; will; trust; insurance or annuity policy; account with POD designation; security registered in beneficiary form (TOD); pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit plan; instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a power of attorney; or dispositive, appointive, or nominative instrument of any similar type.

(21) "Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to testamentary or court appointment but excludes one who is merely a guardian ad litem.

(22) "Heirs", except as controlled by 72-2-721, means persons, including the surviving spouse and the state, who are entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the property of a decedent.

(23) "Incapacitated person" has the meaning provided in 72-5-101.

(24) "Informal proceedings" means proceedings conducted without notice to interested persons by the clerk of court for probate of a will or appointment of a personal representative.

(25) "Interested person" includes heirs, devisees, children, spouses, creditors, beneficiaries, and any others having a property right in or claim against a trust estate or the estate of a decedent, ward, or protected person. The term also includes persons having priority for appointment as personal representative and other fiduciaries representing interested persons. The meaning as it relates to particular persons may vary from time to time and must be determined according to the particular purposes of and matter involved in any proceeding.

(26) "Issue" of a person means a descendant.

(27) "Joint tenants with the right of survivorship" includes co-owners of property held under circumstances that entitle one or more to the whole of the property on the death of the other or others but excludes forms of co-ownership registration in which the underlying ownership of each party is in proportion to that party's contribution.

(28) "Lease" includes an oil, gas, coal, or other mineral lease.

(29) "Letters" includes letters testamentary, letters of guardianship, letters of administration, and letters of conservatorship.

(30) "Minor" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(31) "Mortgage" means any conveyance, agreement, or arrangement in which property is used as security.

(32) "Nonresident decedent" means a decedent who was domiciled in another jurisdiction at the time of death.

(33) "Organization" means a corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, joint venture, association, government or governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(34) "Parent" includes any person entitled to take, or who would be entitled to take if the child died without a will, as a parent under chapters 1 through 5 by intestate succession from the child whose relationship is in question and excludes any person who is only a stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent.

(35) "Payor" means a trustee, insurer, business entity, employer, government, governmental agency or subdivision, or any other person authorized or obligated by law or a governing instrument to make payments.

(36) "Person" means an individual, a corporation, an organization, or other legal entity.

(37) "Personal representative" includes executor, administrator, successor personal representative, special administrator, and persons who perform substantially the same function under the law governing their status. "General personal representative" excludes special administrator.

(38) "Petition" means a written request to the court for an order after notice.

(39) "Proceeding" includes action at law and suit in equity.

(40) "Property" includes both real and personal property or any interest in that property and means anything that may be the subject of ownership.

(41) "Protected person" has the meaning provided in 72-5-101.

(42) "Protective proceeding" has the meaning provided in 72-5-101.

(43) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(44) "Security" includes any note; stock; treasury stock; bond; debenture; evidence of indebtedness; certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease; collateral trust certificate; transferable share; voting trust certificate; in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a security; any certificate of interest or participation; or any temporary or interim certificate, receipt, or certificate of deposit for or any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any of the foregoing.

(45) "Settlement", in reference to a decedent's estate, includes the full process of administration, distribution, and closing.

(46) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record other than a will:

(a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

(47) "Special administrator" means a personal representative as described by chapter 3, part 7.

(48) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(49) "Successor personal representative" means a personal representative, other than a special administrator, who is appointed to succeed a previously appointed personal representative.

(50) "Successors" means persons, other than creditors, who are entitled to property of a decedent under the decedent's will or chapters 1 through 5.

(51) "Supervised administration" refers to the proceedings described in chapter 3, part 4.

(52) "Survive" means that an individual has neither predeceased an event, including the death of another individual, nor is considered to have predeceased an event under 72-2-114 or 72-2-712. The term includes its derivatives, such as "survives", "survived", "survivor", and "surviving".

(53) "Testacy proceeding" means a proceeding to establish a will or determine intestacy.

(54) "Testator" includes an individual of either sex, as defined in 1-1-201.

(55) "Trust" includes an express trust, private or charitable, with additions to the trust, wherever and however created. The term also includes a trust created or determined by judgment or decree under which the trust is to be administered in the manner of an express trust. The term excludes other constructive trusts and excludes resulting trusts; conservatorships; personal representatives; trust accounts as defined in 72-6-111 and Title 72, chapter 6, parts 2 and 3; custodial arrangements pursuant to chapter 26; business trusts providing for certificates to be issued to beneficiaries; common trust funds; voting trusts; security arrangements; liquidation trusts; trusts for the primary purpose of paying debts, dividends, interest, salaries, wages, profits, pensions, or employee benefits of any kind; and any arrangement under which a person is nominee or escrowee for another.

(56) "Trustee" includes an original, additional, or successor trustee, whether or not appointed or confirmed by court.

(57) "Verification" has the meaning provided in 25-4-203 and may be proved by an unsworn written verification in accordance with 1-6-105.

(58) "Ward" means an individual described in 72-5-101.

(59) "Will" includes codicil and any testamentary instrument that merely appoints an executor, revokes or revises another will, nominates a guardian, or expressly excludes or limits the right of an individual or class to succeed to property of the decedent passing by intestate succession.

History: **En. 91A-1-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-201; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 130, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 564, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 685, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 564, L. 2023, inserted definition of verification; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 41, Ch. 685, L. 2023, in definition of testator at end inserted "as defined in 1-1-201". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

72-1-104. Supplementary general principles of law applicable. Unless displaced by the particular provisions of this code, the principles of law and equity supplement its provisions.

History: **En. 91A-1-103 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-103.**

Cross-References

Community property — disposition upon death, 72-9-107.

72-1-105. Construction against implied repeal. This code is a general act intended as a unified coverage of its subject matter, and no part of it shall be deemed impliedly repealed by subsequent legislation if it can reasonably be avoided.

History: **En. 91A-1-105 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-105.**

72-1-106. Uniform Probate Code to take precedence. Should any provision of this code conflict with any provisions of other statutes of the state of Montana relating to probate, guardianship, or other subjects incorporated in this code and such other statute or statutes was or were adopted prior to the enactment of this code, the provisions of this code shall be deemed to be controlling.

History: En. 91A-6-104 by Sec. 19, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-6-104.

72-1-107. Effective date — applicability. (1) This code takes effect on July 1, 1975.

(2) Except as provided elsewhere in this code, on July 1, 1975:

(a) the code applies to any wills of decedents dying thereafter;

(b) the code applies to any proceedings in court then pending or thereafter commenced regardless of the time of the death of decedent, except to the extent that in the opinion of the court the former procedure should be made applicable in a particular case in the interest of justice or because of infeasibility of application of the procedure of this code;

(c) every personal representative, including a person administering an estate of a minor or incompetent holding an appointment on that date, continues to hold the appointment but has only the powers conferred by this code and is subject to the duties imposed with respect to any act occurring or done thereafter;

(d) an act done before July 1, 1975, in any proceeding and any accrued right are not impaired by this code. If a right is acquired, extinguished, or barred upon the expiration of a prescribed period of time which has commenced to run by the provisions of any statute before July 1, 1975, the provisions shall remain in force with respect to that right.

(e) any rule of construction or presumption provided in this code applies to instruments executed and multiple-party accounts opened before July 1, 1975, unless there is a clear indication of a contrary intent.

History: En. 91A-6-102 by Sec. 3, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-6-102.

72-1-108. Evidence of death or status. In addition to the rules of evidence in courts of general jurisdiction, the following rules relating to a determination of death or status apply:

(1) Death occurs when an individual is determined to be dead under 50-22-101.

(2) A certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by an official or agency of the place where the death purportedly occurred is prima facie evidence of the fact, place, date, and time of death and the identity of the decedent.

(3) A certified or authenticated copy of any record or report of a governmental agency, domestic or foreign, that an individual is missing, detained, dead, or alive is prima facie evidence of the status and of the dates, circumstances, and places disclosed by the record or report.

(4) In the absence of prima facie evidence of death under subsection (2) or (3), the fact of death may be established by clear and convincing evidence, including circumstantial evidence.

(5) An individual whose death is not established under subsections (2) through (4), who is absent for a continuous period of 5 years, during which the individual has not been heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry is presumed to be dead. The individual's death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence for determining that death occurred earlier.

(6) In the absence of evidence disputing the time of death stated on a document described in subsection (2) or (3), a document described in subsection (2) or (3) that states a time of death 120 hours or more after the time of death of another individual, however the time of death of the other individual is determined, establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the individual survived the other individual by 120 hours.

History: En. 91A-1-107 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-107; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Disputable presumptions, 26-1-602.

72-1-109. Acts by holder of general power. For the purpose of granting consent or approval with regard to the acts or accounts of a personal representative, including relief from liability or penalty for failure to post bond, or to perform other duties, the sole holder or all coholders of a presently exercisable general power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment or revocation, are deemed to act for beneficiaries to the extent their interests (as objects, takers in default, or otherwise) are subject to the power.

History: En. 91A-1-108 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-108.

72-1-110. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. 91A-6-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-6-101.

72-1-111. Remedies for fraud — statute of limitations. (1) Whenever fraud has been perpetrated in connection with any proceeding or in any statement filed under this code or if fraud is used to avoid or circumvent the provisions or purposes of this code, a person injured by the fraud may obtain appropriate relief, including restitution against the perpetrator of the fraud or any person benefiting from the fraud, whether innocent or not, other than a bona fide purchaser for value and without notice.

(2) Any proceeding must be commenced within 2 years after the discovery of the fraud, but a proceeding may not be brought against one not a perpetrator of the fraud later than 5 years after the time of commission of the fraud.

(3) This section has no bearing on remedies relating to fraud practiced on a decedent during the decedent's lifetime that affects the succession of the decedent's estate.

History: En. 91A-1-106 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-106; amd. Sec. 2306, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

Part 2
Scope, Jurisdiction, and Courts

72-1-201. Territorial application. Except as otherwise provided in this code, this code applies to:

(1) the affairs and estates of decedents, missing persons, and persons to be protected in this state;

(2) the property of nonresidents located in this state or property coming into the control of a fiduciary who is subject to the laws of this state;

(3) incapacitated persons and minors in this state; and

(4) survivorship and related accounts in this state.

History: En. 91A-1-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-301; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-1-202. Subject matter jurisdiction. (1) To the full extent permitted by the constitution, the court has jurisdiction over all subject matter relating to:

(a) estates of decedents, including construction of wills and determination of heirs and successors of decedents, and estates of protected persons; and

(b) protection of minors and incapacitated persons.

(2) The court has full power to make orders, judgments, and decrees and take all other action necessary and proper to administer justice in the matters which come before it.

History: En. 91A-1-302 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-302.

72-1-203. Venue — multiple proceedings — transfer. (1) Where venue for a proceeding under this code may lie in more than one county in the state, the court in which the proceeding is first commenced has the exclusive right to proceed.

(2) If proceedings concerning the same estate, protected person, ward, or trust are commenced in more than one court of this state, the court in which the proceeding was first commenced shall continue to hear the matter, and the other courts shall hold the matter in abeyance until the question of venue is decided, and if the ruling court determines that venue is properly in another court, it shall transfer the proceeding to the other court.

(3) If a court finds that, as a matter of law or in the interest of justice, a proceeding or a file should be located in another court of this state, the court making the finding may transfer the proceeding or file to the other court.

History: En. 91A-1-303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-303.

Cross-References

Trial venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

72-1-204. Records and certified copies. (1) The clerk of court shall keep a record for each decedent, ward, protected person, or trust involved in any document which may be filed with the court under this code, including petitions and applications, demands for notices or bonds, and of any orders or responses relating thereto by the clerk or court and establish and maintain a system for indexing, filing, or recording which is sufficient to enable users of the records to obtain adequate information.

(2) Upon payment of the fees required by law, the clerk must issue certified copies of any probated wills, letters issued to personal representatives, or any other record or paper filed or recorded.

(3) Certificates relating to probated wills must indicate whether the decedent was domiciled in this state and whether the probate was formal or informal. Certificates relating to letters must show the date of appointment.

History: En. 91A-1-305 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-305.

Cross-References

Probate records, 3-5-513.

72-1-205. Powers of clerk — performable by clerk or court. The acts and orders which this code specifies as performable by the clerk of court may be performed either by a judge of the court or by the clerk of court.

History: En. 91A-1-307 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-307.

72-1-206. Oath or affirmation on filed documents. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this code, every document filed with the court under this code, including applications, petitions, reports, accounts, objections, responses, and demands for notice, must include an oath, affirmation, declaration under penalty of perjury as provided in 1-6-105, or statement to the effect that its representations are true as far as the person executing or filing it knows or is informed.

(2) A deliberate falsification of any document filed with the court pursuant to this section constitutes the offense of perjury and is punishable as the offense of false swearing.

History: En. 91A-1-309 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-309; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 238, L. 2011.

Cross-References

False swearing, 45-7-202.

72-1-207. Rules of civil procedure to apply. Unless specifically provided to the contrary in this code or unless inconsistent with its provisions, the rules of civil procedure, including the rules concerning vacation of orders and appellate review, govern formal proceedings under this code.

History: En. 91A-1-304 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-304.

72-1-208. Jury trial. (1) If duly demanded, a party is entitled to trial by jury in a formal testacy proceeding, and any proceeding in which any controverted question of fact arises as to which any party has a constitutional right to trial by jury.

(2) If there is no right to trial by jury under subsection (1) or the right is waived, the court in its discretion may call a jury to decide any issue of fact, in which case the verdict is advisory only.

History: En. 91A-1-306 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-306; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Trial by jury, Art. II, sec. 26, Mont. Const.

72-1-209. Appeals. Appellate review, including the right to appellate review, interlocutory appeal, provisions as to time, manner, notice, appeal bond, stays, scope of review, record on appeal, briefs, arguments, and power of the appellate court, is governed by the statutes and rules applicable to the appeals to the supreme court.

History: En. 91A-1-308 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-308.

Part 3
Notices, Parties, and Representation Generally

72-1-301. Notice — method and time of giving. (1) If notice of a hearing on any petition is required and except for specific notice requirements as otherwise provided, the petitioner shall cause notice of the time and place of hearing of any petition to be given to any interested person or the person's attorney if the person has appeared by attorney or requested that notice be sent to the person's attorney. Notice must be given:

(a) by mailing a copy of the notice at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing by certified mail or ordinary first-class mail addressed to the person being notified at the post-office address given in the person's demand for notice, if any, or at the person's office or place of residence, if known;

(b) by delivering a copy of the notice to the person being notified personally at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing; or

(c) if the address or identity of any person is not known and cannot be ascertained with reasonable diligence, by publishing the notice in a weekly paper once a week for 3 consecutive weeks and, if in a newspaper published more often than once a week, by publishing on at least 3 different days of publication. There must be at least 10 days from the first to the last day of publication, both the first and last day being included.

(2) The court for good cause shown may provide for a different method or time of giving notice for any hearing.

(3) Proof of the giving of notice must be made on or before the hearing and filed in the proceeding.

History: En. 91A-1-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-401; amd. Sec. 2307, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-1-302. Waiver of notice. A person, including a guardian ad litem, conservator, or other fiduciary, may waive notice by a writing signed by the person or the person's attorney and filed in the proceeding. A person for whom a guardianship or other protective order is sought, a ward, or a protected person may not waive notice.

History: En. 91A-1-402 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-402; amd. Sec. 2308, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-1-303. Pleadings — when orders or notice binding one binds another — representation. In formal proceedings involving trusts or estates of decedents, minors, protected persons, or incapacitated persons and in judicially supervised settlements, the following apply:

(1) Interests to be affected must be described in pleadings that give reasonable information to owners by name or class, by reference to the instrument creating the interests, or in other appropriate manner.

(2) Persons are bound by orders binding others in the following cases:

(a) Orders binding the sole holder or all coholders of a power of revocation or a presently exercisable general power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment, bind other persons to the extent their interests, as objects, takers in default, or otherwise, are subject to the power.

(b) (i) To the extent there is no conflict of interest between them or among persons represented, orders binding a:

(A) conservator bind the person whose estate the conservator controls;

(B) guardian bind the ward if a conservator of the ward's estate has not been appointed;

(C) trustee bind beneficiaries of the trust in proceedings to probate a will establishing or adding to a trust, to review the acts or accounts of a prior fiduciary, and in proceedings involving creditors or other third parties;

(D) personal representative bind persons interested in the undistributed assets of a decedent's estate in actions or proceedings by or against the estate; and

(E) a sole holder or all co-holders of a general testamentary power of appointment binds other persons to the extent their interests as objects, takers in default, or otherwise are subject to the power.

(ii) If there is no conflict of interest and a conservator or guardian has not been appointed, a parent may represent the parent's minor child.

(c) An unborn or unascertained person who is not otherwise represented is bound by an order to the extent the person's interest is adequately represented by another party having a substantially identical interest in the proceeding.

(3) Notice is required as follows:

(a) Notice as prescribed by 72-1-301 must be given to every interested person or to one who can bind an interested person as described in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b). Notice may be given both to a person and to another who may bind the person.

(b) Notice is given to unborn or unascertained persons, who are not represented under subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), by giving notice to all known persons whose interests in the proceedings are substantially identical to those of the unborn or unascertained persons.

(4) At any point in a proceeding, a court may appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interest of a minor, an incapacitated, unborn, or unascertained person, or a person whose identity or address is unknown if the court determines that representation of the interest otherwise would be inadequate. If not precluded by conflict of interests, a guardian ad litem may be appointed to represent several persons or interests. The court shall set out its reasons for appointing a guardian ad litem as a part of the record of the proceeding.

History: En. 91A-1-403 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-1-403; amd. Sec. 2309, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-1-304 through 72-1-309 reserved.

72-1-310. Permitted pleadings — verification required. (1) The following pleadings are permitted in probate proceedings:

(a) an application, petition, report, or account filed pursuant to this title; and

(b) an objection or response filed pursuant to this title to an application, petition, report, or account.

(2) Except as provided in 25-4-203 regarding verification by an agent or attorney, the verification must be made as follows:

(a) An application must be verified by the applicant or, if there are two or more parties joining the application, by any one of the applicants.

(b) A petition must be verified by the petitioner or, if there are two or more parties joining the petition, by any one of the petitioners.

(c) A report or account must be verified by the person who has the duty to make the report or account or, if there are two or more persons having a duty to make the report or account, by any one of the persons having the duty.

(d) An objection or response must be verified by the objector or respondent or, if there are two or more parties joining in the objection or response, by any one of the objectors or respondents.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 238, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-1-311. Affidavit or verified petition as evidence in uncontested proceedings. In any probate matter, an affidavit or verified petition must be received as evidence when offered in an uncontested proceeding under this title.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 238, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-1-312. Attorney signature — pleadings. In addition to the verification required by 25-4-203 and 72-1-310, every application and other pleading filed in connection with any probate proceeding must be signed by the attorney of the person filing the pleading if the person is represented by an attorney. The verification must be made by the person executing or filing the document with the court as provided in 72-1-310.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 238, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 149, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

CHAPTER 2
UPC — INTESTACY, WILLS, AND DONATIVE TRANSFERS

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72-2-103. Renumbered 72-2-812.
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72-2-1008 through 72-2-1016 reserved.
72-2-1017. Honorary trusts — trusts for pets.

Chapter Cross-References

Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act — discontinuance of life-sustaining supports, Title 50, ch. 9.
Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, Title 72, ch. 17.

Part 1
Intestate Succession

Part Cross-References

Treason and descent of estates, Art. II, sec. 30, Mont. Const.

72-2-101. Renumbered 72-2-811. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-102. Renumbered 72-2-224. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-103. Renumbered 72-2-812. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-104. Renumbered 72-2-813. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-105. Renumbered 72-2-534. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-106 through 72-2-110 reserved.

72-2-111. Intestate estate. (1) Any part of a decedent's estate not effectively disposed of by will passes by intestate succession to the decedent's heirs as prescribed in chapters 1 through 5, except as modified by the decedent's will.

(2) A decedent may by will expressly exclude or limit the right of an individual or class to succeed to property of the decedent passing by intestate succession. If that individual or a member of that class survives the decedent, the share of the decedent's intestate estate to which that individual or class would have succeeded passes as if that individual or each member of that class had disclaimed an intestate share.

History: En. 91A-2-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-101; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-201, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-111 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-112. Share of spouse. The intestate share of a decedent's surviving spouse is:

(1) the entire intestate estate if:

(a) no descendant or parent of the decedent survives the decedent; or

(b) all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the surviving spouse and there is no other descendant of the surviving spouse who survives the decedent;

(2) the first $300,000, plus three-fourths of any balance of the intestate estate, if no descendant of the decedent survives the decedent but a parent of the decedent survives the decedent;

(3) the first $225,000, plus one-half of any balance of the intestate estate, if all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has one or more surviving descendants who are not descendants of the decedent;

(4) the first $150,000, plus one-half of any balance of the intestate estate, if one or more of the decedent's surviving descendants are not descendants of the surviving spouse.

History: En. 91A-2-102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-102; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-202, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-112 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-113. Share of heirs other than surviving spouse. (1) Any part of the intestate estate not passing to the decedent's surviving spouse under 72-2-112, or the entire intestate estate if there is no surviving spouse, passes in the following order to the individuals designated below who survive the decedent:

(a) to the decedent's descendants by representation;

(b) if there is no surviving descendant, to the decedent's parents equally if both survive or to the surviving parent;

(c) if there is no surviving descendant or parent, to the descendants of the decedent's parents or either of them by representation;

(d) if there is no surviving descendant, parent, or descendant of a parent and the decedent is:

(i) survived by one or more grandparents or descendants of grandparents:

(A) one-half to:

(I) the decedent's paternal grandparents equally if both survive;

(II) the surviving paternal grandparent; or

(III) the descendants of the decedent's paternal grandparents or either of them if both are deceased, the descendants taking by representation; and

(B) the other one-half to the decedent's maternal relatives in the same manner; or

(ii) not survived by a grandparent or descendant of a grandparent on either the paternal or the maternal side, the entire estate to the decedent's relatives on the other side in the same manner as the half;

(e) if there is no surviving descendant, grandparent, or descendant of a grandparent, to the person of the closest degree of kinship with the decedent. Except as provided in subsection (2), if more than one person is of that closest degree, those persons share equally.

(2) If more than one person is of the closest degree as provided in subsection (1)(e) but they claim through different ancestors, those who claim through the nearer ancestor must receive to the exclusion of those claiming through a more remote ancestor.

History: En. 91A-2-103 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-103; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-203, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-113 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

72-2-114. Requirement that heir survive decedent for 120 hours. An individual who fails to survive the decedent by 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the decedent for purposes of homestead allowance, exempt property, and intestate succession, and the decedent's heirs are determined accordingly. If it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an individual who would otherwise be an heir survived the decedent by 120 hours, it is deemed that the individual failed to survive for the required period. This section is not to be applied if its application would result in a taking of intestate estate by the state under 72-2-115.

History: En. 91A-2-104 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-104; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-205, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-114 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-115. No taker. If there is no taker under the provisions of this chapter, the intestate estate passes to the state of Montana.

History: En. 91A-2-105 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-105; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-207, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-115 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-116. Representation. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Deceased descendant", "deceased parent", or "deceased grandparent" means a descendant, parent, or grandparent who either predeceased the decedent or is deemed to have predeceased the decedent under 72-2-114.

(b) "Surviving descendant" means a descendant who neither predeceased the decedent nor is deemed to have predeceased the decedent under 72-2-114.

(2) (a) If, under 72-2-113(1)(a), a decedent's intestate estate or a part of the intestate estate passes by representation to the decedent's descendants, the estate or part of the estate is divided into as many equal shares as there are:

(i) surviving descendants in the generation nearest to the decedent that contains one or more surviving descendants; and

(ii) deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any.

(b) Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated one share. The share of each deceased descendant in the same generation as the surviving descendant is divided in the same manner, with the subdivision repeating at each succeeding generation until the property is fully allocated among surviving descendants.

(3) (a) If, under 72-2-113(1)(c) or (1)(d), a decedent's intestate estate or a part of the intestate estate passes by representation to the descendants of the decedent's deceased parents or either of them or to the descendants of the decedent's deceased paternal or maternal grandparents or either of them, the estate or part of the estate is divided into as many equal shares as there are:

(i) surviving descendants in the generation nearest the deceased parents or either of them or nearest the deceased grandparents or either of them that contains one or more surviving descendants; and

(ii) deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any.

(b) Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated one share. The share of each deceased descendant in the same generation as the surviving descendant is divided in the same manner, with the subdivision repeating at each succeeding generation until the property is fully allocated among surviving descendants.

History: En. 91A-2-106 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-106; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-204, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-116 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Intestate succession — degree of kinship, Title 72, ch. 11, part 1.

72-2-117. Kindred of half blood. Relatives of the half blood inherit the same share they would inherit if they were of the whole blood.

History: En. 91A-2-107 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-107; Sec. 72-2-211, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-117 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-118. Afterborn heirs. An individual in gestation at a particular time is treated as living at that time if the individual lives 120 hours or more after birth. If it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an individual in gestation at the decedent's death lived 120 hours after birth, it is deemed that the individual failed to survive for the required period.

History: En. 91A-2-108 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-108; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-212, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-118 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Omitted children, 72-2-332.

72-2-119. Advancements. (1) If an individual dies intestate as to all or a portion of the individual's estate, property the decedent gave during the decedent's lifetime to an individual who, at the decedent's death, is an heir is treated as an advancement against the heir's intestate share only if:

(a) the decedent declared in a contemporaneous writing or the heir acknowledged in writing that the gift is an advancement; or

(b) the decedent's contemporaneous writing or the heir's written acknowledgment otherwise indicates that the gift is to be taken into account in computing the division and distribution of the decedent's intestate estate.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1), property advanced is valued as of the time the heir came into possession or enjoyment of the property or as of the time of the decedent's death, whichever first occurs.

(3) If the recipient of the property fails to survive the decedent, the property is not taken into account in computing the division and distribution of the decedent's intestate estate, unless the decedent's contemporaneous writing provides otherwise.

History: En. 91A-2-110 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-110; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-206, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-119 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-120. Debts to decedent. A debt owed to a decedent is not charged against the intestate share of any individual except the debtor. If the debtor fails to survive the decedent, the debt is not taken into account in computing the intestate share of the debtor's descendants.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-121. Alienage. No individual is disqualified to take as an heir because the individual or an individual through whom the individual claims is or has been an alien.

History: En. 91A-2-111 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-111; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-214, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-121 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-122. Dower and curtesy abolished. The estates of dower and curtesy are abolished.

History: En. 91A-2-112 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-112; Sec. 72-2-701, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-122 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-123. Individuals related to decedent through two lines. An individual who is related to the decedent through two lines of relationship is entitled to only a single share based on the relationship that would entitle the individual to the larger share.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-210, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-123 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-124. Parent and child relationship. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), for the purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an individual is the child of the child's natural parents, regardless of their marital status. The parent and child relationship may be established under Title 40, chapter 6, part 1.

(2) An adopted individual is the child of an adopting parent or parents and not of the natural parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on:

(a) the relationship between the child and that natural parent; or

(b) the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent.

(3) Inheritance from or through a child by either natural parent or the parent's kindred is precluded unless that natural parent has openly treated the child as the parent's and has not refused to support the child.

History: En. 91A-2-109 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-109; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-213, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-124 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-2-125. Parent barred from inheriting in certain circumstances. (1) A parent is barred from inheriting from or through a child of the parent if:

(a) the parent's parental rights were terminated and the parent-child relationship was not judicially reestablished; or

(b) the child died before reaching 18 years of age and there is clear and convincing evidence that immediately before the child's death the parental rights of the parent could have been terminated under law of this state other than this code on the basis of nonsupport, abandonment, abuse, neglect, or other actions or inactions of the parent toward the child.

(2) For the purpose of intestate succession from or through the deceased child, a parent who is barred from inheriting under this section is treated as if the parent predeceased the child.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Part 2
Elective Share of Surviving Spouse

Part Cross-References

Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act, Title 72, ch. 9, part 1.

72-2-201. Renumbered 72-2-111. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-202. Renumbered 72-2-112. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-203. Renumbered 72-2-113. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-204. Renumbered 72-2-116. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-205. Renumbered 72-2-114. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-206. Renumbered 72-2-119. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-207. Renumbered 72-2-115. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-208 and 72-2-209 reserved.

72-2-210. Renumbered 72-2-123. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-211. Renumbered 72-2-117. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-212. Renumbered 72-2-118. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-213. Renumbered 72-2-124. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-214. Renumbered 72-2-121. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-215. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-112 by Sec. 1, Ch. 370, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-111.1.

72-2-216 through 72-2-220 reserved.

72-2-221. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-201; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-702, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-221 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-2-222. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-202; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-705, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-222 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-2-223. Renumbered 72-2-242. Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-224. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-204; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-102, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-224 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-2-225. Renumbered 72-2-241. Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-226. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-206 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-206; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-704, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-226 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-227. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-207; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-706, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-227 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-2-228. Renumbered 72-2-244. Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-229 reserved.

72-2-230. Renumbered 72-2-240. Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-231. Definitions. In this part:

(1) As used in sections other than 72-2-235, "decedent's nonprobate transfers to others" means the amounts that are included in the augmented estate under 72-2-235.

(2) "Fractional interest in property held in joint tenancy with the right of survivorship," whether the fractional interest is unilaterally severable or not, means the fraction, the numerator of which is one and the denominator of which, if the decedent was a joint tenant, is one plus the number of joint tenants who survive the decedent and which, if the decedent was not a joint tenant, is the number of joint tenants.

(3) "Marriage," as it relates to a transfer by the decedent during marriage, means any marriage of the decedent to the decedent's surviving spouse.

(4) "Nonadverse party" means a person who does not have a substantial beneficial interest in the trust or other property arrangement that would be adversely affected by the exercise or nonexercise of the power that person possesses respecting the trust or other property arrangement. A person having a general power of appointment over property is deemed to have a beneficial interest in the property.

(5) "Power" or "power of appointment" includes a power to designate the beneficiary of a beneficiary designation.

(6) "Presently exercisable general power of appointment" means a power of appointment under which, at the time in question, the decedent, whether or not the decedent then had the capacity to exercise the power, held a power to create a present or future interest in the decedent, the decedent's creditors, the decedent's estate, or creditors of the decedent's estate, and includes a power to revoke or invade the principal of a trust or other property arrangement.

(7) "Property" includes values subject to a beneficiary designation.

(8) "Right to income" includes a right to payments under a commercial or private annuity, an annuity trust, a unitrust, or a similar arrangement.

(9) "Transfer," as it relates to a transfer by or of the decedent, includes:

(a) an exercise or release of a presently exercisable general power of appointment held by the decedent;

(b) a lapse at death of a presently exercisable general power of appointment held by the decedent; and

(c) an exercise, release, or lapse of a general power of appointment that the decedent created in the decedent and of a power described in 72-2-235(2)(b) that the decedent conferred on a nonadverse party.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-232. Elective share. (1) The surviving spouse of a decedent who dies domiciled in this state has a right of election, under the limitations and conditions stated in this part, to take an elective-share amount equal to 50% of the value of the marital-property portion of the augmented estate.

(2) If the sum of the amounts described in 72-2-237 and 72-2-239(1)(a), and that part of the elective-share amount payable from the decedent's net probate estate and nonprobate transfers to others under 72-2-239(3) and (4) is less than $75,000, the surviving spouse is entitled to a supplemental elective-share amount equal to $75,000, minus the sum of the amounts described in those sections. The supplemental elective-share amount is payable from the decedent's net probate estate and from recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others in the order of priority set forth in 72-2-239(3) and (4).

(3) If the right of election is exercised by or on behalf of the surviving spouse, the surviving spouse's homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance, if any, are not charged against but are in addition to the elective-share and supplemental elective-share amounts.

(4) The right, if any, of the surviving spouse of a decedent who dies domiciled outside this state to take an elective share in property in this state is governed by the law of the decedent's domicile at death.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-233. Composition of the augmented estate. (1) Subject to 72-2-238, the value of the augmented estate, to the extent provided in 72-2-234 through 72-2-237, consists of the sum of the values of all property, whether real or personal; movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, wherever situated, that constitute:

(a) the decedent's net probate estate;

(b) the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others;

(c) the decedent's nonprobate transfers to the surviving spouse; and

(d) the surviving spouse's property and nonprobate transfers to others.

(2) The value of the marital-property portion of the augmented estate consists of the sum of the values of the four components of the augmented estate as determined under subsection (1) multiplied by the following percentage:

If the decedent and the spouse were married to each other:	The percentage is:
Less than 1 year	3%
1 year but less than 2 years	6%
2 years but less than 3 years	12%
3 years but less than 4 years	18%
4 years but less than 5 years	24%
5 years but less than 6 years	30%
6 years but less than 7 years	36%
7 years but less than 8 years	42%
8 years but less than 9 years	48%
9 years but less than 10 years	54%
10 years but less than 11 years	60%
11 years but less than 12 years	68%
12 years but less than 13 years	76%
13 years but less than 14 years	84%
14 years but less than 15 years	92%
15 years or more	100%

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-234. Decedent's net probate estate. The value of the augmented estate includes the value of the decedent's probate estate, reduced by funeral and administration expenses, homestead allowance, family allowances, exempt property, and enforceable claims.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-235. Decedent's nonprobate transfers to others. The value of the augmented estate includes the value of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, not included under 72-2-234, of any of the following types, in the amount provided respectively for each type of transfer:

(1) Property owned or owned in substance by the decedent immediately before death that passed outside probate at the decedent's death. Property included under this category consists of:

(a) property over which the decedent alone, immediately before death, held a presently exercisable general power of appointment. The amount included is the value of the property subject to the power, to the extent the property passed at the decedent's death, by exercise, release, lapse, in default, or otherwise, to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

(b) the decedent's fractional interest in property held by the decedent in joint tenancy with the right of survivorship. The amount included is the value of the decedent's fractional interest, to the extent the fractional interest passed by right of survivorship at the decedent's death to a surviving joint tenant other than the decedent's surviving spouse.

(c) the decedent's ownership interest in property or accounts held in POD, TOD, or co-ownership registration with the right of survivorship. The amount included is the value of the decedent's ownership interest, to the extent the decedent's ownership interest passed at the decedent's death to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

(2) Property transferred in any of the following forms by the decedent during marriage:

(a) any irrevocable transfer in which the decedent retained the right to the possession or enjoyment of, or to the income from, the property if and to the extent the decedent's right terminated at or continued beyond the decedent's death. The amount included is the value of the fraction of the property to which the decedent's right related, to the extent the fraction of the property passed outside probate to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

(b) any transfer in which the decedent created a power over income or property, exercisable by the decedent alone or in conjunction with any other person, or exercisable by a nonadverse party, to or for the benefit of the decedent, creditors of the decedent, the decedent's estate, or creditors of the decedent's estate. The amount included with respect to a power over property is the value of the property subject to the power, and the amount included with respect to a power over income is the value of the property that produces or produced the income, to the extent the power in either case was exercisable at the decedent's death to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent's surviving spouse or to the extent the property passed at the decedent's death, by exercise, release, lapse, in default, or otherwise, to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse. If the power is a power over both income and property and the preceding sentence produces different amounts, the amount included is the greater amount.

(3) Property that passed during marriage and during the 2 year period next preceding the decedent's death as a result of a transfer by the decedent if the transfer was of any of the following types:

(a) any property that passed as a result of the termination of a right or interest in, or power over, property that would have been included in the augmented estate under subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c), or under subsection (2), if the right, interest, or power had not terminated until the decedent's death. The amount included is the value of the property that would have been included under those subsections if the property were valued at the time the right, interest, or power terminated, and is included only to the extent the property passed upon termination to or for the benefit of any person other than the decedent or the decedent's estate, spouse, or surviving spouse. As used in this subsection (3)(a), "termination," with respect to a right or interest in property, occurs when the right or interest terminated by the terms of the governing instrument or the decedent transferred or relinquished the right or interest, and, with respect to a power over property, occurs when the power terminated by exercise, release, lapse, default, or otherwise, but, with respect to a power described in subsection (1)(a), "termination" occurs when the power terminated by exercise or release, but not otherwise.

(b) any transfer of property, to the extent not otherwise included in the augmented estate, made to or for the benefit of a person other than the decedent's surviving spouse. The amount included is the value of the transferred property to the extent the transfers to any one donee in either of the 2 years exceeded the amount excludable from taxable gifts under 26 U.S.C. 2503(b) or its successor on the date next preceding the date of the decedent's death.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-236. Decedent's nonprobate transfers to surviving spouse. Excluding property passing to the surviving spouse under the federal social security system, the value of the augmented estate includes the value of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to the decedent's surviving spouse, which consist of all property that passed outside probate at the decedent's death from the decedent to the surviving spouse by reason of the decedent's death, including:

(1) the decedent's fractional interest in property held as a joint tenant with the right of survivorship, to the extent that the decedent's fractional interest passed to the surviving spouse as surviving joint tenant;

(2) the decedent's ownership interest in property or accounts held in co-ownership registration with the right of survivorship, to the extent the decedent's ownership interest passed to the surviving spouse as surviving co-owner; and

(3) all other property that would have been included in the augmented estate under 72-2-235(1) or (2) had it passed to or for the benefit of a person other than the decedent's spouse, surviving spouse, the decedent, or the decedent's creditors, estate, or estate creditors.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-237. Surviving spouse's property and nonprobate transfers to others. (1) Except to the extent included in the augmented estate under 72-2-234 or 72-2-236, the value of the augmented estate includes the value of:

(a) property that was owned by the decedent's surviving spouse at the decedent's death, including:

(i) the surviving spouse's fractional interest in property held in joint tenancy with the right of survivorship;

(ii) the surviving spouse's ownership interest in property or accounts held in co-ownership registration with the right of survivorship; and

(iii) property that passed to the surviving spouse by reason of the decedent's death, but not including the spouse's right to homestead allowance, family allowance, exempt property, or payments under the federal social security system; and

(b) property that would have been included in the surviving spouse's nonprobate transfers to others, other than the spouse's fractional and ownership interests included under subsection (1)(a)(i) or (1)(a)(ii), had the spouse been the decedent.

(2) Property included under this section is valued at the decedent's death, taking the fact that the decedent predeceased the spouse into account, but, for purposes of subsection (1)(a)(i) and (1)(a)(ii), the values of the spouse's fractional and ownership interests are determined immediately before the decedent's death if the decedent was then a joint tenant or a co-owner of the property or accounts.

(3) The value of property included under this section is reduced by enforceable claims against the surviving spouse.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-238. Exclusions, valuation, and overlapping application. (1) The value of any property is excluded from the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others:

(a) to the extent the decedent received adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth for a transfer of the property;

(b) if the property was transferred with the written joinder of, or if the transfer was consented to in writing before or after the transfer by, the surviving spouse; or

(c) if the property is life insurance or accident insurance payable to persons other than the decedent's surviving spouse or the decedent's estate.

(2) The value of property:

(a) included in the augmented estate under 72-2-235, 72-2-236, or 72-2-237 is reduced in each category by enforceable claims against the included property; and

(b) includes the commuted value of any present or future interest and the commuted value of amounts payable under any trust, life insurance settlement option, annuity contract, public or private pension, disability compensation, death benefit or retirement plan, or any similar arrangement, exclusive of the federal social security system. The commuted value of life and term interests in income, annuity, or unitrust amount must be determined in accordance with U.S. treasury regulations for internal revenue purposes in effect at the time of the decedent's death.

(3) In case of overlapping application to the same property of 72-2-235, 72-2-236, or 72-2-237, the property is included in the augmented estate under the provision yielding the greatest value, and under only one overlapping provision if they all yield the same value.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-2-239. Sources from which elective share payable. (1) In a proceeding for an elective share, the following are applied first to satisfy the elective-share amount and to reduce or eliminate any contributions due from the decedent's probate estate and recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others:

(a) amounts included in the augmented estate under 72-2-234 which pass or have passed to the surviving spouse by testate or intestate succession and amounts included in the augmented estate under 72-2-236;

(b) amounts included in the augmented estate that would have passed to the spouse but were disclaimed; and

(c) the marital-property portion of amounts included in the augmented estate under 72-2-237.

(2) The marital-property portion under subsection (1)(c) is computed by multiplying the value of the amounts included in the augmented estate under 72-2-237 by the percentage of the augmented estate set forth in the schedule in 72-2-233(2) appropriate to the length of time the spouse and the decedent were married to each other.

(3) If, after the application of subsection (1), the elective-share amount is not fully satisfied, or the surviving spouse is entitled to a supplemental elective-share amount, amounts included in the decedent's net probate estate, other than assets passing to the surviving spouse by testate or intestate succession, and in the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others under 72-2-235(1) and (2) are applied first to satisfy the unsatisfied balance of the elective-share amount or the supplemental elective-share amount. The decedent's net probate estate and that portion of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others are so applied that liability for the unsatisfied balance of the elective-share amount or for the supplemental elective-share amount is apportioned among the recipients of the decedent's net probate estate and of that portion of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others in proportion to the value of their interests.

(4) If, after the application of subsections (1) and (3), the elective-share or supplemental elective-share amount is not fully satisfied, the remaining portion of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others is so applied that liability for the unsatisfied balance of the elective-share or supplemental elective-share amount is apportioned among the recipients of the remaining portion of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others in proportion to the value of their interests therein.

(5) The unsatisfied balance of the elective-share or supplemental elective-share amount as determined under subsection (3) or (4) is treated as a general pecuniary devise for purposes of 72-3-913.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-2-240. Personal liability of recipients. (1) Only original recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, and the donees of the recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, to the extent the donees have the property or its proceeds, are liable to make a proportional contribution toward satisfaction of the surviving spouse's elective-share or supplemental elective-share amount. A person liable to make contribution may choose to give up the proportional part of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to the person or to pay the value of the amount for which the person is liable.

(2) If any section or part of any section of this part is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit included in the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or other benefit is obligated to return that payment, item of property, or benefit or is personally liable for the amount of that payment or the value of that item of property or benefit, as provided in 72-2-239, to the person who would have been entitled to it were that section or part of that section not preempted.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 313, L. 2019; Sec. 72-2-230, MCA 2017; redes. 72-2-240 by Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-2-241. Proceeding for elective share — time limit. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the election must be made by filing in the court and mailing or delivering to the personal representative, if any, a petition for the elective share within 9 months after the date of the decedent's death or within 6 months after the probate of the decedent's will, whichever limitation later expires. The surviving spouse shall give notice of the time and place set for hearing to persons interested in the estate and to the distributees and recipients of portions of the augmented estate whose interests will be adversely affected by the taking of the elective share. Except as provided in subsection (2), the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others described in 72-2-235, is not included within the augmented estate for the purpose of computing the elective share if the petition is filed more than 9 months after the decedent's death.

(2) Within 9 months after the decedent's death, the surviving spouse may petition the court for an extension of time for making an election. If, within 9 months after the decedent's death, the spouse gives notice of the petition to all persons interested in the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others the court for cause shown by the surviving spouse may extend the time for election. If the court grants the spouse's petition for an extension, the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others described in 72-2-235, is not excluded from the augmented estate for the purpose of computing the elective-share and supplemental elective-share amounts if the spouse makes an election by filing in the court and mailing or delivering to the personal representative, if any, a petition for the elective share within the time allowed by the extension.

(3) The surviving spouse may withdraw a demand for an elective share at any time before entry of a final determination by the court.

(4) After notice and hearing, the court shall determine the elective-share and supplemental elective-share amounts and shall order its payment from the assets of the augmented estate or by contribution as appears appropriate under 72-2-239. If it appears that a fund or property included in the augmented estate has not come into the possession of the personal representative or has been distributed by the personal representative, the court nevertheless shall fix the liability of any person who has any interest in the fund or property or who has possession thereof, whether as trustee or otherwise. The proceeding may be maintained against fewer than all persons against whom relief could be sought, but no person is subject to contribution in any greater amount than the person would have been under 72-2-239 if relief had been secured against all persons subject to contribution.

(5) The order or judgment of the court may be enforced as necessary in suit for contribution or payment in other courts of this state or other jurisdictions.

History: En. 91A-2-205 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-205; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-707, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-225 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 313, L. 2019; Sec. 72-2-225, MCA 2017; redes. 72-2-241 by Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-242. Right of election personal to surviving spouse — incapacitated surviving spouse. (1) The right of election may be exercised only by a surviving spouse who is living when the petition for the elective share is filed in the court under 72-2-241(1). If the election is not exercised by the surviving spouse personally, it may be exercised on the surviving spouse's behalf by the surviving spouse's conservator, guardian, or agent under the authority of a power of attorney.

(2) If the election is exercised on behalf of a surviving spouse who is an incapacitated person, the court shall set aside that portion of the elective-share and supplemental elective-share amounts due from the decedent's probate estate and recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others under 72-2-239(3) and (4) and shall appoint a trustee to administer that property for the support of the surviving spouse. For the purposes of this subsection, an election on behalf of a surviving spouse by an agent under a durable power of attorney is presumed to be on behalf of a surviving spouse who is an incapacitated person. The trustee shall administer the trust in accordance with the following terms and such additional terms as the court determines appropriate:

(a) Expenditures of income and principal may be made in the manner, when, and to the extent that the trustee determines suitable and proper for the surviving spouse's support, without court order but with regard to other support, income, and property of the surviving spouse exclusive of benefits of medical or other forms of assistance from any state or federal government or governmental agency for which the surviving spouse qualifies on the basis of need.

(b) During the surviving spouse's incapacity, neither the surviving spouse nor anyone acting on behalf of the surviving spouse has a power to terminate the trust; but if the surviving spouse regains capacity, the surviving spouse then acquires the power to terminate the trust and acquire full ownership of the trust property free of trust by delivering to the trustee a writing signed by the surviving spouse declaring the termination.

(c) Upon the surviving spouse's death, the trustee shall transfer the unexpended trust property in the following order:

(i) under the residuary clause, if any, of the will of the predeceased spouse against whom the elective share was taken, as if that predeceased spouse died immediately after the surviving spouse; or

(ii) to that predeceased spouse's heirs under 72-2-721.

History: En. 91A-2-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-203; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-703, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-223 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 313, L. 2019; Sec. 72-2-223, MCA 2017; redes. 72-2-242 by Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-243. Effect of premarital or marital agreement right to elect and of other rights. (1) In this section, "agreement" includes a subsequent agreement that affirms, modifies, or waives an earlier agreement.

(2) The right of election of a surviving spouse and the rights of the surviving spouse to homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance, or any of them, may be affirmed, modified, or waived wholly or partially, only by a written agreement signed by the surviving spouse, before or after the marriage. The agreement is enforceable without consideration.

(3) An agreement under subsection (2) is not enforceable if the surviving spouse proves that:

(a) the agreement was involuntary or the result of duress;

(b) the surviving spouse did not have access to independent legal representation under subsection (4);

(c) unless the surviving spouse had independent legal representation when the agreement was executed, the agreement did not include an explanation in plain language of the rights under subsection (2) being affirmed, modified, or waived; or

(d) before signing the agreement, the surviving spouse did not receive adequate financial disclosure under subsection (5).

(4) A surviving spouse had access to independent legal representation if:

(a) before signing an agreement, the surviving spouse had a reasonable time to:

(i) decide whether to retain a lawyer to provide independent legal representation; and

(ii) locate a lawyer to provide independent legal representation, obtain the lawyer's advice, and consider the advice provided; and

(b) the other spouse was represented by a lawyer and the surviving spouse had the financial ability to retain a lawyer or the other spouse agreed to pay the reasonable fees and expenses of independent legal representation.

(5) A surviving spouse had adequate financial disclosure under this section if the surviving spouse:

(a) received a reasonably accurate description and good-faith estimate of the value of the property, liabilities, and income of the other spouse;

(b) expressly waived, in a separate signed record, the right to financial disclosure beyond the disclosure provided; or

(c) had adequate knowledge or a reasonable basis for having adequate knowledge of the information described in subsection (5)(a).

(6) Unless an agreement under subsection (2) provides to the contrary, a waiver of "all rights," or equivalent language, in the property or estate of a present or prospective spouse or a complete property settlement entered into after or in anticipation of separation or divorce is a waiver of all rights of elective share, homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance by the spouse in the property of the other spouse and a renunciation of all benefits that would otherwise pass to the renouncing spouse by intestate succession or by virtue of any will executed before the waiver or property settlement.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-244. Protection of payors and other third parties. (1) Although under 72-2-235 a payment, item of property, or other benefit is included in the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, a payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument or for having taken any other action in good faith reliance on the validity of a governing instrument, upon request and satisfactory proof of the decedent's death, before the payor or other third party received written notice from the surviving spouse or spouse's representative of an intention to file a petition for the elective share or that a petition for the elective share has been filed. A payor or other third party is liable only for actions taken 2 or more business days after the payor or other third party received written notice of an intention to file a petition for the elective share or that a petition for the elective share has been filed. The written notice must indicate the name of the decedent, the date of the decedent's death, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment or item of property or other benefit, and a statement that the spouse intends to file a petition for the elective share or that a petition for the elective share has been filed. Any form of service of notice other than that described in subsection (2) is not sufficient to impose liability on a payor or other third party for actions taken pursuant to the governing instrument.

(2) The written notice must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of the payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party. Upon receipt of written notice of intention to file a petition for the elective share or that a petition for the elective share has been filed, a payor or other third party may pay any amount owed or transfer or deposit any item of property held by it to or with the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to or with the court having jurisdiction of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of the decedent's residence. The availability of an action under this section does not prevent the payor or other third party from taking any other action authorized by law or the governing instrument. If probate proceedings have not been commenced, the payor or other third party shall file with the court a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party, with the payment of funds or transfer or deposit of property. The court may not charge a filing fee to the payor or other third party for the payment, transfer, or deposit. The court shall hold the funds or item of property and, upon its determination under 72-2-241(4), shall order disbursement in accordance with the determination. If no petition is filed in the court within the specified time under 72-2-241(1) or, if filed, the demand for an elective share is withdrawn under 72-2-241(3), the court shall order disbursement to the designated beneficiary. A filing fee, if any, may, in the discretion of the court, be charged upon disbursement either to the recipient or against the funds or property on deposit with the court. Payments, transfers, or deposits made to or with the court discharge the payor or other third party from all claims under the governing instrument or applicable law for the value of amounts paid to or items of property transferred to or deposited with the court.

(3) Upon petition to the probate court by the beneficiary designated in a governing instrument, the court may order that all or part of the property be paid to the beneficiary in an amount and subject to conditions consistent with this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 313, L. 2019; Sec. 72-2-228, MCA 2017; redes. 72-2-244 by Sec. 103, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Part 3
Spouse and Children Unprovided for in Wills

72-2-301. Renumbered 72-2-521. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-302. Renumbered 72-2-522. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-303. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.
History: En. 91A-2-503 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-503.

72-2-304. Renumbered 72-2-524. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-305. Renumbered 72-2-525. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-306. Renumbered 72-2-526. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-307 through 72-2-310 reserved.

72-2-311. Renumbered 72-2-530. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-312. Renumbered 72-2-533. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-313. Renumbered 72-2-532. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-314. Renumbered 72-2-531. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-315 through 72-2-320 reserved.

72-2-321. Renumbered 72-2-527. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-322. Renumbered 72-2-528. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-323. Renumbered 72-2-529. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-324 through 72-2-330 reserved.

72-2-331. Entitlement of spouse — premarital will. (1) If a testator's surviving spouse married the testator after the execution of the will, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive, as an intestate share, no less than the value of the share of the estate the spouse would have received if the testator had died intestate as to that portion of the testator's estate, if any, that is neither devised to a child of the testator who was born before the testator married the surviving spouse and who is not a child of the surviving spouse nor devised to the descendant of such a child or passes under 72-2-613 or 72-2-614 to such a child or to a descendant of such a child, unless:

(a) it appears from the will or other evidence that the will was made in contemplation of the testator's marriage to the surviving spouse;

(b) the will expresses the intention that it is to be effective notwithstanding any subsequent marriage; or

(c) the testator provided for the spouse by transfer outside the will and the intent that the transfer be in lieu of a testamentary provision is shown by the testator's statements or is reasonably inferred from the amount of the transfer or other evidence.

(2) In satisfying the share provided by this section, devises made by the will to the testator's surviving spouse, if any, are applied first and other devises, other than a devise to a child of the testator who was born before the testator married the surviving spouse and who is not a child of the surviving spouse or a devise or substitute gift under 72-2-613 or 72-2-614 to a descendant of such a child, abate as provided in 72-3-901.

History: **En. 91A-2-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-301; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-601, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-331 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 592, L. 1995.**

72-2-332. Omitted children. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a testator fails to provide in the testator's will for any of the testator's children born or adopted after the execution of the will, the omitted after-born or after-adopted child receives a share in the estate as follows:

(a) If the testator had no child living when the testator executed the will, an omitted after-born or after-adopted child receives a share in the estate equal in value to that which the child would have received had the testator died intestate unless the will devised all or substantially all of the estate to the other parent of the omitted child and that other parent survives the testator and is entitled to take under the will.

(b) If the testator had one or more children living when the testator executed the will and the will devised property or an interest in property to one or more of the then-living children, an omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to share in the testator's estate as follows:

(i) The portion of the testator's estate in which the omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to share is limited to devises made to the testator's then-living children under the will.

(ii) The omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to receive the share of the testator's estate, as limited in subsection (1)(b)(i), that the child would have received had the testator included all omitted after-born and after-adopted children with the children to whom devises were made under the will and had given an equal share of the estate to each child.

(iii) To the extent feasible, the interest granted an omitted after-born or after-adopted child under this section must be of the same character, whether equitable or legal, present or future, as that devised to the testator's then-living children under the will.

(iv) In satisfying a share provided by this subsection (1)(b), devises to the testator's children who were living when the will was executed abate ratably. In abating the devises of the then-living children, the court shall preserve to the maximum extent possible the character of the testamentary plan adopted by the testator.

(2) Subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) do not apply if:

(a) it appears from the will that the omission was intentional; or

(b) the testator provided for the omitted after-born or after-adopted child by transfer outside the will and the intent that the transfer be in lieu of a testamentary provision is shown by the testator's statements or is reasonably inferred from the amount of the transfer or other evidence.

(3) If at the time of execution of the will the testator fails to provide in the testator's will for a living child solely because the testator believes the child to be dead, the child is entitled to share in the estate as if the child were an omitted after-born or after-adopted child.

(4) In satisfying a share provided by subsection (1)(a), devises made by the will abate as provided in 72-3-901.

History: En. 91A-2-302 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-302; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-602, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-332 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Afterborn heirs, 72-2-118.

Part 4
Exempt Property and Allowances

Part Cross-References

Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act, Title 72, ch. 9, part 1.

72-2-401. Renumbered 72-2-536. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-402. Renumbered 72-2-535. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-403 through 72-2-410 reserved.

72-2-411. Applicable law. This part applies to the estate of a decedent who dies domiciled in this state. Rights to homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance for a decedent who dies not domiciled in this state are governed by the law of the decedent's domicile at death.

History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-412. Homestead allowance. A decedent's surviving spouse is entitled to a homestead allowance of $22,500. If there is no surviving spouse, each minor child and each dependent child of the decedent is entitled to a homestead allowance amounting to $22,500 divided by the number of minor and dependent children of the decedent. The homestead allowance is exempt from and has priority over all claims against the estate. Homestead allowance is in addition to any share passing to the surviving spouse or minor or dependent child by the will of the decedent unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by way of elective share.

History: En. 91A-2-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 153, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-401; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-801, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-412 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Homestead allowance, Title 70, ch. 32.

72-2-413. Exempt property. In addition to the homestead allowance, the decedent's surviving spouse is entitled from the estate to a value, not exceeding $15,000 in excess of any security interests therein, in household furniture, automobiles, furnishings, appliances, and personal effects. If there is no surviving spouse, the decedent's children are entitled jointly to the same value. If encumbered chattels are selected and if the value in excess of security interests, plus that of other exempt property, is less than $15,000 or if there is not $15,000 worth of exempt property in the estate, the spouse or children are entitled to other assets of the estate, if any, to the extent necessary to make up the $15,000 value. Rights to exempt property and assets needed to make up a deficiency of exempt property have priority over all claims against the estate, but the right to any assets to make up a deficiency of exempt property abates as necessary to permit earlier payment of homestead allowance and family allowance. These rights are in addition to any benefit or share passing to the surviving spouse or children by the decedent's will unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by way of elective share.

History: **En. 91A-2-402 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-402; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-802, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-413 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-2-414. Family allowance. (1) In addition to the right to homestead allowance and exempt property, the decedent's surviving spouse and minor children whom the decedent was obligated to support and children who were in fact being supported by the decedent are entitled to a reasonable allowance in money out of the estate for their maintenance during the period of administration, which allowance may not continue for longer than 1 year if the estate is inadequate to discharge allowed claims. The allowance may be paid as a lump sum or in periodic installments. It is payable to the surviving spouse, if living, for the use of the surviving spouse and minor and dependent children, otherwise to the children or persons having their care and custody. If a minor child or dependent child is not living with the surviving spouse, the allowance may be made partially to the child or the child's guardian or other person having the child's care and custody and partially to the spouse, as their needs may appear. The family allowance is exempt from and has priority over all claims except the homestead allowance.

(2) The family allowance is not chargeable against any benefit or share passing to the surviving spouse or children by the will of the decedent unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by way of elective share. The death of any person entitled to family allowance terminates the right to allowances not yet paid.

History: **En. 91A-2-403 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-403; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-803, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-414 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

72-2-415. Source, determination, and documentation. (1) If the estate is otherwise sufficient, property specifically devised may not be used to satisfy rights to homestead allowance or exempt property. Subject to this restriction, the surviving spouse, guardians of minor children, or children who are adults may select property of the estate as homestead allowance and exempt property. The personal representative may make those selections if the surviving spouse, the children, or the guardians of the minor children are unable or fail to do so within a reasonable time or if there is no guardian of a minor child. The personal representative may execute an instrument or deed of distribution to establish the ownership of property taken as homestead allowance or exempt property. The personal representative may determine the family allowance in a lump sum not exceeding $27,000 or periodic installments not exceeding $2,250 per month for 1 year and may disburse funds of the estate in payment of the family allowance and any part of the homestead allowance payable in cash. The personal representative or any interested person aggrieved by any selection, determination, payment, proposed payment, or failure to act under this section may petition the court for appropriate relief, which may include a family allowance other than that which the personal representative determined or could have determined.

(2) If the right to an elective share is exercised on behalf of a surviving spouse who is an incapacitated person, the personal representative may add any unexpended portions payable under the homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance to the trust established under 72-2-242(2).

History: **En. 91A-2-404 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-404; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-804, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-415 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

Part 5
Wills, Will Contracts, and Custody and Deposit of Wills

72-2-501. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: **En. 91A-2-603 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-603.**

72-2-502. Renumbered 72-2-612. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-503. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. 91A-2-611 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-611.

72-2-504. Renumbered 72-2-713. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-505 through 72-2-510 reserved.

72-2-511. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. 91A-2-601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-601.

72-2-512. Renumbered 72-2-613. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-513. Renumbered 72-2-614. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-514. Renumbered 72-2-617. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-515. Renumbered 72-2-619. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-516. Renumbered 72-2-616. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-517. Renumbered 72-2-615. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-518. Renumbered 72-2-618. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-519. Renumbered 72-2-537. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-520 reserved.

72-2-521. Who may make a will. An individual 18 or more years of age who is of sound mind may make a will.

History: En. 91A-2-501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-501; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-301, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-521 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-522. Execution — witnessed wills — holographic wills. (1) Except as provided in 72-2-523, 72-2-526, 72-2-533, and subsection (2) of this section, a will must be:

(a) in writing;

(b) signed by the testator or in the testator's name by some other individual in the testator's conscious presence and by the testator's direction; and

(c) signed by at least two individuals, each of whom signed within a reasonable time after having witnessed either the signing of the will as described in subsection (1)(b) or the testator's acknowledgment of that signature or acknowledgment of the will.

(2) A will that does not comply with subsection (1) is valid as a holographic will, whether or not witnessed, if the signature and material portions of the document are in the testator's handwriting.

(3) Intent that the document constitute the testator's will may be established by extrinsic evidence, including, for holographic wills, portions of the document that are not in the testator's handwriting.

History: En. 91A-2-502 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-502; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-302, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-522 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-523. Writings intended as wills. Although a document or writing added upon a document was not executed in compliance with 72-2-522, the document or writing is treated as if it had been executed in compliance with that section if the proponent of the document or writing establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the decedent intended the document or writing to constitute:

(1) the decedent's will;

(2) a partial or complete revocation of the will;

(3) an addition to or an alteration of the will; or

(4) a partial or complete revival of the decedent's formerly revoked will or of a formerly revoked portion of the will.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-524. Self-proved will. (1) A will may be simultaneously executed, attested, and made self-proved by acknowledgment by the testator and affidavits of the witnesses, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state in which execution occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under official seal, in substantially the following form:

I, ..., the testator, sign my name to this instrument this ...... day of ......, 20..., and being first duly sworn, do hereby declare to the undersigned authority that I sign and execute this instrument as my will, that I sign it willingly (or willingly direct another to sign for me), that I execute it as my free and voluntary act for the purposes expressed in it, and that I am 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

....
Testator

We, ..., ..., the witnesses, sign our names to this instrument, being first duly sworn, and do hereby declare to the undersigned authority that the testator signs and executes this instrument as the testator's will, that the testator signs it willingly (or willingly directs another to sign for the testator), that each of us, in the presence and hearing of the testator, hereby signs this will as witness to the testator's signing, and that to the best of our knowledge the testator is 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

....
Witness
....
Witness

THE STATE OF .....
COUNTY OF .....

Subscribed, sworn to, and acknowledged before me by ...., the testator, and subscribed and sworn to before me by .... and ...., witnesses, this ...... day of ......, 20...
(SEAL)
(Signed) ....
(Official capacity of officer)
....

(2) An attested will may be made self-proved at any time after its execution by the acknowledgment thereof by the testator and the affidavits of the witnesses, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state in which the acknowledgment occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under the official seal, attached or annexed to the will in substantially the following form:

THE STATE OF .....
COUNTY OF .....

We, ..., ..., and ...., the testator and the witnesses, respectively, whose names are signed to the attached or foregoing instrument, being first duly sworn, do hereby declare to the undersigned authority that the testator signed and executed the instrument as the testator's will, that the testator signed willingly (or willingly directed another to sign for the testator), that the testator executed it as the testator's free and voluntary act for the purposes expressed in it, that each of the witnesses, in the presence and hearing of the testator, signed the will as witness, and that to the best of the witness's knowledge the testator was at that time 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

.... Testator
.... Witness
.... Witness

Subscribed, sworn to, and acknowledged before me by ...., the testator, and subscribed and sworn to before me by .... and ...., witnesses, this ...... day of ......, 20...
(SEAL)
(Signed) ....
(Official capacity of officer)
....

(3) A signature affixed to a self-proving affidavit attached to a will is considered a signature affixed to the will if necessary to prove the will's due execution.

History: En. 91A-2-504 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-504; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-304, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-524 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

Cross-References

What constitutes undue influence, 28-2-407.

72-2-525. Who may witness. (1) An individual generally competent to be a witness may act as a witness to a will.

(2) The signing of a will by an interested witness does not invalidate the will or any provision of it.

History: En. 91A-2-505 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-505; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-305, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-525 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-526. Choice of law as to execution. A written will is valid if executed in compliance with 72-2-522 or 72-2-523 or if its execution complies with the law at the time of execution of the place where the will is executed or of the law of the place where at the time of execution or at the time of death the testator is domiciled, has a place of abode, or is a national.

History: En. 91A-2-506 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-506; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-306, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-526 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-527. Revocation by writing or act. (1) A will or any part of a will is revoked:

(a) by executing a subsequent will that revokes the previous will or part expressly or by inconsistency; or

(b) by performing a revocatory act on the will if the testator performed the act with the intent and for the purpose of revoking the will or part of the will or if another individual performed the act in the testator's conscious presence and by the testator's direction. For purposes of this subsection (b), "revocatory act on the will" includes burning, tearing, canceling, obliterating, or destroying the will or any part of it. A burning, tearing, or canceling is a revocatory act on the will, whether or not the burn, tear, or cancellation touched any of the words on the will.

(2) If a subsequent will does not expressly revoke a previous will, the execution of the subsequent will wholly revokes the previous will by inconsistency if the testator intended the subsequent will to replace rather than supplement the previous will.

(3) The testator is presumed to have intended a subsequent will to replace rather than supplement a previous will if the subsequent will makes a complete disposition of the testator's estate. If this presumption arises and is not rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the previous will is revoked and only the subsequent will is operative on the testator's death.

(4) The testator is presumed to have intended a subsequent will to supplement rather than replace a previous will if the subsequent will does not make a complete disposition of the testator's estate. If this presumption arises and is not rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the subsequent will revokes the previous will only to the extent the subsequent will is inconsistent with the previous will and each will is fully operative on the testator's death to the extent they are not inconsistent.

History: En. 91A-2-507 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-507; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-321, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-527 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-528. Revocation by change of circumstances. Except as provided in 72-2-813 and 72-2-814, a change of circumstances does not revoke a will or any part of it.

History: En. 91A-2-508 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-508; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-322, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-528 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Cross-References

Declaration of invalidity of marriage, 40-1-402.
Dissolution of marriage — legal separation, 40-4-104.

72-2-529. Revival of revoked will. (1) If a subsequent will that wholly revoked a previous will is thereafter revoked by a revocatory act under 72-2-527(1)(b), the previous will remains revoked unless it is revived. The previous will is revived if it is evident from the circumstances of the revocation of the subsequent will or from the testator's contemporary or subsequent declarations that the testator intended the previous will to take effect as executed.

(2) If a subsequent will that partly revoked a previous will is thereafter revoked by a revocatory act under 72-2-527(1)(b), a revoked part of the previous will is revived unless it is evident from the circumstances of the revocation of the subsequent will or from the testator's contemporary or subsequent declarations that the testator did not intend the revoked part to take effect as executed.

(3) If a subsequent will that revoked a previous will in whole or in part is thereafter revoked by another, later will, the previous will remains revoked in whole or in part, unless

it or its revoked part is revived. The previous will or its revoked part is revived to the extent it appears from the terms of the later will that the testator intended the previous will to take effect.

History: En. 91A-2-509 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-509; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-323, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-529 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-530. Incorporation by reference. A writing in existence when a will is executed may be incorporated by reference if the language of the will manifests this intent and describes the writing sufficiently to permit its identification.

History: En. 91A-2-510 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-510; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-311, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-530 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-531. Testamentary additions to trusts. (1) (a) A will may validly devise property to the trustee of a trust established or to be established:

(i) during the testator's lifetime by the testator, by the testator and some other person, or by some other person, including a funded or unfunded life insurance trust, although the settlor has reserved any or all rights of ownership of the insurance contracts; or

(ii) at the testator's death by the testator's devise to the trustee if the trust is identified in the testator's will and its terms are set forth in a written instrument, other than a will, executed before, concurrently with, or after the execution of the testator's will or in another individual's will if that other individual has predeceased the testator, regardless of the existence, size, or character of the corpus of the trust.

(b) The devise is not invalid because the trust is amendable or revocable or because the trust was amended after the execution of the will or the testator's death.

(2) Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, property devised to a trust described in subsection (1) is not held under a testamentary trust of the testator but it becomes a part of the trust to which it is devised and must be administered and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the governing instrument setting forth the terms of the trust, including any amendments thereto made before or after the testator's death.

(3) Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, a revocation or termination of the trust before the testator's death causes the devise to lapse.

History: En. 91A-2-511 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-511; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-314, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-531 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Cross-References

Trust Code — general provisions, Title 72, ch. 38.

72-2-532. Events of independent significance. A will may dispose of property by reference to acts and events that have significance apart from their effect upon the dispositions made by the will, whether they occur before or after the execution of the will or before or after the testator's death. The execution or revocation of a will of another person is such an event.

History: En. 91A-2-512 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-512; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-313, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-532 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-533. Separate writing identifying disposition of tangible personal property. (1) Whether or not the provisions relating to holographic wills apply, a will may refer to a written statement or list to dispose of items of tangible personal property not otherwise specifically disposed of by the will, other than money.

(2) To be admissible under this section as evidence of the intended disposition, the writing must be signed by the testator and must describe the items and the devisees with reasonable certainty.

(3) The writing may be:

(a) referred to as one to be in existence at the time of the testator's death;

(b) prepared before or after the execution of the will;

(c) altered by the testator after its preparation; and

(d) a writing that has no significance apart from its effect upon the dispositions made by the will.

History: En. 91A-2-513 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-513; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-312, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-533 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-534. Contracts concerning succession. (1) A contract to make a will or devise or not to revoke a will or devise or to die intestate, if executed after July 1, 1975, may be established only by:

(a) provisions of a will stating material provisions of the contract;

(b) an express reference in a will to a contract and extrinsic evidence proving the terms of the contract; or

(c) a writing signed by the decedent evidencing the contract.

(2) The execution of a joint will or mutual wills does not create a presumption of a contract not to revoke the will or wills.

History: En. 91A-2-701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-701; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-105, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-534 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Cross-References

Circumstances surrounding execution of contract, 1-4-102, 1-4-109.

General rules of interpretation of contracts, Title 28, ch. 3, part 2.

72-2-535. Deposit of will with court in testator's lifetime. A will may be deposited by the testator or the testator's agent with any court for safekeeping, under rules of the court. The will must be sealed and kept confidential. During the testator's lifetime, a deposited will may be delivered only to the testator or to a person authorized in writing signed by the testator to receive the will. A conservator may be allowed to examine a deposited will of a protected testator under procedures designed to maintain the confidential character of the document to the extent possible and to ensure that it will be resealed and kept on deposit after the examination. Upon being informed of the testator's death, the court shall notify any person designated to receive the will and deliver it to that person on request or the court may deliver the will to the appropriate court.

History: En. 91A-2-901 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-901; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-402, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-535 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-536. Duty of custodian of will — liability. After the death of a testator and on request of an interested person, a person having custody of a will of the testator shall deliver it with reasonable promptness to a person able to secure its probate and, if none is known, to an appropriate court. A person who willfully fails to deliver a will is liable to any person aggrieved for any damages that may be sustained by the failure. A person who willfully refuses or fails to deliver a will after being ordered by the court in a proceeding brought for the purpose of compelling delivery is subject to penalty for contempt of court.

History: En. 91A-2-902 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-902; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-401, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-536 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Cross-References

Power to punish for contempt, 3-1-403.

Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.

72-2-537. Penalty clause for contest. A provision in a will purporting to penalize an interested person for contesting the will or instituting other proceedings relating to the estate is unenforceable if probable cause exists for instituting proceedings.

History: En. 91A-3-905 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-905; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-519, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-537 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Part 6
Rules of Construction Applicable Only to Wills

Part Cross-References

Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act, Title 72, ch. 9, part 1.

72-2-601. Renumbered 72-2-331. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-602. Renumbered 72-2-332. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-603 through 72-2-610 reserved.

72-2-611. Scope. In the absence of a finding of a contrary intention, the rules of construction in this part control the construction of a will.

History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-612. Will may pass all property and after-acquired property. A will may provide for the passage of all property the testator owns at death and all property acquired by the estate after the testator's death.

History: En. 91A-2-604 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-604; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-502, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-612 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-613. Antilapse — deceased devisee — class gifts. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Alternative devise" means a devise that is expressly created by the will and that under the terms of the will may take effect instead of another devise on the happening of one or more events, including survival of the testator or failure to survive the testator, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form. A residuary clause constitutes an alternative devise with respect to a nonresiduary devise only if the will specifically provides that, upon lapse or failure, the nonresiduary devise or nonresiduary devises in general pass under the residuary clause.

(b) "Class member" includes an individual who fails to survive the testator but who would have taken under a devise in the form of a class gift had the individual survived the testator.

(c) "Descendant of a grandparent", as used in subsection (2), means an individual who qualifies as a descendant of a grandparent of the testator or of the donor of a power of appointment under the:

(i) rules of construction applicable to a class gift created in the testator's will if the devise or exercise of the power is in the form of a class gift; or

(ii) rules for intestate succession if the devise or exercise of the power is not in the form of a class gift.

(d) "Descendants", as used in the phrase "surviving descendants" of a deceased devisee or class member in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b), mean the descendants of a deceased devisee or class member who would take under a class gift created in the testator's will.

(e) "Devise" includes an alternative devise, a devise in the form of a class gift, and an exercise of a power of appointment.

(f) "Devisee" includes:

(i) a class member if the devise is in the form of a class gift;

(ii) an individual or class member who was deceased at the time the testator executed the testator's will as well as an individual or class member who was then living but who failed to survive the testator; and

(iii) an appointee under a power of appointment exercised by the testator's will.

(g) "Stepchild" means a child of the surviving, deceased, or former spouse of the testator or of the donor of a power of appointment but not a child of the testator or donor.

(h) "Surviving", in the phrase "surviving devisees" or "surviving decendants" means devisees or descendants who neither predeceased the testator nor are deemed to have predeceased the testator under 72-2-712.

(i) "Testator" includes the donee of a power of appointment if the power is exercised in the testator's will.

(2) If a devisee fails to survive the testator and is a grandparent, a descendant of a grandparent, or a stepchild of either the testator or the donor of a power of appointment exercised by the testator's will, the following apply:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the devise is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased devisee leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the devisee's surviving descendants. They take by representation the property to which the devisee would have been entitled had the devisee survived the testator.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the devise is in the form of a class gift, other than a devise to "issue", "descendants", "heirs of the body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of any deceased devisee. The property to which the devisees would have been entitled had all of them survived the testator passes to the surviving devisees and the surviving descendants of the deceased devisees. Each surviving devisee takes the share to which the devisee would have been entitled had the deceased devisees survived the testator. Each deceased devisee's surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased devisee take by representation the share to which the deceased devisee would have been entitled had the deceased devisee survived the testator. For purposes of this section, "deceased devisee" means a class member who failed to survive the testator and left one or more surviving descendants.

(c) For purposes of 72-2-611, words of survivorship, such as in a devise to an individual "if the individual survives me" or in a devise to "my surviving children", are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section.

(d) If the will creates an alternative devise with respect to a devise for which a substitute gift is created by subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative devise if:

(i) the alternative devise is in the form of a class gift and one or more members of the class is entitled to take under the will; or

(ii) the alternative devise is not in the form of a class gift and the expressly designated devisee of the alternative devise is entitled to take under the will.

(e) Unless the language creating a power of appointment expressly excludes the substitution of the descendants of an appointee for the appointee, a surviving descendant of a deceased appointee of a power of appointment may be substituted for the appointee under this section, whether or not the descendant is an object of the power.

(3) If, under subsection (2), substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than one devise and the devises are alternative devises, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the devised property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation devise, the devised property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(c) As used in this subsection (3), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Primary devise" means the devise that would have taken effect had all the deceased devisees of the alternative devises who left surviving descendants survived the testator.

(ii) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary devise.

(iii) "Younger-generation devise" means a devise that:

(A) is to a descendant of a devisee of the primary devise;

(B) is an alternative devise with respect to the primary devise;

(C) is a devise for which a substitute gift is created; and

(D) would have taken effect had all the deceased devisees who left surviving descendants survived the testator except the deceased devisee or devisees of the primary devise.

(iv) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation devise.

History: En. 91A-2-605 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-605; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-512, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-613 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-614. Failure of testamentary provision. (1) Except as provided in 72-2-613, a devise, other than a residuary devise, that fails for any reason becomes a part of the residue.

(2) Except as provided in 72-2-613, if the residue is devised to two or more persons, the share of a residuary devisee that fails for any reason passes to the other residuary devisee or to other residuary devisees in proportion to the interest of each in the remaining part of the residue.

History: En. 91A-2-606 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-606; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-513, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-614 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-615. Increase in securities — accessions. (1) If a testator executes a will that devises securities and the testator then owned securities that meet the description in the will, the devise includes additional securities owned by the testator at death to the extent the additional securities were acquired by the testator after the will was executed as a result of the testator's ownership of the described securities and if the securities are of any of the following types:

(a) securities of the same organization acquired by reason of action initiated by the organization or any successor, related, or acquiring organization, excluding any acquired by exercise of purchase options;

(b) securities of another organization acquired as a result of a merger, consolidation, reorganization, or other distribution by the organization or any successor, related, or acquiring organization; or

(c) securities of the same organization acquired as a result of a plan of reinvestment.

(2) Distributions in cash before death with respect to a described security are not part of the devise.

History: **En. 91A-2-607 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-607; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-517, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-615 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

Investment securities — transfer, Title 30, ch. 8, part 3.
Securities regulation, Title 30, ch. 10.

72-2-616. Nonademption of specific devises — unpaid proceeds of sale, condemnation, or insurance — sale by conservator or agent. (1) A specific devisee has the right to the specifically devised property in the testator's estate at death and:

(a) any balance of the purchase price, together with any security interest, owing from a purchaser to the testator at death by reason of sale of the property;

(b) any amount of a condemnation award for the taking of the property unpaid at death;

(c) any proceeds unpaid at death on fire or casualty insurance on or other recovery for injury to the property;

(d) property owned by the testator at death and acquired as a result of foreclosure or obtained in lieu of foreclosure of the security interest for a specifically devised obligation;

(e) real or tangible personal property owned by the testator at death that the testator acquired as a replacement for specifically devised real or tangible personal property; and

(f) if not covered by subsections (1)(a) through (1)(e), a pecuniary devise equal to the value as of its date of disposition of other specifically devised property disposed of during the testator's lifetime but only to the extent it is established that ademption would be inconsistent with the testator's manifested plan of distribution or that at the time the will was made, the date of disposition or otherwise, the testator did not intend ademption of the devise.

(2) If specifically devised property is sold or mortgaged by a conservator or an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal or if a condemnation award, insurance proceeds, or recovery for an injury to property is paid to a conservator or an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal, the specific devisee has the right to a general pecuniary devise equal to the net sale price, the amount of the unpaid loan, the condemnation award, the insurance proceeds, or the recovery.

(3) The right of the specific devisee under subsection (2) is reduced by any right the devisee has under subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of the references in subsection (2) to a conservator, subsection (2) does not apply if, after the sale, mortgage, condemnation, casualty, or recovery, it was adjudicated that the testator's incapacity ceased and the testator survived the adjudication by 1 year.

(5) For the purposes of the references in subsection (2) to an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal:

(a) "incapacitated principal" means a principal who is an incapacitated person;

(b) no adjudication of incapacity before death is necessary; and

(c) the acts of an agent within the authority of a durable power of attorney are presumed to be for an incapacitated principal.

History: **En. 91A-2-608 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-608; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-516, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-616 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-2-617. Nonexoneration. A specific devise passes subject to any security interest existing at the date of death, without right of exoneration, regardless of a general directive in the will to pay debts.

History: **En. 91A-2-609 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-609; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-514, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-617 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — secured transactions, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.

72-2-618. Repealed. Sec. 40, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

History: En. 91A-2-610 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-610; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-518, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-618 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-619. Ademption by satisfaction. (1) Property that a testator gave in the testator's lifetime to a person is treated as a satisfaction of a devise in whole or in part only if:

(a) the will provides for deduction of the gift;

(b) the testator declared in a contemporaneous writing that the gift is in satisfaction of the devise or that its value is to be deducted from the value of the devise; or

(c) the devisee acknowledged in writing that the gift is in satisfaction of the devise or that its value is to be deducted from the value of the devise.

(2) For purposes of partial satisfaction, property given during the testator's lifetime is valued as of the time the devisee came into possession or enjoyment of the property or at the testator's death, whichever occurs first.

(3) If the devisee fails to survive the testator, the gift is treated as a full or partial satisfaction of the devise, as appropriate, in applying 72-2-613 and 72-2-614, unless the testator's contemporaneous writing provides otherwise.

History: En. 91A-2-612 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-612; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-515, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-619 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Part 7
Rules of Construction Applicable to Wills and Other Governing Instruments

72-2-701. Renumbered 72-2-122. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-702. Renumbered 72-2-221. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-703. Renumbered 72-2-223. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-704. Renumbered 72-2-226. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-705. Renumbered 72-2-222. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-706. Renumbered 72-2-227. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-707. Renumbered 72-2-225. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-708 through 72-2-710 reserved.

72-2-711. Scope. In the absence of a finding of a contrary intention, the rules of construction in this part control the construction of a governing instrument. The rules of construction in this part apply to a governing instrument of any type, except as the application of a particular section is limited by its terms to a specific type or types of provision or governing instrument.

History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-712. Requirement of survival by 120 hours. (1) For the purposes of chapters 1 through 5, except as provided in subsection (4), an individual who is not established by clear and convincing evidence to have survived an event, including the death of another individual, by 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the event.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), for purposes of a provision of a governing instrument that relates to an individual surviving an event, including the death of another individual, an individual who is not established by clear and convincing evidence to have survived the event by 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the event.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4), if:

(i) it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that one of two co-owners with right of survivorship survived the other co-owner by 120 hours, one-half of the property passes as if one had survived by 120 hours and one-half as if the other had survived by 120 hours; and

(ii) there are more than two co-owners and it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that at least one of them survived the others by 120 hours, the property passes in the proportion that one bears to the whole number of co-owners.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (3), "co-owners with right of survivorship" includes joint tenants, tenants by the entireties, and other co-owners of property or accounts held under circumstances that entitle one or more to the whole of the property or account on the death of the other or others.

(4) Survival by 120 hours is not required if:

(a) the governing instrument contains language dealing explicitly with simultaneous deaths or deaths in a common disaster and that language is operable under the facts of the case;

(b) the governing instrument expressly indicates that an individual is not required to survive an event, including the death of another individual, by any specified period or expressly requires the individual to survive the event by a specified period. However, survival of the event or the specified period must be established by clear and convincing evidence.

(c) the imposition of a 120-hour requirement of survival would cause a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment to fail to qualify for validity under 72-2-1002(1)(a), (2)(a), or (3)(a) or to become invalid under 72-2-1002(1)(b), (2)(b), or (3)(b); however, survival must be established by clear and convincing evidence; or

(d) the application of a 120-hour requirement of survival to multiple governing instruments would result in an unintended failure or duplication of a disposition. However, survival must be established by clear and convincing evidence.

(5) (a) A payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or any other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument who, under this section, is not entitled to the payment or item of property, or for having taken any other action in good faith reliance on the beneficiary's apparent entitlement under the terms of the governing instrument, before the payor or other third party received written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under this section. A payor or other third party is liable for a payment made or other action taken after the payor or other third party received written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under this section.

(b) Written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under subsection (5)(a) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Upon receipt of written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under this section, a payor or other third party may pay any amount owed or transfer or deposit any item of property held by it to or with the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to or with the court having jurisdiction of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of the decedent's residence. The court shall hold the funds or item of property and, upon its determination under this section, shall order disbursement in accordance with the determination. Payments, transfers, or deposits made to or with the court discharge the payor or other third party from all claims for the value of amounts paid to or items of property transferred to or deposited with the court.

(6) (a) A person who purchases property for value and without notice or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation is neither obligated under this section to return the payment, item of property, or benefit nor liable under this section for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under this section.

(b) If this section or any part of this section is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit covered by this section, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it were this section or part of this section not preempted.

History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-713. Choice of law as to meaning and effect of governing instrument. The meaning and legal effect of a governing instrument is determined by the local law of the state selected by the transferor in the governing instrument unless the application of that law is contrary to the provisions relating to the elective share described in part 7, the provisions relating to exempt property and allowances described in part 8, or any other public policy of this state otherwise applicable to the disposition.

History: En. 91A-2-602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-602; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-504, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-713 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-714. Repealed. Sec. 40, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-715. Class gifts construed to accord with intestate succession. (1) Adopted individuals and individuals born out of wedlock and their respective descendants if appropriate to the class are included in class gifts and other terms of relationship in accordance with the rules for intestate succession. Terms of relationship that do not differentiate relationships by blood from those by affinity, such as “uncles”, “aunts”, “nieces”, or “nephews”, are construed to exclude relatives by affinity. Terms of relationship that do not differentiate relationships by the half blood from those by the whole blood, such as “brothers”, “sisters”, “nieces”, or “nephews”, are construed to include both types of relationships.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), in construing a dispositive provision of a transferor who is not the natural parent, an individual born to the natural parent is not considered the child of that parent unless the individual lived while a minor as a regular member of the household of that natural parent or of that parent’s parent, brother, sister, spouse, or surviving spouse.

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), in construing a dispositive provision of a transferor who is not the adopting parent, an adopted individual is not considered the child of the adopting parent unless the adopted individual lived while a minor, either before or after the adoption, as a regular member of the household of the adopting parent.

History: En. Sec. 64, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-716. Life insurance — retirement plan — account with POD designation — transfer-on-death registration — deceased beneficiary. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) “Alternative beneficiary designation” means a beneficiary designation that is expressly created by the governing instrument and that under the terms of the governing instrument may take effect instead of another beneficiary designation on the happening of one or more events, including survival of the decedent or failure to survive the decedent, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form.

(b) “Beneficiary” means the beneficiary of a beneficiary designation under which the beneficiary must survive the decedent and includes:

(i) a class member if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift; and

(ii) an individual or class member who was deceased at the time the beneficiary designation was executed as well as an individual or class member who was then living but who failed to survive the decedent, but excludes a joint tenant of a joint tenancy with the right of survivorship and a party to a joint and survivorship account.

(c) “Beneficiary designation” includes an alternative beneficiary designation and a beneficiary designation in the form of a class gift.

(d) “Class member” includes an individual who fails to survive the decedent but who would have taken under a beneficiary designation in the form of a class gift had the individual survived the decedent.

(e) “Descendant of a grandparent”, as used in subsection (2), means an individual who qualifies as a descendant of a grandparent of the decedent under the:

(i) rules of construction applicable to a class gift created in the decedent’s beneficiary designation if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift; or

(ii) rules for intestate succession if the beneficiary designation is not in the form of a class gift.

(f) "Descendants", as used in the phrase "surviving descendants" of a deceased beneficiary or class member in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b), mean the descendants of a deceased beneficiary or class member who would take under a class gift created in the beneficiary designation.

(g) "Stepchild" means a child of the decedent's surviving, deceased, or former spouse but not a child of the decedent.

(h) "Surviving" in the phrase or "surviving beneficiaries" or "surviving descendants", means beneficiaries or descendants who neither predeceased the decedent nor are deemed to have predeceased the decedent under 72-2-712.

(2) If a beneficiary fails to survive the decedent and is a grandparent, a descendant of a grandparent, or a stepchild of the decedent, the following apply:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the beneficiary designation is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the beneficiary's surviving descendants. They take by representation the property to which the beneficiary would have been entitled had the beneficiary survived the decedent.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift, other than a beneficiary designation to "issue", "descendants", "heirs of the body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of any deceased beneficiary. The property to which the beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the decedent passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants of the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to which the surviving beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiaries survived the decedent. Each deceased beneficiary's surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take by representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the decedent. For purposes of this subsection (b), "deceased beneficiary" means a class member who failed to survive the decedent and left one or more surviving descendants.

(c) For the purposes of 72-2-711, words of survivorship, such as in a beneficiary designation to an individual "if the individual survives me" or in a beneficiary designation to "my surviving children", are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section.

(d) If a governing instrument creates an alternative beneficiary designation with respect to a beneficiary designation for which a substitute gift is created by subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative beneficiary designation if:

(i) the alternative beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift and one or more members of the class is entitled to take; or

(ii) the alternative beneficiary designation is not in the form of a class gift and the expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative beneficiary designation is entitled to take.

(3) If, under subsection (2), substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than one beneficiary designation and the beneficiary designations are alternative beneficiary designations, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation beneficiary designation, the property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(c) As used in this subsection (3), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Primary beneficiary designation" means the beneficiary designation that would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the alternative beneficiary designations who left surviving descendants survived the decedent.

(ii) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary beneficiary designation.

(iii) "Younger-generation beneficiary designation" means a beneficiary designation that:

(A) is to a descendant of a beneficiary of the primary beneficiary designation;

(B) is an alternative beneficiary designation with respect to the primary beneficiary designation;

(C) is a beneficiary designation for which a substitute gift is created; and

(D) would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving descendants survived the decedent except the deceased beneficiary or beneficiaries of the primary beneficiary designation.

(iv) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation beneficiary designation.

(4) (a) A payor is protected from liability in making payments under the terms of the beneficiary designation until the payor has received written notice of a claim to a substitute gift under this section. Payment made before the receipt of written notice of a claim to a substitute gift under this section discharges the payor, but not the recipient, from all claims for the amounts paid. A payor is liable for a payment made after the payor has received written notice of the claim. A recipient is liable for a payment received, whether or not written notice of the claim is given.

(b) The written notice of the claim must be mailed to the payor's main office or home by certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Upon receipt of written notice of the claim, a payor may pay any amount owed by it to the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to the court having jurisdiction of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of the decedent's residence. The court shall hold the funds and, upon its determination under this section, shall order disbursement in accordance with the determination. Payment made to the court discharges the payor from all claims for the amounts paid.

(5) (a) A person who purchases property for value and without notice or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation is neither obligated under this section to return the payment, item of property, or benefit nor liable under this section for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under this section.

(b) If this section or any part of this section is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit covered by this section, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it were this section or part of this section not preempted.

History: En. Sec. 65, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Life insurance, Title 33, ch. 20.

72-2-717. Survivorship with respect to future interests under terms of trust — substitute takers. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Alternative future interest" means an expressly created future interest that may take effect in possession or enjoyment instead of another future interest on the happening of one or more events, including survival of an event or failure to survive an event, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form. A residuary clause in a will does not create an alternative future interest with respect to a future interest created in a nonresiduary devise in the will, whether or not the will specifically provides that lapsed or failed devises are to pass under the residuary clause.

(b) "Beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a future interest and includes a class member if the future interest is in the form of a class gift.

(c) "Class member" includes an individual who fails to survive the distribution date but who would have taken under a future interest in the form of a class gift had the individual survived the distribution date.

(d) "Descendants", in the phrase "surviving descendants" of a deceased beneficiary or class member in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b), mean the descendants of a deceased beneficiary or class member who would take under a class gift created in the trust.

(e) "Distribution date" with respect to a future interest means the time when the future interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment. The distribution date need not occur at the beginning or end of a calendar day, but may occur at a time during the course of a day.

(f) "Future interest" includes an alternative future interest and a future interest in the form of a class gift.

(g) "Future interest under the terms of a trust" means a future interest that was created by a transfer creating a trust or to an existing trust or by an exercise of a power of appointment to an existing trust that directs the continuance of an existing trust, designates a beneficiary of an existing trust, or creates a trust.

(h) "Surviving" in the phrase "surviving beneficiaries" or "surviving descendants" means beneficiaries or descendants who neither predeceased the distribution date nor are deemed to have predeceased the distribution date under 72-2-712.

(2) A future interest under the terms of a trust is contingent on the beneficiary surviving the distribution date. If a beneficiary of a future interest under the terms of a trust fails to survive the distribution date, the following provisions apply:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the future interest is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the beneficiary's surviving descendants. They take by representation the property to which the beneficiary would have been entitled had the beneficiary survived the distribution date.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d), if the future interest is in the form of a class gift, other than a future interest to "issue", "descendants", "heirs of the body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of any deceased beneficiary. The property to which the beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the distribution date passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants of the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to which the surviving beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiaries survived the distribution date. Each deceased beneficiary's surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take by representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the distribution date. For purposes of this subsection (2), "deceased beneficiary" means a class member who failed to survive the distribution date and left one or more surviving descendants.

(c) For the purposes of 72-2-711, words of survivorship attached to a future interest are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section. Words of survivorship include words of survivorship that relate to the distribution date or to an earlier or an unspecified time, whether those words of survivorship are expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form.

(d) If a governing instrument creates an alternative future interest with respect to a future interest for which a substitute gift is created by subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative future interest if:

(i) the alternative future interest is in the form of a class gift and one or more members of the class is entitled to take in possession or enjoyment; or

(ii) the alternative future interest is not in the form of a class gift and the expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative future interest is entitled to take in possession or enjoyment.

(3) If, under subsection (2), substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than one future interest and the future interests are alternative future interests, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation future interest, the property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(c) As used in this subsection (3), the following definitions apply:

(i) "Primary future interest" means the future interest that would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the alternative future interests who left surviving descendants survived the distribution date.

(ii) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary future interest.

(iii) "Younger-generation future interest" means a future interest that:

(A) is to a descendant of a beneficiary of the primary future interest;

(B) is an alternative future interest with respect to the primary future interest;

(C) is a future interest for which a substitute gift is created; and

(D) would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving descendants survived the distribution date except the deceased beneficiary or beneficiaries of the primary future interest.

(iv) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation future interest.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), if, after the application of subsections (2) and (3), there is no surviving taker, the property passes in the following order:

(a) if the trust was created in a nonresiduary devise in the transferor's will or in a codicil to the transferor's will, the property passes under the residuary clause in the transferor's will. For purposes of this section, the residuary clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

(b) if no taker is produced by the application of subsection (4)(a), the property passes to the transferor's heirs under 72-2-721.

(5) If, after the application of subsections (2) and (3), there is no surviving taker and if the future interest was created by the exercise of a power of appointment:

(a) the property passes under the donor's gift-in-default clause, if any, which clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust; and

(b) if no taker is produced by the application of subsection (5)(a), the property passes as provided in subsection (4). For purposes of subsection (4), "transferor" means the donor if the power was a nongeneral power and means the donee if the power was a general power.

History: En. Sec. 66, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-718. Class gifts to "descendants", "issue", or "heirs of the body" — form of distribution if none specified. If a class gift in favor of "descendants", "issue", or "heirs of the body" does not specify the manner in which the property is to be distributed among the class members, the property is distributed among the class members who are living when the interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment in such shares as they would receive under the applicable law of intestate succession if the designated ancestor had then died intestate owning the subject matter of the class gift.

History: En. Sec. 67, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-719. Representation — per capita at each generation — per stirpes. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Deceased child" or "deceased descendant" means a child or a descendant who either predeceased the distribution date or is considered to have predeceased the distribution date under 72-2-712.

(b) "Distribution date", with respect to an interest, means the time when the interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment. The distribution date need not occur at the beginning or end of a calendar day but may occur at a time during the course of a day.

(c) "Surviving ancestor", "surviving child", or "surviving descendant" means an ancestor, a child, or a descendant who neither predeceased the distribution date nor is considered to have predeceased the distribution date under 72-2-712.

(2) (a) If a governing instrument calls for property to be distributed "per capita at each generation", the property is divided into as many equal shares as there are:

(i) surviving descendants in the generation nearest to the designated ancestor that contains one or more surviving descendants; and

(ii) deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any.

(b) Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated one share. The remaining shares, if any, are combined and then divided in the same manner among the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants as if the surviving descendants who were allocated a share and their surviving descendants had predeceased the distribution date.

(3) (a) If a governing instrument calls for property to be distributed "per stirpes", the property is divided into as many equal shares as there are:

(i) surviving children of the designated ancestor; and

(ii) deceased children who left surviving descendants.

(b) Each surviving child, if any, is allocated one share. The share of each deceased child with surviving descendants is divided in the same manner, with subdivision repeating at each succeeding generation until the property is fully allocated among surviving descendants.

(4) (a) If an applicable statute or a governing instrument calls for property to be distributed "by representation", the property is divided into as many equal shares as there are:

(i) surviving descendants in the generation nearest to the designated ancestor that contains one or more surviving descendants; and

(ii) deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any.

(b) Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated one share. The share of each deceased descendant in the same generation as the surviving descendant is divided in the same manner, with the subdivision repeating at each succeeding generation until the property is fully allocated among surviving descendants.

(5) For the purposes of subsections (2) through (4), an individual who is deceased and left no surviving descendant is disregarded and an individual who leaves a surviving ancestor who is a descendant of the designated ancestor is not entitled to a share.

History: En. Sec. 68, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-2-720. Worthier title doctrine abolished. The doctrine of worthier title is abolished as a rule of law and as a rule of construction. Language in a governing instrument describing the beneficiaries of a disposition as the transferor's "heirs", "heirs at law", "next of kin", "distributees", "relatives", or "family" or language of similar import does not create or presumptively create a reversionary interest in the transferor.

History: En. Sec. 69, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-2-721. Interests in "heirs" and like. If an applicable statute or a governing instrument calls for a present or future distribution to or creates a present or future interest in a designated individual's "heirs", "heirs at law", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or language of similar import, the property passes to those persons, including the state, and in such shares as would succeed to the designated individual's intestate estate under the intestate succession law of the designated individual's domicile in effect at the time the disposition is to take effect in possession or enjoyment as if the designated individual died at that time. If the designated individual's surviving spouse is living but is remarried at the time the disposition is to take effect in possession or enjoyment, the surviving spouse is not an heir of the designated individual.

History: En. Sec. 70, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

Part 8
General Provisions Concerning Probate and Nonprobate Transfers

72-2-801. Renumbered 72-2-412. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-802. Renumbered 72-2-413. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-803. Renumbered 72-2-414. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-804. Renumbered 72-2-415. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-805 through 72-2-810 reserved.

72-2-811. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-2-801 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-101, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-811 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-2-812. Effect of divorce, annulment, or decree of separation. (1) An individual who is divorced from the decedent or whose marriage to the decedent has been annulled is not a surviving spouse unless by virtue of a subsequent marriage the individual is married to the decedent at the time of death. A decree of separation that does not terminate the status of husband and wife is not a divorce for purposes of this section.

(2) For purposes of chapter 2, parts 1 through 4, and of 72-3-501 through 72-3-508, a surviving spouse does not include:

(a) an individual who obtains or consents to a final decree or judgment of divorce from the decedent or an annulment of their marriage, which decree or judgment is not recognized as valid in this state, unless subsequently they participate in a marriage ceremony purporting to marry each to the other or live together as husband and wife;

(b) an individual who, following an invalid decree or judgment of divorce or annulment obtained by the decedent, participates in a marriage ceremony with a third individual; or

(c) an individual who was a party to a valid proceeding concluded by an order purporting to terminate all marital property rights.

History: En. 91A-2-802 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-802; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-103, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-812 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

Cross-References

Declaration of invalidity of marriage, 40-1-402.

Dissolution of marriage — legal separation, 40-4-104.

72-2-813. Effect of financial exploitation or homicide on intestate succession, wills, trusts, joint assets, life insurance, and beneficiary designations. (1) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Abuser" means a person who participates in the willful and unlawful financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

(b) "Disposition or appointment of property" includes a transfer of an item of property or any other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument.

(c) "Financial exploitation" means the act of purposely or knowingly standing in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult and obtaining, using, or attempting to obtain or use at least $1,000, whether in one or more acts, of a vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the vulnerable adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the money, assets, or property or to benefit someone other than the vulnerable adult. Financial exploitation may include but is not limited to:

(i) acting or failing to act, including through the use of a power of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship of a vulnerable adult, in order to:

(A) obtain control through deception, intimidation, fraud, menace, or undue influence over a vulnerable adult's money, assets, or property to deprive the vulnerable adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the money, assets, or property; or

(B) convert money, assets, or property of a vulnerable adult to deprive the vulnerable adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the money, assets, or property;

(ii) misappropriating or misusing money belonging to a vulnerable adult from a personal or joint account; or

(iii) failing to use a vulnerable adult's income and assets to provide the necessities required for the vulnerable adult's support and maintenance.

(d) "Governing instrument" means a governing instrument executed by the decedent.

(e) "Revocable", with respect to a disposition, appointment, provision, or nomination, means one under which the decedent, at the time of or immediately before death, was alone empowered, by law or under the governing instrument, to cancel the designation in favor of the abuser or killer, whether or not the decedent was then empowered to designate the decedent in place of the decedent's abuser or killer and whether or not the decedent then had capacity to exercise the power.

(f) "Vulnerable adult" means a person who is:

(i) 60 years of age or older;

(ii) functionally, mentally, or physically unable to provide self-care;

(iii) deemed incapacitated under 72-5-316;

(iv) developmentally disabled;

(v) admitted to a facility licensed by the department of public health and human services;

(vi) receiving services from a home health agency or hospice provider;

(vii) receiving services from an individual provider; or

(viii) self-directing care and receiving services from a personal aide for a physical disability.

(2) An individual who financially exploits or feloniously and intentionally kills the decedent forfeits all benefits under this chapter with respect to the decedent's estate, including an intestate share, an elective share, an omitted spouse's or child's share, a homestead allowance, exempt property, and a family allowance. If the decedent died intestate, the decedent's intestate estate passes as if the abuser or killer disclaimed the abuser's or killer's intestate share.

(3) The financial exploitation or felonious and intentional killing of the decedent:

(a) revokes any revocable:

(i) disposition or appointment of property made by the decedent to the abuser or killer in a governing instrument;

(ii) provision in a governing instrument conferring a general or nongeneral power of appointment on the abuser or killer; and

(iii) nomination of the abuser or killer in a governing instrument, nominating or appointing the abuser or killer to serve in any fiduciary or representative capacity, including a personal representative, executor, trustee, or agent; and

(b) severs the interests of the decedent and the abuser or killer in property held by them at the time of the financial exploitation or killing as joint tenants with the right of survivorship and transforms the interests of the decedent and the abuser or killer into tenancies in common.

(4) A severance under subsection (3)(b) does not affect any third-party interest in property acquired for value and in good faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the abuser or killer unless a writing declaring the severance has been noted, registered, filed, or recorded in records that are appropriate to the kind and location of the property and that are relied on as evidence of ownership in the ordinary course of transactions involving such property.

(5) Provisions of a governing instrument are given effect as if the abuser or killer disclaimed all provisions revoked by this section or, in the case of a revoked nomination in a fiduciary or representative capacity, as if the abuser or killer predeceased the decedent.

(6) A wrongful acquisition of property or interest by an abuser or killer not covered by this section must be treated in accordance with the principle that an abuser or killer cannot profit from the abuser's or killer's wrong.

(7) After all right to appeal has been exhausted, a judgment of conviction establishing criminal accountability for the financial exploitation or felonious and intentional killing of the decedent conclusively establishes the convicted individual as the decedent's abuser or killer for purposes of this section. In the absence of a conviction, the court, upon the petition of an interested person, shall determine whether, under the preponderance of evidence standard, the individual would be found criminally accountable for the financial exploitation or felonious and intentional killing of the decedent. If the court determines that under that standard the individual would be found criminally accountable for the financial exploitation or felonious and intentional killing of the decedent, the determination conclusively establishes the individual as the decedent's abuser or killer for purposes of this section.

(8) (a) A payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or any other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument affected by financial exploitation or an intentional and felonious killing, or for having taken any other action in good faith reliance on the validity of the governing instrument, upon request and satisfactory proof of the decedent's death, before the payor or other third party received written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under this section. A payor or other third party does not have a duty or obligation to make any determination as to whether the decedent was a victim of a homicide or to seek any evidence with respect to a homicide even if the circumstances of the decedent's death are suspicious or questionable as to the beneficiary's participation in a homicide. A payor or other third party does not have a duty or obligation to make any determination as to whether the decedent was a victim of financial exploitation or to seek any evidence with respect to financial exploitation even if the circumstances are suspicious or questionable as to the beneficiary's participation in financial exploitation. A payor or other third party is only liable for actions taken 2 or more business days after the actual receipt by

the payor or other third party of written notice. The payor or other third party may be liable for actions taken pursuant to the governing instrument only if the form of the service is that described in subsection (8)(b).

(b) The written notice must indicate the name of the decedent, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment or item of property or other benefit, and a statement that a claim of forfeiture or revocation is being made under this section. Written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under subsection (8)(a) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by certified mail, return receipt requested, or served on the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of the payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party. Upon receipt of written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under this section, a payor or other third party may pay any amount owed or transfer or deposit any item of property held by it to or with the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to or with the court having jurisdiction of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of the decedent's residence. In addition to the actions available under this section, the payor or other third party may take any action authorized by law or the governing instrument. If probate proceedings have not been commenced, the payor or other third party shall file with the court a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party, with the payment of funds or transfer or deposit of property. The court may not charge a filing fee to the payor or other third party for the payment to the court of amounts owed or transferred to or deposited with the court or any item of property. The court shall hold the funds or item of property and, upon its determination under this section, shall order disbursement in accordance with the determination. A filing fee, if any, may be charged upon disbursement either to the recipient or against the funds or property on deposit with the court, in the discretion of the court. Payments, transfers, or deposits made to or with the court discharge the payor or other third party from all claims for the value of amounts paid to or items of property transferred to or deposited with the court.

(9) (a) A bona fide purchaser who purchases property or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation is neither obligated under this section to return the payment, item of property, or benefit nor liable under this section for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under this section.

(b) If this section or any part of this section is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit covered by this section, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it were this section or part of this section not preempted.

(10) For the purposes of this section, a felonious and intentional killing includes a deliberate homicide as defined in 45-5-102 and a mitigated deliberate homicide as defined in 45-5-103.

History: En. 91A-2-803 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-803; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-2-104, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-813 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Own wrong — no advantage, 1-3-208.
Limitations on payment of retirement benefits if beneficiary causes member's death, 19-2-804.
Illegal occupation, 33-22-230.
Homicide, Title 45, ch. 5, part 1.
Definitions — governing instrument includes insurance or annuity policy, 72-1-103.
Constructive trust, 72-38-123.

72-2-814. Revocation of probate and nonprobate transfers by divorce — no revocation by other changes of circumstances. (1) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Disposition or appointment of property" includes a transfer of an item of property or any other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument.

(b) "Divorce or annulment" means any divorce, annulment, or dissolution or declaration of invalidity of a marriage that would exclude the spouse as a surviving spouse within the meaning of 72-2-812. A decree of separation that does not terminate the status of husband and wife is not a divorce for purposes of this section.

(c) "Divorced individual" includes an individual whose marriage has been annulled.

(d) "Governing instrument" means a governing instrument executed by the divorced individual before the divorce or annulment of the individual's marriage to the individual's former spouse.

(e) "Relative of the divorced individual's former spouse" means an individual who is related to the divorced individual's former spouse by blood, adoption, or affinity and who, after the divorce or annulment, is not related to the divorced individual by blood, adoption, or affinity.

(f) "Revocable", with respect to a disposition, appointment, provision, or nomination, means one under which the divorced individual, at the time of the divorce or annulment, was alone empowered, by law or under the governing instrument, to cancel the designation in favor of the individual's former spouse or former spouse's relative, whether or not the divorced individual was then empowered to designate the divorced individual in place of the individual's former spouse or in place of the former spouse's relative and whether or not the divorced individual then had the capacity to exercise the power.

(2) Except as to a retirement system established in Title 19 or as provided by the express terms of a governing instrument, a court order, or a contract relating to the division of the marital estate made between the divorced individuals before or after the marriage, divorce, or annulment, the divorce or annulment of a marriage:

(a) revokes any revocable:

(i) disposition or appointment of property made by a divorced individual to the individual's former spouse in a governing instrument and any disposition or appointment created by law or in a governing instrument to a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse;

(ii) provision in a governing instrument conferring a general or nongeneral power of appointment on the divorced individual's former spouse or on a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse; and

(iii) nomination in a governing instrument that nominates a divorced individual's former spouse or a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse to serve in any fiduciary or representative capacity, including a personal representative, executor, trustee, conservator, agent, or guardian; and

(b) severs the interests of the former spouses in property held by them at the time of the divorce or annulment as joint tenants with the right of survivorship and transforms the interests of the former spouses into tenancies in common.

(3) A severance under subsection (2)(b) does not affect any third-party interest in property acquired for value and in good faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the survivor of the former spouses unless a writing declaring the severance has been noted, registered, filed, or recorded in records appropriate to the kind and location of the property, which records are relied upon, in the ordinary course of transactions involving such property, as evidence of ownership.

(4) Provisions of a governing instrument are given effect as if the former spouse and relatives of the former spouse disclaimed all provisions revoked by this section or, in the case of a revoked nomination in a fiduciary or representative capacity, as if the former spouse and relatives of the former spouse died immediately before the divorce or annulment.

(5) Provisions revoked solely by this section are revived by the divorced individual's remarriage to the former spouse or by a nullification of the divorce or annulment.

(6) No change of circumstances other than as described in this section and in 72-2-813 effects a revocation.

(7) (a) A payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or any other benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument affected by a divorce, annulment, or remarriage, or for having taken any other action in good faith reliance on the validity of the governing instrument, before the payor or other third party received written notice of the divorce, annulment, or remarriage. A payor or other third party does not have a duty or obligation to inquire as to the continued marital relationship between the decedent and a beneficiary or to seek any evidence with respect to a marital relationship. A payor or other third party is only liable for actions taken 2 or more business days after the actual receipt by the payor or other third party of written notice. The payor or other third party may be liable for actions taken pursuant to the governing instrument only if the form of service is that described in subsection (7)(b).

(b) The written notice must indicate the name of the decedent, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment or item of property or other benefit, and a statement that a dissolution, annulment, or remarriage of the decedent and the designated beneficiary occurred. Written notice of the divorce, annulment, or remarriage under subsection (7)(a) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Upon receipt of written notice of the divorce, annulment, or remarriage, a payor or other third party may pay any amount owed or transfer or deposit any item of property held by it to or with the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to or with the court having jurisdiction of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of the decedent's residence. In addition to the actions available under this section, the payor or other third party may take any action authorized by law or the governing instrument. If probate proceedings have not been commenced, the payor or other third party shall file with the court a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party, with the payment of funds or transfer or deposit of property. The court may not charge a filing fee to the payor or other third party for the payment to the court of amounts owed or transferred to or deposited with the court or any item of property. The court shall hold the funds or item of property and, upon its determination under this section, shall order disbursement or transfer in accordance with the determination. A filing fee, if any, may, in the discretion of the court, be charged upon disbursement either to the recipient or against the funds or property on deposit with the court. Payments, transfers, or deposits made to or with the court discharge the payor or other third party from all claims for the value of amounts paid to or items of property transferred to or deposited with the court.

(8) (a) A bona fide purchaser who purchases property from a former spouse, relative of a former spouse, or any other person or who receives from a former spouse, relative of a former spouse, or any other person for value and without notice a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation is neither obligated under this section to return the payment, item of property, or benefit nor liable under this section for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a former spouse, relative of a former spouse, or other person who, not for value, received a payment, item of property, or other benefit to which that person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under this section.

(b) If this section or any part of this section is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit covered by this section, a former spouse, relative of the former spouse, or any other person who, not for value, received a payment, item of property, or other benefit to which that person is not entitled under this section is obligated to return that payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it were this section or part of this section not preempted.

(9) The provisions of this section apply to testate and intestate estates, and in the event of a conflict between the provisions of this section and those provided in chapters 1 through 5 and chapter 16, part 6, of this title, the provisions of this section control. This subsection does not apply if a divorced individual designates a former spouse as personal representative of the estate subsequent to the divorce.

History: En. Sec. 71, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 562, L. 1999; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 228, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Dissolution of marriage, Title 40, ch. 4, part 1.

72-2-815. Reformation to correct mistakes. The court may reform the terms of a governing instrument, even if unambiguous, to conform the terms to the transferor's intention if it is proved by clear and convincing evidence what the transferor's intention was and that the terms of the governing instrument were affected by a mistake of fact or law, whether in expression or inducement.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-816. Modification to achieve transferor's tax objectives. To achieve the transferor's tax objectives, the court may modify the terms of a governing instrument in a manner that is not contrary to the transferor's probable intention. The court may provide that the modification has retroactive effect.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-817. Short title. Sections 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 may be cited as the "Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act".

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-818. Definitions. As used in 72-2-817 through 72-2-833, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Disclaimant" means the person to whom a disclaimed interest or power would have passed had the disclaimer not been made.

(2) "Disclaimed interest" means the interest that would have passed to the disclaimant had the disclaimer not been made.

(3) "Disclaimer" means the refusal to accept an interest in or power over property.

(4) "Fiduciary" means a personal representative, trustee, agent acting under a power of attorney, or other person authorized to act as a fiduciary with respect to the property of another person.

(5) "Jointly held property" means property held in the name of two or more persons under an arrangement in which all holders have concurrent interests and under which the last surviving holder is entitled to the whole of the property.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public corporation, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes an Indian tribe or band, or Alaskan native village, recognized by federal law or formally acknowledged by a state.

(8) "Trust" means:

(a) an express trust, charitable or noncharitable, with additions thereto, whenever and however created; and

(b) a trust created pursuant to a statute, judgment, or decree which requires the trust to be administered in the manner of an express trust.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-819. Scope. Sections 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 apply to disclaimers of any interest in or power over property, whenever created.

History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-820. Sections supplemented by other law. (1) Unless displaced by a provision of 72-2-817 through 72-2-833, the principles of law and equity supplement 72-2-817 through 72-2-833.

(2) Sections 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 do not limit any right of a person to waive, release, disclaim, or renounce an interest in or power over property under a law other than 72-2-817 through 72-2-833.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-821. Power to disclaim — general requirements — when revocable. (1) A person may disclaim, in whole or part, any interest in or power over property, including a power of appointment. A person may disclaim the interest or power even if its creator imposed a spendthrift provision or similar restriction on transfer or a restriction or limitation on the right to disclaim.

(2) Except to the extent a fiduciary's right to disclaim is expressly restricted or limited by another statute of this state or by the instrument creating the fiduciary relationship, a fiduciary may disclaim, in whole or part, any interest in or power over property, including a power of appointment, whether acting in a personal or representative capacity. A fiduciary may disclaim the interest or power even if its creator imposed a spendthrift provision or similar restriction on transfer or a restriction or limitation on the right to disclaim or an instrument other than the instrument that created the fiduciary relationship imposed a restriction or limitation on the right to disclaim.

(3) To be effective, a disclaimer must be in a writing or other record, declare the disclaimer, describe the interest or power disclaimed, be signed by the person making the disclaimer, and be delivered or filed in the manner provided in 72-2-828. In this subsection:

(a) "record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form; and

(b) "signed" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record, to:

(i) execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(ii) attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic sound, symbol, or process.

(4) A partial disclaimer may be expressed as a fraction, percentage, monetary amount, term of years, limitation of a power, or any other interest or estate in the property.

(5) A disclaimer becomes irrevocable when it is delivered or filed pursuant to 72-2-828 or when it becomes effective as provided in 72-2-822 through 72-2-827, whichever occurs later.

(6) A disclaimer made under 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 is not a transfer, assignment, or release.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-822. Disclaimer of interest in property. (1) In this section:

(a) "Future interest" means an interest that takes effect in possession or enjoyment, if at all, later than the time of its creation.

(b) "Time of distribution" means the time when a disclaimed interest would have taken effect in possession or enjoyment.

(2) Except for a disclaimer governed by 72-2-823 or 72-2-824, the following rules apply to a disclaimer of an interest in property:

(a) The disclaimer takes effect as of the time the instrument creating the interest becomes irrevocable, or, if the interest arose under the law of intestate succession, as of the time of the intestate's death.

(b) The disclaimed interest passes according to any provision in the instrument creating the interest providing for the disposition of the interest, should it be disclaimed, or of disclaimed interests in general.

(c) If the instrument does not contain a provision described in subsection (2)(b), the following rules apply:

(i) If the disclaimant is not an individual, the disclaimed interest passes as if the disclaimant did not exist.

(ii) If the disclaimant is an individual, except as otherwise provided in subsections (2)(c)(iii) and (2)(c)(iv), the disclaimed interest passes as if the disclaimant had died immediately before the time of distribution.

(iii) If by law or under the instrument, the descendants of the disclaimant would share in the disclaimed interest by any method of representation had the disclaimant died before the time of distribution, the disclaimed interest passes only to the descendants of the disclaimant who survive the time of distribution.

(iv) If the disclaimed interest would pass to the disclaimant's estate had the disclaimant died before the time of distribution, the disclaimed interest instead passes by representation to the descendants of the disclaimant who survive the time of distribution. If no descendant of the disclaimant survives the time of distribution, the disclaimed interest passes to those persons, including the state but excluding the disclaimant, and in such shares as would succeed to the transferor's intestate estate under the intestate succession law of the transferor's domicile had the transferor died at the time of distribution. However, if the transferor's surviving spouse is living but is remarried at the time of distribution, the transferor is deemed to have died unmarried at the time of distribution.

(d) Upon the disclaimer of a preceding interest, a future interest held by a person other than the disclaimant takes effect as if the disclaimant had died or ceased to exist immediately before the time of distribution, but a future interest held by the disclaimant is not accelerated in possession or enjoyment.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-823. Disclaimer of rights of survivorship in jointly held property. (1) Upon the death of a holder of jointly held property, a surviving holder may disclaim, in whole or part, the greater of:

(a) a fractional share of the property determined by dividing the number one by the number of joint holders alive immediately before the death of the holder to whose death the disclaimer relates; or

(b) all of the property except that part of the value of the entire interest attributable to the contribution furnished by the disclaimant.

(2) A disclaimer under subsection (1) takes effect as of the death of the holder of jointly held property to whose death the disclaimer relates.

(3) An interest in jointly held property disclaimed by a surviving holder of the property passes as if the disclaimant predeceased the holder to whose death the disclaimer relates.

History: En. Sec. 45, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-824. Disclaimer of interest by trustee. If a trustee disclaims an interest in property that otherwise would have become trust property, the interest does not become trust property.

History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-825. Disclaimer of power of appointment or other power not held in fiduciary capacity. If a holder disclaims a power of appointment or other power not held in a fiduciary capacity, the following rules apply:

(1) If the holder has not exercised the power, the disclaimer takes effect as of the time the instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable.

(2) If the holder has exercised the power and the disclaimer is of a power other than a presently exercisable general power of appointment, the disclaimer takes effect immediately after the last exercise of the power.

(3) The instrument creating the power is construed as if the power expired when the disclaimer became effective.

History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-826. Disclaimer by appointee, object, or taker in default of exercise of power of appointment. (1) A disclaimer of an interest in property by an appointee of a power of appointment takes effect as of the time the instrument by which the holder exercises the power becomes irrevocable.

(2) A disclaimer of an interest in property by an object or taker in default of an exercise of a power of appointment takes effect as of the time the instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable.

History: En. Sec. 48, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-827. Disclaimer of power held in fiduciary capacity. (1) If a fiduciary disclaims a power held in a fiduciary capacity which has not been exercised, the disclaimer takes effect as of the time the instrument creating the power becomes irrevocable.

(2) If a fiduciary disclaims a power held in a fiduciary capacity which has been exercised, the disclaimer takes effect immediately after the last exercise of the power.

(3) A disclaimer under this section is effective as to another fiduciary if the disclaimer so provides and the fiduciary disclaiming has the authority to bind the estate, trust, or other person for whom the fiduciary is acting.

History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-828. Delivery or filing. (1) In this section, "beneficiary designation" means an instrument, other than an instrument creating a trust, naming the beneficiary of:

(a) an annuity or insurance policy;

(b) an account with a designation for payment on death;

(c) a security registered in beneficiary form;

(d) a pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or other employment-related benefit plan; or

(e) any other nonprobate transfer at death.

(2) Subject to subsections (3) through (12), delivery of a disclaimer may be effected by personal delivery, first-class mail, or any other method likely to result in its receipt.

(3) In the case of an interest created under the law of intestate succession or an interest created by will, other than an interest in a testamentary trust:

(a) a disclaimer must be delivered to the personal representative of the decedent's estate; or

(b) if no personal representative is then serving, it must be filed with a court having jurisdiction to appoint the personal representative.

(4) In the case of an interest in a testamentary trust:

(a) a disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee then serving, or if no trustee is then serving, to the personal representative of the decedent's estate; or

(b) if no personal representative is then serving, it must be filed with a court having jurisdiction to enforce the trust.

(5) In the case of an interest in an inter vivos trust:

(a) a disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee then serving;

(b) if no trustee is then serving, it must be filed with a court having jurisdiction to enforce the trust; or

(c) if the disclaimer is made before the time the instrument creating the trust becomes irrevocable, it must be delivered to the settlor of a revocable trust or the transferor of the interest.

(6) In the case of an interest created by a beneficiary designation which is disclaimed before the designation becomes irrevocable, the disclaimer must be delivered to the person making the beneficiary designation.

(7) In the case of an interest created by a beneficiary designation which is disclaimed after the designation becomes irrevocable:

(a) the disclaimer of an interest in personal property must be delivered to the person obligated to distribute the interest; and

(b) the disclaimer of an interest in real property must be recorded in the office of the county recorder of the county where the real property that is the subject of the disclaimer is located.

(8) In the case of a disclaimer by a surviving holder of jointly held property, the disclaimer must be delivered to the person to whom the disclaimed interest passes.

(9) In the case of a disclaimer by an object or taker in default of exercise of a power of appointment at any time after the power was created:

(a) the disclaimer must be delivered to the holder of the power or to the fiduciary acting under the instrument that created the power; or

(b) if no fiduciary is then serving, it must be filed with a court having authority to appoint the fiduciary.

(10) In the case of a disclaimer by an appointee of a nonfiduciary power of appointment:

(a) the disclaimer must be delivered to the holder, the personal representative of the holder's estate or to the fiduciary under the instrument that created the power; or

(b) if no fiduciary is then serving, it must be filed with a court having authority to appoint the fiduciary.

(11) In the case of a disclaimer by a fiduciary of a power over a trust or estate, the disclaimer must be delivered as provided in subsection (3), (4), or (5), as if the power disclaimed were an interest in property.

(12) In the case of a disclaimer of a power by an agent, the disclaimer must be delivered to the principal or the principal's representative.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-829. When disclaimer barred or limited. (1) A disclaimer is barred by a written waiver of the right to disclaim.

(2) A disclaimer of an interest in property is barred if any of the following events occur before the disclaimer becomes effective:

(a) the disclaimant accepts the interest sought to be disclaimed;

(b) the disclaimant voluntarily assigns, conveys, encumbers, pledges, or transfers the interest sought to be disclaimed or contracts to do so; or

(c) a judicial sale of the interest sought to be disclaimed occurs.

(3) A disclaimer, in whole or part, of the future exercise of a power held in a fiduciary capacity is not barred by its previous exercise.

(4) A disclaimer, in whole or part, of the future exercise of a power not held in a fiduciary capacity is not barred by its previous exercise unless the power is exercisable in favor of the disclaimant.

(5) A disclaimer is barred or limited if so provided by law other than 72-2-817 through 72-2-833.

(6) A disclaimer of a power over property which is barred by this section is ineffective. A disclaimer of an interest in property which is barred by this section takes effect as a transfer of the interest disclaimed to the persons who would have taken the interest under 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 had the disclaimer not been barred.

History: En. Sec. 51, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-830. Tax qualified disclaimer. Notwithstanding any other provision of 72-2-817 through 72-2-833, if as a result of a disclaimer or transfer the disclaimed or transferred interest is treated pursuant to the provisions of Title 26 of the United States Code, as now or hereafter amended, or any successor statute thereto, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, as never having been transferred to the disclaimant, then the disclaimer or transfer is effective as a disclaimer under 72-2-817 through 72-2-833.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-831. Recording of disclaimer. If an instrument transferring an interest in or power over property subject to a disclaimer is required or permitted by law to be filed, recorded, or registered, the disclaimer may be so filed, recorded, or registered. Except as otherwise provided in 72-2-828(7)(b), failure to file, record, or register the disclaimer does not affect its validity as between the disclaimant and persons to whom the property interest or power passes by reason of the disclaimer.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-832. Application to existing relationships. Except as otherwise provided in 72-2-829, an interest in or power over property existing on October 1, 2019, as to which the time for delivering or filing a disclaimer under law superseded by 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 has not expired may be disclaimed after October 1, 2019.

History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-2-833. Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. Sections 72-2-817 through 72-2-833 modify, limit, and supersede the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq.) but do not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that act (15 U.S.C. 7001(c)) or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act (15 U.S.C. 7003(b)).

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Part 9
Uniform International Will Act

72-2-901. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Authorized person" and "person authorized to act in connection with international wills" means a person who by 72-2-908 or by the laws of the United States, including members of the diplomatic and consular service of the United States designated by the foreign service regulations, is empowered to supervise the execution of international wills.

(2) "International will" means a will executed in conformity with 72-2-902 through 72-2-905.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

72-2-902. Validity. (1) The form of a will is valid, regardless of the place where it is made, of the location of the assets, and of the nationality, domicile, or residence of the testator, if it is made in the form of an international will complying with the requirements of this part.

(2) The invalidity of the will as an international will does not affect its formal validity as a will of another kind.

(3) This part does not apply to the form of testamentary dispositions made by two or more persons in one instrument.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

72-2-903. Requirements. (1) An international will must be made in writing. It need not be personally written by the testator. It may be written in any language, by hand, or by any other means.

(2) The testator shall declare in the presence of two witnesses and of a person authorized to act in connection with international wills that the document is the testator's will and that the testator knows the contents of the will. The testator need not inform the witnesses or the authorized person of the contents of the will.

(3) In the presence of the witnesses and of the authorized person, the testator shall sign the will or, if the testator has previously signed it, shall acknowledge the testator's signature.

(4) If the testator is unable to sign, the absence of the testator's signature does not affect the validity of the international will if the testator indicates the reason for the testator's inability to sign and the authorized person makes note of the inability on the will. In that case, it is permissible for any other person present, including the authorized person or one of the witnesses, at the direction of the testator, to sign the testator's name for the testator if the authorized person makes note of this on the will, but it is not required that any person sign the testator's name for the testator.

(5) The witnesses and the authorized person shall there and then attest the will by signing in the presence of the testator.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 62, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2310, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-2-904. Other points of form. (1) The signatures must be placed at the end of the will. If the will consists of several sheets, each sheet must be signed by the testator or, if the testator is unable to sign, by the person signing on the testator's behalf or, if there is no such person, by the authorized person. In addition, each sheet must be numbered.

(2) The date of the will must be the date of its signature by the authorized person.

(3) The authorized person shall ask the testator whether the testator wished to make a declaration concerning the safekeeping of the testator's will. If so and at the express request of the testator, the place where the testator intends to have the will kept must be mentioned in the certificate provided for in 72-2-905.

(4) A will executed in compliance with 72-2-903 is not invalid merely because it does not comply with this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 62, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2311, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-2-905. Certificate. The authorized person shall attach to the will a certificate to be signed by the authorized person establishing that the requirements of this part for valid execution of an international will have been fulfilled. The authorized person shall keep a copy of the certificate and deliver another to the testator. The certificate must be substantially in the following form:

CERTIFICATE

(Convention of October 26, 1973)

I, ______________ (name, address, and capacity), a person authorized to act in connection with international wills, certify that on _________ (date) at ____________ (place) (testator) ________________ (name, address, date, and place of birth) in my presence and that of the witnesses

(a) ______________ (name, address, date, and place of birth)

(b) ______________ (name, address, date, and place of birth) has declared that the attached document is the testator's will and that the testator knows the contents of the will.

I furthermore certify that:

(a) in my presence and in that of the witnesses

(1) the testator has signed the will or has acknowledged the testator's signature previously affixed;

(2) following a declaration of the testator stating that the testator was unable to sign the will for the following reason ________________, I have mentioned this declaration on the will, and the signature has been affixed by ________________ (name and address);

(b) the witnesses and I have signed the will;

*(c) each page of the will has been signed by ______________ and numbered;

(d) I have satisfied myself as to the identity of the testator and of the witnesses as designated above;

(e) the witnesses met the conditions requisite to act as such according to the law under which I am acting;

*(f) the testator has requested me to include the following statement concerning the safekeeping of the will:

PLACE OF EXECUTION
DATE
SIGNATURE and, if necessary, SEAL

* to be completed if appropriate

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 62, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2312, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-2-906. Effect of certificate. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the certificate of the authorized person is conclusive of the formal validity of the instrument as a will under this part. The absence or irregularity of a certificate does not affect the formal validity of a will under this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

72-2-907. Revocation. An international will is subject to the ordinary rules of revocation of wills.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

72-2-908. Persons authorized to act in relation to international will — eligibility — recognition by authorizing agency. Individuals who have been admitted to practice law before the courts of this state and are currently licensed are authorized persons in relation to international wills.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

72-2-909. International will information registration. The secretary of state shall establish a registry system by which authorized persons may register in a central information center information regarding the execution of international wills, keeping that information in strictest confidence until the death of the maker and then making it available to any person desiring information about any will who presents a death certificate or other satisfactory evidence of the testator's death to the center. Information that may be received, preserved in confidence until death, and reported as indicated is limited to the name, social security or individual-identifying number established by law, address, and date and place of birth of the testator and the intended place of deposit or safekeeping of the instrument pending the death of the maker. The secretary of state, at the request of the authorized person, may cause the information that the secretary of state receives about the execution of any international will to be transmitted to the registry system of another jurisdiction as identified by the testator if that other registry system adheres to rules protecting the confidentiality of the information similar to those established in this state.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 62, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2313, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-2-910. Source and construction. Sections 72-2-901 through 72-2-907 derive from the Annex to Convention of October 26, 1973, Providing a Uniform Law on the Form of an International Will. In interpreting and applying this part, regard must be given to its international origin and to the need for uniformity in its interpretation.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 62, L. 1991.

Part 10
Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities — Honorary Trusts

Part Cross-References

Perpetuities, Art. XIII, sec. 6, Mont. Const.

72-2-1001. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Statutory Rule Against Perpetuities".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-801, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1001 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1002. Statutory rule against perpetuities. (1) A nonvested property interest is invalid unless:

(a) when the interest is created, it is certain to vest or terminate no later than 21 years after the death of an individual then alive; or

(b) the interest either vests or terminates within 90 years after its creation.

(2) A general power of appointment not presently exercisable because of a condition precedent is invalid unless:

(a) when the power is created, the condition precedent is certain to be satisfied or become impossible to satisfy no later than 21 years after the death of an individual then alive; or

(b) the condition precedent either is satisfied or becomes impossible to satisfy within 90 years after its creation.

(3) A nongeneral power of appointment or a general testamentary power of appointment is invalid unless:

(a) when the power is created, it is certain to be irrevocably exercised or otherwise to terminate no later than 21 years after the death of an individual then alive; or

(b) the power is irrevocably exercised or otherwise terminates within 90 years after its creation.

(4) In determining whether a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment is valid under subsection (1)(a), (2)(a), or (3)(a), the possibility that a child will be born to an individual after the individual's death is disregarded.

(5) If, in measuring a period from the creation of a trust or other property arrangement, a clause in a governing instrument purports to postpone the vesting or termination of any interest or trust until, purports to disallow the vesting or termination of any interest or trust beyond, purports to require all interests or trusts to vest or terminate no later than, or operates in any similar fashion upon the later of:

(a) the expiration of a period of time that exceeds 21 years or that exceeds or might exceed 21 years after the death of the survivor of lives in being at the creation of the trust or other property arrangement; or

(b) the death of, or the expiration of a period not exceeding 21 years after the death of, the survivor of specified lives in being at the creation of the trust or other property arrangement, then the portion of the clause pertaining to the period of time that exceeds 21 years or that exceeds or might exceed 21 years after the death of the survivor of lives in being at the creation of the trust or other property arrangement must be disregarded, and the clause operates upon the death of, or upon the expiration of the period not exceeding 21 years after the death of, the survivor of the specified lives in being at the creation of the trust or other property arrangement.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 250, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1991; Sec. 70-1-802, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1002 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1003. When nonvested property interest or power of appointment created. (1) Except as provided in 72-2-1005 and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the time of creation of a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment is determined under general principles of property law.

(2) For purposes of this part, if there is a person who alone can exercise a power created by a governing instrument to become the unqualified beneficial owner of a nonvested property interest or a property interest subject to a power of appointment described in 72-2-1002(2) or (3), the nonvested property interest or power of appointment is created when the power to become the unqualified beneficial owner terminates.

(3) For purposes of this part, a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment arising from a transfer of property to a previously funded trust or other existing property arrangement is created when the nonvested property interest or power of appointment in the original contribution was created.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-803, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1003 by Code Commissioner 1993.

72-2-1004. Reformation. Upon the petition of an interested person, a court shall reform a disposition in the manner that most closely approximates the transferor's manifested plan of distribution and that is within the 90 years allowed by 72-2-1002(1)(b), (2)(b), or (3)(b) if:

(1) a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment becomes invalid under 72-2-1002;

(2) a class gift is not but might become invalid under 72-2-1002 and the time has arrived when the share of any class member is to take effect in possession or enjoyment; or

(3) a nonvested property interest that is not validated by 72-2-1002(1)(a) can vest but not within 90 years after its creation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-804, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1004 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1005. Exclusions from statutory rule against perpetuities. Section 72-2-1002 does not apply to:

(1) a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment arising out of a nondonative transfer, except a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment arising out of a:

(a) premarital or postmarital agreement;

(b) separation or divorce settlement;

(c) spouse's election;

(d) similar arrangement arising out of a prospective, existing, or previous marital relationship between the parties;

(e) contract to make or not to revoke a will or trust;

(f) contract to exercise or not to exercise a power of appointment;

(g) transfer in satisfaction of a duty of support; or

(h) reciprocal transfer;

(2) a fiduciary's power relating to the administration or management of assets, including the power of a fiduciary to sell, lease, or mortgage property, and the power of a fiduciary to determine principal and income;

(3) the power to appoint a fiduciary;

(4) a discretionary power of a trustee to distribute principal before termination of a trust to a beneficiary having an indefeasibly vested interest in the income and principal;

(5) a nonvested property interest held by a charity, government, or governmental agency or subdivision if the nonvested property interest is preceded by an interest held by another charity, government, or governmental agency or subdivision;

(6) a nonvested property interest in or a power of appointment with respect to a trust or other property arrangement forming part of a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, health, disability, death benefit, income deferral, or other current or deferred benefit plan for one or more employees or independent contractors, or their beneficiaries or spouses, to which contributions are made for the purpose of distributing to or for the benefit of the participants or their beneficiaries or spouses the property, income, or principal in the trust or other property arrangement, except a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment that is created by an election of a participant or a beneficiary or spouse; or

(7) a property interest, power of appointment, or arrangement that was not subject to the common-law rule against perpetuities or is excluded by another statute of this state.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-805, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1005 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1006. Prospective application. (1) Except as extended by subsection (2), this part applies to a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment created on or after October 1, 1989. For purposes of this section, a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment created by the exercise of a power of appointment is created when the power is irrevocably exercised or when a revocable exercise becomes irrevocable.

(2) If a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment was created before October 1, 1989, and is determined in a judicial proceeding commenced on or after October 1, 1989, to violate this state's rule against perpetuities as that rule existed before October 1, 1989, a court, upon the petition of an interested person, may reform the disposition in the manner that most closely approximates the transferor's manifested plan of distribution and that is within the limits of the rule against perpetuities applicable when the nonvested property interest or power of appointment was created.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-806, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1006 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1007. Uniformity of application and construction. This part must be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this part among the states enacting it.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 250, L. 1989; Sec. 70-1-807, MCA 1991; redes. 72-2-1007 by Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-2-1008 through 72-2-1016 reserved.

72-2-1017. Honorary trusts — trusts for pets. (1) Subject to subsection (3), a trust may be performed by the trustee for 21 years but no longer, whether or not the terms of the trust contemplate a longer duration if:

(a) a trust is for a specific lawful noncharitable purpose or for lawful noncharitable purposes to be selected by the trustee; and

(b) there is no definite or definitely ascertainable beneficiary designated.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) and this subsection, a trust for the care of a designated domestic or pet animal is valid. The trust terminates when no living animal is covered by the trust. A governing instrument must be liberally construed to bring the transfer within this subsection, to presume against the merely precatory or honorary nature of the disposition, and to carry out the general intent of the transferor. Extrinsic evidence is admissible in determining the transferor's intent.

(3) In addition to the provisions of subsection (1) or (2), a trust covered by either of those subsections is subject to the following provisions:

(a) Except as expressly provided otherwise in the trust instrument, no portion of the principal or income may be converted to the use of the trustee or to any use other than for the trust's purposes or for the benefit of a covered animal.

(b) Upon termination, the trustee shall transfer the unexpended trust property in the following order:

(i) as directed in the trust instrument;

(ii) if the trust was created in a nonresiduary clause in the transferor's will or in a codicil to the transferor's will, under the residuary clause in the transferor's will; and

(iii) if no taker is produced by the application of subsection (3)(b)(i) or (3)(b)(ii), to the transferor's heirs under 72-2-721.

(c) For the purposes of 72-2-717, the residuary clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

(d) The intended use of the principal or income may be enforced by an individual designated for that purpose in the trust instrument or, if none, by an individual appointed by a court upon application to it by an individual.

(e) Except as ordered by the court or required by the trust instrument, no filing, report, registration, periodic accounting, separate maintenance of funds, appointment, or fee is required by reason of the existence of the fiduciary relationship of the trustee.

(f) A court may reduce the amount of the property transferred if it determines that that amount substantially exceeds the amount required for the intended use. The amount of the reduction, if any, passes as unexpended trust property under subsection (3)(b).

(g) If no trustee is designated or no designated trustee is willing or able to serve, a court shall name a trustee. A court may order the transfer of the property to another trustee if required to ensure that the intended use is carried out and if no successor trustee is designated in the trust instrument or if no designated successor trustee agrees to serve or is able to serve. A court may also make such other orders and determinations as are advisable to carry out the intent of the transferor and the purpose of this section.

History: En. Sec. 72, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Trusts, Title 72, ch. 38.

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72-3-1104. Small estates — closing by sworn statement of personal representative.

Part 1
General Provisions

72-3-101. Devolution of estate at death — restrictions. (1) The power of a person to leave property by will and the rights of creditors, devisees, and heirs to the person's property are subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this code to facilitate the prompt settlement of estates.

(2) Upon the death of a person, the decedent's real and personal property devolves to the persons to whom it is devised by the decedent's last will or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving lapse, renunciation, or other circumstances affecting the devolution of testate estates or, in the absence of testamentary disposition, to the decedent's heirs or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving renunciation or other circumstances affecting devolution of intestate estates, subject to homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance, to rights of creditors, elective share of the surviving spouse, and to administration.

History: En. 91A-3-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-101; amd. Sec. 2314, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-102. Necessity of order of probate of will. Except as provided in 72-3-1101, to be effective to prove the transfer of any property or to nominate an executor, a will must be declared to be valid by an order of informal probate by the clerk or an adjudication of probate by the court.

History: En. 91A-3-102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-102; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-103. Necessity of appointment for administration. Except as otherwise provided in chapter 4, to acquire the powers and undertake the duties and liabilities of a personal representative of a decedent, a person must be appointed by order of the court or clerk, qualify, and be issued letters. Administration of an estate is commenced by the issuance of letters.

History: En. 91A-3-103 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-103.

72-3-104. Claims against decedent — necessity of administration. (1) A proceeding to enforce a claim against the estate of a decedent or the decedent's successors may not be revived or commenced before the appointment of a personal representative. After the appointment and until distribution, all proceedings and actions to enforce a claim against the estate are governed by the procedure prescribed by Title 72, chapter 3, parts 1 through 10, and 72-3-1101 through 72-3-1103. After distribution, a creditor whose claim has not been barred may recover from the distributees as provided in 72-3-1012 or from a former personal representative individually liable as provided in 72-3-1014.

(2) This section has no application to a proceeding by a secured creditor of the decedent to enforce the secured creditor's right to security except as to any deficiency judgment that might be sought in the proceeding.

History: En. 91A-3-104 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-104; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 51, L. 1999.

72-3-105. Interested persons' rights of application and petition. Persons interested in decedent's estate may apply to the clerk for determination in the informal proceedings provided in chapter 3, part 2, and may petition the court for orders in formal proceedings within the court's jurisdiction, including but not limited to those described in chapter 3, parts 3 and 4.

History: En. 91A-3-105 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-105(part).

72-3-106. Interested person's right to demand notice of order or filing. (1) A person desiring notice of an order or filing pertaining to a decedent's estate in which the person has a financial or property interest may file a demand for notice with the court at any time after the death of the decedent stating:

(a) the name of the decedent;

(b) the nature of the demandant's interest in the estate; and

(c) the demandant's address or that of the demandant's attorney.

(2) The clerk shall mail a copy of the demand to the personal representative if one has been appointed.

(3) After filing of a demand, an order or filing to which the demand relates may not be made or accepted without notice as prescribed in 72-1-301 to the demandant or the demandant's attorney. The validity of an order that is issued or filing that is accepted without compliance

with this requirement may not be affected by the error, but the petitioner receiving the order or the person making the filing may be liable for any damage caused by the absence of notice.

(4) The requirement of notice arising from a demand under this provision may be waived in writing by the demandant and must cease upon the termination of the demandant's interest in the estate.

History: **En. 91A-3-204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-204; amd. Sec. 2315, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-107 and 72-3-108 reserved.

72-3-109. Acknowledgment of fiduciary relationship and obligations — personal representative, guardian, or conservator. (1) Every applicant for appointment as the personal representative of a decedent's estate, as a guardian, or as a conservator shall sign and verify before a notary public or under penalty of perjury the following statement:

"By signing, accepting, or acting under this appointment, I acknowledge that I will assume the duties and responsibilities of a fiduciary and that I must work exclusively for the benefit of the decedent's estate and its beneficiaries, the ward under any guardianship, or the protected person under any conservatorship. I also acknowledge that the primary duty of a personal representative, guardian, or conservator is the duty of loyalty to and protection of the best interests of the estate, ward, or protected person. Therefore, I acknowledge that:

I may not use any of the property or other assets of the decedent's estate, ward, or protected person for my own personal benefit;

I must direct any benefit derived from this appointment to the decedent's estate, ward, or protected person; and

I must avoid conflicts of interest and must use ordinary skill and prudence in carrying out the duties of this appointment."

(2) The statement in subsection (1) must be sworn before a notary public or executed under penalty of perjury in the following format:

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this ... day of ...., 20....

....

Signature of applicant"

(3) This section applies to all applications for appointment as a personal representative or as a special administrator under Title 72, chapter 3, parts 2, 3, 4, and 7.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 238, L. 2011.**

72-3-110 reserved.

72-3-111. Exclusive jurisdiction of court — binding nature of orders after notice. (1) The district court has exclusive jurisdiction of all probate matters.

(2) In proceedings within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court where notice is required by this code or by rule, interested persons may be bound by the orders of the court in respect to property in or subject to the laws of this state by notice in conformity with 72-1-301. An order is binding as to all who are given notice of the proceeding though less than all interested persons are notified.

History: **En. 91A-3-105, 91A-3-106 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-105(part), 91A-3-106.**

Cross-References

District Court jurisdiction, Title 3, ch. 5, part 3.

Trusts — subject matter jurisdiction, 72-38-201.

72-3-112. Venue for estate proceedings. (1) Venue for the first informal or formal testacy or appointment proceedings after a decedent's death is:

(a) in the county where the decedent had the decedent's domicile at the time of death; or

(b) if the decedent was not domiciled in this state, in any county where property of the decedent was located at the time of death.

(2) Venue for all subsequent proceedings within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court is in the place where the initial proceeding occurred unless the initial proceeding has been transferred as provided in 72-1-203 or subsection (3) of this section.

(3) If the first proceeding was informal, on application of an interested person and after notice to the proponent in the first proceeding, the court, upon finding that venue is elsewhere, may transfer the proceeding and the file to the other court.

(4) For the purpose of aiding determinations concerning location of assets which may be relevant in cases involving non-domiciliaries, a debt, other than one evidenced by investment or commercial paper or other instrument in favor of a non-domiciliary is located where the debtor resides or, if the debtor is a person other than an individual, at the place where it has its principal office. Commercial paper, investment paper, and other instruments are located where the instrument is. An interest in property held in trust is located where the trustee may be sued.

History: En. 91A-3-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-201(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 2316, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

72-3-113. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-3-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-201(4).

72-3-114. Conflicting claim as to domicile in another state. If conflicting claims as to the domicile of a decedent are made in a formal testacy or appointment proceeding commenced n this state and in a testacy or appointment proceeding after notice pending at the same time n another state, the court of this state must stay, dismiss, or permit suitable amendment in the proceeding here unless it is determined that the local proceeding was commenced before the proceeding elsewhere. The determination of domicile in the proceeding first commenced must be accepted as determinative in the proceeding in this state.

History: En. 91A-3-202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-202.

72-3-115 through 72-3-120 reserved.

72-3-121. Scope of proceedings when no supervised administration — proceedings independent — combination of proceedings. Unless supervised administration as described in chapter 3, part 4, is involved:

(1) each proceeding before the court or clerk is independent of any other proceeding involving the same estate;

(2) petitions for formal orders of the court may combine various requests for relief in a single proceeding if the orders sought may be finally granted without delay. Except as required for proceedings which are particularly described by other sections of this code, no petition is defective because it fails to embrace all matters which might then be the subject of a final order.

(3) proceedings for probate of wills or adjudications of no will may be combined with proceedings for appointment of personal representatives; and

(4) a proceeding for appointment of a personal representative is concluded by an order making or declining the appointment.

History: En. 91A-3-107 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-107.

72-3-122. Time limit on probate, testacy, and appointment proceedings — exceptions. (1) No informal probate or appointment proceeding or formal testacy or appointment proceeding, other than a proceeding to probate a will previously probated at the testator's domicile and appointment proceedings relating to an estate in which there has been a prior appointment, may be commenced more than 3 years after the decedent's death, except:

(a) if a previous proceeding was dismissed because of doubt about the fact of the decedent's death, appropriate probate, appointment, or testacy proceedings may be maintained at any time thereafter upon a finding that the decedent's death occurred prior to the initiation of the previous proceeding and the applicant or petitioner has not delayed unduly in initiating the subsequent proceeding;

(b) appropriate probate, appointment, or testacy proceedings may be maintained in relation to the estate of an absent, disappeared, or missing person for whose estate a conservator has been appointed at any time within 3 years after the conservator becomes able to establish the death of the protected person;

(c) a proceeding to contest an informally probated will and to secure appointment of the person with legal priority for appointment in the event the contest is successful may be commenced within the later of 12 months from the informal probate or 3 years from the decedent's death;

(d) an informal appointment or a formal testacy or appointment proceeding may be commenced thereafter, if no proceedings concerning the succession or estate administration have occurred within the 3-year period after the decedent's death, but the personal representative has no right to possess estate assets provided in 72-3-606 beyond that necessary to confirm title to the property in the successors to the estate, and claims other than expenses of administration may not be presented against the estate; and

(e) a formal testacy proceeding may be commenced at any time after 3 years from the decedent's death for the purpose of establishing an instrument to direct or control the ownership of property passing or distributable after the decedent's death from one other than the decedent when the property is to be appointed by the terms of the decedent's will or is to pass or be distributed as a part of the decedent's estate or its transfer is otherwise to be controlled by the terms of the decedent's will.

(2) These limitations do not apply to proceedings to construe probated wills or determine heirs of an intestate.

(3) In cases under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b), the date on which a testacy or appointment proceeding is properly commenced shall be deemed to be the date of the decedent's death for purposes of other limitations provisions of this code which relate to the date of death.

History: En. 91A-3-108 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-108; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 582, L. 1989 amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-123. Statutes of limitation on decedent's cause of action — applicability. A statute of limitation running on a cause of action belonging to a decedent, which had not been barred as of the date of the decedent's death, may not apply to bar a cause of action surviving the decedent's death sooner than 4 months after death. A cause of action that, but for this section would have been barred less than 4 months after death is barred after 4 months unless tolled.

History: En. 91A-3-109 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-109; amd. Sec. 2317, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

Actions involving personal property accruing after death and before issuance of letters of administration 27-2-304.

72-3-124 through 72-3-130 reserved.

72-3-131. Effect of approval of agreements involving trusts, inalienable interests or interests of third persons. (1) A compromise of any controversy as to admission to probate of any instrument offered for formal probate as the will of a decedent, the construction, validity or effect of any governing instrument, the rights or interests in the estate of the decedent, or any successor, or the administration of the estate, if approved in a formal proceeding in the court for that purpose, is binding on all the parties to the proceeding, including those unborn unascertained, or who could not be located.

(2) An approved compromise is binding even though it may affect a trust or an inalienable interest. A compromise does not impair the rights of creditors or of taxing authorities who are not parties to it.

History: En. 91A-3-1101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1101; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 592, L 1995; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-132. Procedure for securing court approval of compromise. The procedure for securing court approval of a compromise is as follows:

(1) The terms of the compromise must be set forth in an agreement in writing which must be executed by all competent persons and parents acting for any minor child having beneficia interests or having claims which will or may be affected by the compromise. Execution is not required by any person whose identity cannot be ascertained or whose whereabouts is unknown and cannot reasonably be ascertained.

(2) Any interested person, including the personal representative, if any, or a trustee then may submit the agreement to the court for its approval and for execution by the persona representative, the trustee of every affected testamentary trust, and other fiduciaries and representatives.

(3) After notice to all interested persons or their representatives, including the personal representative of any estate and all affected trustees of trusts, the court, if it finds that the contest or controversy is in good faith and that the effect of the agreement upon the interests of persons represented by fiduciaries or other representatives is just and reasonable, shall make an order approving the agreement and directing all fiduciaries under its supervision to execute the agreement. Minor children represented only by their parents may be bound only if their parents join with other competent persons in execution of the compromise.

(4) Upon the making of the order and the execution of the agreement, all further disposition of the estate is in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

History: En. 91A-3-1102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1102; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

Part 2
Informal Probate and Appointment Proceedings

72-3-201. Applications to be verified. Applications for informal probate or informal appointment must be directed to the clerk and verified by the applicant to be accurate and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief as to the information required by 72-3-202 through 72-3-205. By verifying an application for informal probate or informal appointment, the applicant submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding for relief from fraud relating to the application, or for perjury, that may be instituted against the applicant.

History: En. 91A-3-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-301(part); amd. Sec. 2318, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-202. Required contents of application. Every application for informal probate of a will or for informal appointment of a personal representative, other than a special, ancillary, or successor representative, must contain the following:

(1) a statement of the interest of the applicant;

(2) the name and date of death of the decedent, the decedent's age, and the county and state of the decedent's domicile at the time of death and the names and addresses of the spouse, children, heirs, and devisees and the ages of any who are minors so far as known or ascertainable with reasonable diligence by the applicant;

(3) if the decedent was not domiciled in the state at the time of death, a statement showing venue;

(4) a statement identifying and indicating the address of any personal representative of the decedent appointed in this state or elsewhere whose appointment has not been terminated;

(5) a statement indicating whether the applicant has received a demand for notice or is aware of any demand for notice of any probate or appointment proceeding concerning the decedent that may have been filed in this state or elsewhere; and

(6) that the time limit for informal probate or appointment as provided in this chapter has not expired either because 3 years or less have passed since the decedent's death, or, if more than 3 years from death have passed, circumstances as described by 72-3-122 have occurred authorizing tardy probate or appointment.

History: En. 91A-3-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-301(1); amd. Sec. 2319, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-203. Probate and appointment under will — additional information required. (1) An application for informal probate of a will must state the following in addition to the statements required by 72-3-202:

(a) that the original of the decedent's last will is in the possession of the court or accompanies the application, that an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the application, or that an authenticated copy of a will filed without probate in another jurisdiction and proved, as provided in 72-3-220, accompanies the application;

(b) that the applicant to the best of the applicant's knowledge believes the will to have been validly executed;

(c) that after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any instrument revoking the will and that the applicant believes that the instrument that is the subject of the application is the decedent's last will.

(2) An application for informal appointment of a personal representative to administer an estate under a will must describe the will by date of execution and state the time and place of probate or the pending application or petition for probate. The application for appointment must adopt the statements in the application or petition for probate and state the name, address, and priority for appointment of the person whose appointment is sought.

History: **En. 91A-3-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-301(2), (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 410, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-3-204. Appointment in intestacy — additional information required. An application for informal appointment of an administrator in intestacy must state in addition to the statements required by 72-3-202:

(1) that after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property having a situs in this state under 72-1-201 or a statement why any instrument of which the applicant may be aware is not being probated;

(2) the priority of the person whose appointment is sought and the names of any other persons having a prior or equal right to the appointment under 72-3-501 through 72-3-508.

History: **En. 91A-3-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-301(4); amd. Sec. 2320, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-205. Application for appointment of successor personal representative. (1) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative appointed under a different testacy status shall refer to the order in the most recent testacy proceeding, state the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and of the person whose appointment will be terminated if the application is granted, and describe the priority of the applicant.

(2) An application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative who has tendered a resignation as provided in 72-3-525 or whose appointment has been terminated by death or removal shall adopt the statements in the application or petition which led to the appointment of the person being succeeded except as specifically changed or corrected, state the name and address of the person who seeks appointment as successor, and describe the priority of the applicant.

History: **En. 91A-3-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-301(5), (6).**

72-3-206 through 72-3-210 reserved.

72-3-211. Informal probate — notice requirements. (1) The moving party shall give notice, as described by 72-1-301, of the application for informal probate:

(a) to any person demanding it pursuant to 72-3-106; and

(b) to any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated.

(2) No other notice of informal probate is required.

History: **En. 91A-3-306 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-306; amd. Sec. 2321, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-212. Informal probate — clerk to make findings. In an informal proceeding for original probate of a will, the clerk shall determine whether:

(1) the application is complete;

(2) the applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief;

(3) the applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in 72-1-103;

(4) on the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;

(5) an original, duly executed, and apparently unrevoked will, an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction, or an authenticated copy of a will filed without probate in another jurisdiction and proved, as provided in 72-3-220, is in the clerk's possession;

(6) any notice required by 72-3-106 has been given and that the application is not within 72-3-213(5); and

(7) it appears from the application that the time limit for original probate has not expired.

History: **En. 91A-3-303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-303(1); amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 410, L. 2005.**

72-3-213. Rules for grant or denial of informal probate. (1) A will that appears to have the required signatures and that contains an attestation clause showing that requirements of execution under 72-2-522 or 72-2-526 have been met must be probated without further proof. In other cases the clerk may assume execution if the will appears to be properly executed or may accept a sworn statement or affidavit of any person having knowledge of the circumstances of execution, whether or not the person was a witness to the will.

(2) The application must be denied if it indicates that a personal representative has been appointed in another county of this state or, except as provided in subsection (3), if it appears that this or another will of the decedent has been the subject of a previous probate order.

(3) Informal probate of a will that has been previously probated elsewhere may be granted at any time upon written application by any interested person, together with deposit of an authenticated copy of the will and of the statement probating it from the office or court where it was first probated.

(4) A will from a place that does not provide for probate of a will after death and that is not eligible for probate under 72-3-212 may be probated in this state upon receipt by the clerk of a duly authenticated copy of the will and a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy filed is a true copy and that the will has become operative under the law of the other place.

(5) Application for informal probate that relates to one or more of a known series of testamentary instruments (other than a will and one or more codicils to the will), the latest of which does not expressly revoke the earlier, must be declined.

History: **(1) thru (4)En. 91A-3-303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 1975; Sec. 91A-3-303, R.C.M. 1947; (5)En. 91A-3-304 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; Sec. 91A-3-304, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-303(2) thru (5), 91A-3-304; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-3-214. Power of clerk to deny informal probate — effect of denial. (1) If the clerk is not satisfied that a will is entitled to be probated in informal proceedings because of failure to meet the requirements of 72-3-212 and 72-3-213 or any other reason, the clerk may decline the application.

(2) A declination of informal probate is not an adjudication and does not preclude formal probate proceedings.

History: **En. 91A-3-305 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-305; amd. Sec. 2322, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-215. Clerk to issue statement of informal probate — effect — procedural defect not to void probate. (1) Upon receipt of an application requesting informal probate of a will, the clerk, upon making the findings required by 72-3-212 and 72-3-213, shall issue a written statement of informal probate if at least 120 hours have elapsed since the decedent's death.

(2) Informal probate is conclusive as to all persons until superseded by an order in a formal testacy proceeding.

(3) No defect in the application or procedure relating thereto which leads to informal probate of a will renders the probate void.

History: **En. 91A-3-302 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-302.**

72-3-216 through 72-3-219 reserved.

72-3-220. Nondomiciliary decedent — will filed and not probated in domiciliary state. A will of a nondomiciliary decedent that has been filed and not probated in a court in the domiciliary state may be proved for probate in this state by an authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will has been filed and not submitted for probate in the court in the domiciliary state.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 2005.**

72-3-221. Informal appointment — notice requirements. (1) The moving party shall give notice, as described by 72-1-301, of the party's intention to seek an appointment informally:

(a) to any person demanding it pursuant to 72-3-106; and

(b) to any person having a prior or equal right to appointment not waived in writing and filed with the court.

(2) No other notice of an informal appointment proceeding is required.

History: **En. 91A-3-310 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-310; amd. Sec. 2323, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-222. Informal appointment — clerk to make findings. In informal appointment proceedings, the clerk shall determine whether:

(1) the application for informal appointment of a personal representative is complete;

(2) the applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief;

(3) the applicant appears from the application to be an interested person as defined in 72-1-103;

(4) on the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper;

(5) any will to which the requested appointment relates has been formally or informally probated, but this requirement does not apply to the appointment of a special administrator;

(6) any notice required by 72-3-106 has been given;

(7) from the statements in the application, the person whose appointment is sought has priority entitling the person to the appointment.

History: En. 91A-3-308 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-308(1); amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-3-223. Rules for denial of informal appointment. (1) Unless 72-3-523 controls, the application must be denied if it indicates:

(a) that a personal representative who has not filed a written statement of resignation, as provided in 72-3-525, has been appointed in this or another county of this state;

(b) that, unless the applicant is the domiciliary personal representative or the domiciliary personal representative's nominee, the decedent was not domiciled in this state and that a personal representative whose appointment has not been terminated has been appointed by a court in the state of domicile; or

(c) that other requirements of 72-3-222 have not been met.

(2) If an application for informal appointment indicates the existence of a possible unrevoked testamentary instrument that may relate to property subject to the laws of this state and that is not filed for probate in this court, the clerk shall decline the application.

History: En. 91A-3-308, 91A-3-311 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-308(2), 91A-3-311; amd. Sec. 2324, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-224. Informal appointment — power of clerk to deny — effect of denial. (1) If the clerk is not satisfied that a requested informal appointment of a personal representative should be made because of failure to meet the requirements of 72-3-222, 72-3-223, and 72-3-225 or for any other reason, the clerk may decline the application.

(2) A declination of informal appointment is not an adjudication and does not preclude appointment in formal proceedings.

History: En. 91A-3-309 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-309; amd. Sec. 2325, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-225. Duty of clerk to make appointment — effect. (1) Upon receipt of an application for informal appointment of a personal representative other than a special administrator as provided in 72-3-701, if at least 120 hours have elapsed since the decedent's death, the clerk, after making the findings required by 72-3-222 and 72-3-223, shall appoint the applicant subject to qualification and acceptance. However, if the decedent was a nonresident, the clerk shall delay the order of appointment until 30 days have elapsed since death unless the personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile is the applicant or unless the decedent's will directs that the decedent's estate be subject to the laws of this state.

(2) The status of personal representative and the powers and duties pertaining to the office are fully established by informal appointment. An appointment and the office of personal representative created by the appointment are subject to termination, as provided in 72-3-521 through 72-3-526, but are not subject to retroactive vacation.

History: En. 91A-3-307 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-307; amd. Sec. 2326, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 3
Formal Testacy and Appointment Proceedings

72-3-301. Petition for formal testacy or appointment — contents — last will. (1) Petitions for formal probate of a will or for adjudication of intestacy with or without request for appointment of a personal representative must be directed to the court, request a judicial order after notice and hearing, and contain further statements as indicated in this section. A petition for formal probate of a will:

(a) requests an order as to the testacy of the decedent in relation to a particular instrument that may or may not have been informally probated and determining the heirs;

(b) contains the statements required for informal applications as stated in 72-3-202 and the statements required by 72-3-203(1)(b) and (1)(c); and

(c) states whether the original of the last will of the decedent is in the possession of the court or accompanies the petition. If the original will is not in the possession of the court or does not accompany the petition, if an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction does not accompany the petition, or if an authenticated copy of a will filed without probate in another jurisdiction and proved, as provided in 72-3-320, does not accompany the petition, the petition also must state the contents of the will and indicate that it is lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable.

(2) A petition for adjudication of intestacy and appointment of an administrator in intestacy must request a judicial finding and order that the decedent left no will and determining the heirs, contain the statements required by 72-3-202 and 72-3-204, and indicate whether supervised administration is sought. A petition may request an order determining intestacy and heirs without requesting the appointment of an administrator, in which case the statements required by 72-3-204(2) may be omitted.

History: **En. 91A-3-402 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-402; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 2005.**

72-3-302. Formal testacy proceedings — nature — how and when commenced. (1) A formal testacy proceeding is litigation to determine whether a decedent left a valid will.

(2) A formal testacy proceeding may be commenced by an interested person filing a petition:

(a) as described in 72-3-301(1) in which the person requests that the court, after notice and hearing, enter an order probating a will;

(b) to set aside an informal probate of a will or to prevent informal probate of a will that is the subject of a pending application; or

(c) for an order that the decedent died intestate.

(3) A petition may seek formal probate of a will without regard to whether the will or a conflicting will has been informally probated.

(4) A formal testacy proceeding may but need not involve a request for appointment of a personal representative.

History: **En. 91A-3-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-401(part); amd. Sec. 2327, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Undue influence, 28-2-407.

72-3-303. Formal proceeding supersedes all informal applications. During the pendency of a formal testacy proceeding, the clerk shall not act upon any application for informal probate of any will of the decedent or any application for informal appointment of a personal representative of the decedent.

History: **En. 91A-3-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-401(part).**

72-3-304. Effect of formal proceeding on power of informally appointed personal representative. Unless a petition in a formal testacy proceeding also requests confirmation of the previous informal appointment, a previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice of the commencement of a formal probate proceeding, shall refrain from exercising the personal representative's power to make any further distribution of the estate during the pendency of the formal proceeding. A petitioner who seeks the appointment of a different personal representative in a formal proceeding also may request an order restraining the acting personal representative from exercising any of the powers of that office and requesting the appointment of a special administrator. In the absence of a request or if the request is denied, the commencement of a formal proceeding has no effect on the powers and duties of a previously appointed personal representative other than those relating to distribution.

History: **En. 91A-3-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-401(part); amd. Sec. 2328, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-305. Notice of hearing on petition for formal testacy proceeding. (1) Upon commencement of a formal testacy proceeding, the court or clerk shall fix a time and place of hearing.

(2) Notice shall be given in the manner prescribed by 72-1-301 by the petitioner to the persons herein enumerated and to any additional person who has filed a demand for notice under 72-3-106 of this code. Notice shall be given to the following persons:

(a) the surviving spouse, children, and other heirs of the decedent;

(b) the devisees and executors named in any will that is being or has been probated or offered for informal or formal probate in the county or that is known by the petitioner to have been probated or offered for informal or formal probate elsewhere; and

(c) any personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated.

(3) In addition, the petitioner shall give notice by publication to all unknown persons and to all known persons whose addresses are unknown who have any interest in the matters being litigated.

(4) Notice may be given to other persons.

History: En. 91A-3-403 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-403(1)

72-3-306. Notice and procedure when fact of death in doubt. (1) If it appears by the petition or otherwise that the fact of the death of the alleged decedent may be in doubt or on the written demand of any interested person, a copy of the notice of the hearing on the petition must be sent by certified mail to the alleged decedent at the alleged decedent's last-known address The court shall direct the petitioner to report the results of or make and report back concerning a reasonably diligent search for the alleged decedent in any manner that may seem advisable including any of the following methods:

(a) by inserting in one or more suitable periodicals a notice requesting information from any person having knowledge of the whereabouts of the alleged decedent;

(b) by notifying law enforcement officials and public welfare agencies in appropriate locations of the disappearance of the alleged decedent;

(c) by engaging the services of an investigator.

(2) The costs of any search must be paid by the petitioner if there is no administration or by the estate of the decedent if there is administration.

History: En. 91A-3-403 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-403(2) amd. Sec. 2329, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-307. Hearings and proof in uncontested cases. If a petition in a testacy proceeding is unopposed, the court may order probate or intestacy on the strength of the pleadings if satisfied that the conditions of 72-3-313 and 72-3-316 have been met or conduct a hearing in open court and require proof of the matters necessary to support the order sought. If evidence concerning execution of the will is necessary, the affidavit or testimony of one of any attesting witnesses to the instrument is sufficient. If the affidavit or testimony of an attesting witness is not available, execution of the will may be proved by other evidence or affidavit.

History: En. 91A-3-405 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-405.

72-3-308. Written objections to probate. Any party to a formal proceeding who opposes the probate of a will for any reason shall state in the pleadings the party's objections to probate of the will.

History: En. 91A-3-404 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-404; amd. Sec. 2330, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-3-309. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-3-406 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-406; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-3-310. Burdens in contested cases. In contested cases, petitioners who seek to establish intestacy have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of death, venue, and heirship. Proponents of a will have the burden of establishing prima facie proof of due execution in all cases and, if they are also petitioners, prima facie proof of death and venue. Contestants of a will have the burden of establishing lack of testamentary intent or capacity, undue influence, fraud, duress, mistake, or revocation. Parties have the ultimate burden of persuasion as to matters with respect to which they have the initial burden of proof.

History: En. 91A-3-407 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-407(part).

Cross-References

Duress, 28-2-402.
Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Undue influence, 28-2-407.
Kinds of mistake, 28-2-408 through 28-2-411.

72-3-311. Priority of determinations in contested cases. If a will is opposed by the petition for probate of a later will revoking the former, it shall be determined first whether the later will is entitled to probate, and if a will is opposed by a petition for a declaration of intestacy, it shall be determined first whether the will is entitled to probate.

History: **En. 91A-3-407 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-407(part).**

72-3-312. Effect of final order in another state. A final order of a court of another state determining testacy, the validity or construction of a will, made in a proceeding involving notice to and an opportunity for contest by all interested persons must be accepted as determinative by the courts of this state if it includes or is based upon a finding that the decedent was domiciled at the decedent's death in the state where the order was made.

History: **En. 91A-3-408 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-408; amd. Sec. 2331, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-313. Order for formal probate. (1) After the time required for any notice has expired, upon proof of notice, and after any hearing that may be necessary, if the court finds that the testator is dead, that venue is proper, and that the proceeding was commenced within the limitation prescribed by 72-3-122, it shall determine the decedent's domicile at death, the decedent's heirs, and the decedent's state of testacy. Any will found to be valid and unrevoked must be formally probated.

(2) Termination of any previous informal appointment of a personal representative, which may be appropriate in view of the relief requested and findings, is governed by 72-3-523.

(3) The petition must be dismissed or appropriate amendment allowed if the court is not satisfied that the alleged decedent is dead.

History: **En. 91A-3-409 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-409(part); amd. Sec. 2332, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-314. Probate of more than one instrument — order. (1) If two or more instruments are offered for probate before a final order is entered in a formal testacy proceeding, more than one instrument may be probated if neither expressly revokes the other or contains provisions which work a total revocation by implication.

(2) If more than one instrument is probated, the order shall indicate what provisions control in respect to the nomination of an executor, if any. The order may but need not indicate how any provisions of a particular instrument are affected by the other instrument. After a final order in a testacy proceeding has been entered, no petition for probate of any other instrument of the decedent may be entertained, except incident to a petition to vacate or modify a previous probate order and subject to the time limits of 72-3-317.

History: **En. 91A-3-410 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-410.**

72-3-315. Order of partial intestacy. If it becomes evident in the course of a formal testacy proceeding that, though one or more instruments are entitled to be probated, the decedent's estate is or may be partially intestate, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

History: **En. 91A-3-411 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-411.**

72-3-316. Will from place where probate unprovided for. A will from a place which does not provide for probate of a will after death may be proved for probate in this state by a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will has become effective under the law of the other place.

History: **En. 91A-3-409 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-409(part).**

72-3-317. Effect of formal testacy order — modification or vacation — fact of death — remedies of alleged decedent. Subject to appeal and subject to vacation as provided in 72-3-318 and this section, a formal testacy order under 72-3-313 through 72-3-316, including an order that the decedent left no valid will and determining heirs, is final as to all persons with respect to all issues concerning the decedent's estate that the court considered or might have considered incident to its rendition relevant to the question of whether the decedent left a valid will and to the determination of heirs, except that:

(1) the court shall entertain a petition for modification or vacation of its order and probate of another will of the decedent if it is shown that the proponents of the later-offered will:

(a) were unaware of its existence at the time of the earlier proceeding; or

(b) were unaware of the earlier proceeding and were given no notice of the proceeding, except by publication;

(2) if intestacy of all or part of the estate has been ordered, the determination of heirs of the decedent may be reconsidered if it is shown that one or more persons were omitted from the determination and it is also shown that the persons:

(a) were unaware of their relationship to the decedent;

(b) were unaware of the decedent's death; or

(c) were given no notice of any proceeding concerning the decedent's estate, except by publication;

(3) a petition for vacation under either subsection (1) or (2) above must be filed prior to the earlier of the following time limits:

(a) if a personal representative has been appointed for the estate, the time of entry of any order approving final distribution of the estate or, if the estate is closed by statement, 6 months after the filing of the closing statement;

(b) whether or not a personal representative has been appointed for the estate of the decedent, the time prescribed by 72-3-122 when it is no longer possible to initiate an original proceeding to probate a will of the decedent;

(c) 12 months after the entry of the order sought to be vacated;

(4) the order originally rendered in the testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated, if appropriate under the circumstances, by the order of probate of the later-offered will or the order redetermining heirs;

(5) the finding of the fact of death is conclusive as to the alleged decedent only if notice of the hearing on the petition in the formal testacy proceeding was sent by registered or certified mail addressed to the alleged decedent at the last-known address and the court finds that a search under 72-3-306 was made. If the alleged decedent is not dead, even if notice was sent and search was made, the alleged decedent may recover estate assets in the hands of the personal representative. In addition to any remedies available to the alleged decedent by reason of any fraud or intentional wrongdoing, the alleged decedent may recover any estate or its proceeds from distributees that is in their hands or the value of distributions received by them, to the extent that any recovery from distributees is equitable in view of all of the circumstances.

History: En. 91A-3-412 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-412; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-3-318. Modification or vacation for other cause. For good cause shown, an order in a formal testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated within the time allowed for appeal.

History: En. 91A-3-413 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-413.

72-3-319. Formal appointment proceedings. (1) A formal proceeding for adjudication regarding the priority or qualification of one who is an applicant for appointment as personal representative or of one who previously has been appointed personal representative in informal proceedings, if an issue concerning the testacy of the decedent is or may be involved, is governed by 72-3-301 as well as by this section. In other cases, the petition shall contain or adopt the statements required by 72-3-202 and describe the question relating to priority or qualification of the personal representative which is to be resolved. If the proceeding precedes any appointment of a personal representative, it shall stay any pending informal appointment proceedings as well as any commenced thereafter. If the proceeding is commenced after appointment, the previously appointed personal representative, after receipt of notice thereof, shall refrain from exercising any power of administration except as necessary to preserve the estate or unless the court orders otherwise.

(2) After notice to interested persons, including all persons interested in the administration of the estate as successors under the applicable assumption concerning testacy, any previously appointed personal representative, and any person having or claiming priority for appointment as personal representative, the court shall determine who is entitled to appointment under 72-3-501 through 72-3-508, make a proper appointment, and if appropriate, terminate any prior appointment found to have been improper as provided in cases of removal under 72-3-526.

History: En. 91A-3-414 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-414.

72-3-320. Nondomiciliary decedent — will filed and not probated in domiciliary state. A will of a nondomiciliary decedent that has been filed and not probated in a court in the domiciliary state may be proved for probate in this state by an authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will has been filed and not submitted for probate in the court in the domiciliary state.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 2005.

72-3-321. Formal testacy proceedings — contested cases. In a contested case in which the proper execution of a will is at issue, the following rules apply:

(1) If the will is self-proved pursuant to 72-2-524, the will satisfies the requirements for execution without the testimony of any attesting witness, upon filing the will and the acknowledgment and affidavits annexed or attached to it, unless there is evidence of fraud or forgery affecting the acknowledgment or affidavit.

(2) If the will is witnessed pursuant to 72-2-522(1), but not self-proved, the testimony of at least one of the attesting witnesses is required to establish proper execution if the witness is within this state, competent, and able to testify. Proper execution may be established by other evidence, including an affidavit of an attesting witness. An attestation clause that is signed by the attesting witnesses raises a rebuttable presumption that the events recited in the clause occurred.

History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Part 4
Supervised Administration

72-3-401. Supervised administration — nature and purpose — presumptive entitlement. Supervised administration is a single in rem proceeding to secure complete administration and settlement of a decedent's estate under the continuing authority of the court, which extends until entry of an order approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative or other order terminating the proceeding. A supervised personal representative is responsible to the court, as well as to the interested parties, and is subject to directions concerning the estate made by the court on its own motion or on the motion of any interested party. Except as otherwise provided in this part, or as otherwise ordered by the court, a supervised personal representative has the same duties and powers as a personal representative who is not supervised.

History: En. 91A-3-501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-501(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 238, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-402. Petition and order. (1) A petition for supervised administration may be filed by any interested person or by a personal representative at any time or the prayer for supervised administration may be joined with a petition in a testacy or appointment proceeding. If the testacy of the decedent and the priority and qualification of any personal representative have not been adjudicated previously, the petition for supervised administration shall include the matters required of a petition in a formal testacy proceeding and the notice requirements and procedures applicable to a formal testacy proceeding apply. If not previously adjudicated, the court shall adjudicate the testacy of the decedent and questions relating to the priority and qualifications of the personal representative in any case involving a request for supervised administration, even though the request for supervised administration may be denied.

(2) After notice to interested persons, the court shall order supervised administration of a decedent's estate:

(a) if the decedent's will directs supervised administration, unless the court finds that circumstances bearing on the need for supervised administration have changed since the execution of the will and that there is no necessity for supervised administration;

(b) only upon a finding that it is necessary for protection of persons interested in the estate if the decedent's will directs unsupervised administration; or

(c) in other cases if the court finds that supervised administration is necessary under the circumstances.

History: En. 91A-3-502 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-502.

72-3-403. Effect on other proceedings and previously appointed personal representative. (1) The pendency of a proceeding for supervised administration of a decedent's estate stays action on any informal application then pending or filed after the pending proceeding.

(2) If a will has been previously probated in informal proceedings, the effect of the filing of a petition for supervised administration is as provided for formal testacy proceedings by 72-3-303 and 72-3-304.

(3) After a personal representative has received notice of the filing of a petition for supervised administration, a personal representative who has been appointed previously may not exercise the power to distribute any estate. The filing of the petition does not affect the personal representative's other powers and duties unless the court restricts the exercise of any of them pending a full hearing on the petition.

History: En. 91A-3-503 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-503; amd. Sec. 2333, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-404. Powers of personal representative in supervised administration. Unless restricted by the court, a supervised personal representative has, without interim orders approving exercise of a power, all powers of personal representatives under this code, but the personal representative may not exercise the power to make any distribution of the estate without prior order of the court. Any other restriction on the power of a personal representative that may be ordered by the court must be endorsed on the personal representative's letters of appointment and unless so endorsed is ineffective as to persons dealing in good faith with the personal representative.

History: En. 91A-3-501, 91A-3-504 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-501(part), 91A-3-504; amd. Sec. 2334, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-405. Interim orders. Interim orders approving or directing partial distributions or granting other relief may be issued by the court at any time during the pendency of a supervised administration on the application of the personal representative or any interested person.

History: En. 91A-3-505 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-505(part).

72-3-406. Closing orders. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, supervised administration is terminated by order in accordance with time restrictions, notices, and contents of orders prescribed for proceedings under 72-3-1001 and 72-3-1002.

History: En. 91A-3-505 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-505(part).

Part 5
Personal Representative
Appointment Priorities, Bond, and Termination

72-3-501. Who may not be personal representative. No person is qualified to serve as a personal representative who is:

(1) under the age of 18;

(2) a person whom the court finds unsuitable in formal proceedings.

History: En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(6).

Cross-References

Rights of persons not adults, Art. II, sec. 15, Mont. Const.

72-3-502. Priorities for appointment. Whether the proceedings are formal or informal, persons who are not disqualified have priority for appointment in the following order:

(1) the person with priority as determined by a probated will, including a person nominated by a power conferred in a will;

(2) the surviving spouse of the decedent who is a devisee of the decedent;

(3) the custodial parent of a minor decedent;

(4) other devisees of the decedent;

(5) the surviving spouse of the decedent;

(6) the parent of an adult decedent who was survived by issue, none of whom is an adult;

(7) other heirs of the decedent;

(8) public administrator;

(9) 45 days after the death of the decedent, any creditor.

History: En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(1) amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-503. Objection to appointment. (1) An objection to an appointment can be made only in formal proceedings.

(2) In case of objection the priorities stated in 72-3-502 apply, except that:

(a) if the estate appears to be more than adequate to meet exemptions and costs of administration but inadequate to discharge anticipated unsecured claims, the court, on petition of creditors, may appoint any qualified person;

(b) in case of objection to appointment of a person other than one whose priority is determined by will by an heir or devisee appearing to have a substantial interest in the estate, the court may appoint a person who is acceptable to heirs and devisees whose interests in the estate appear to be worth in total more than half of the probable distributable value or, in default of this accord, any suitable person.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(2).**

72-3-504. Renunciation — nomination of other — two or more persons sharing priority. (1) A person entitled to letters under 72-3-502(2) through (7) may nominate a qualified person to act as personal representative.

(2) Any person entitled to letters may renounce the person's right to nominate or to an appointment by appropriate writing filed with the court.

(3) When two or more persons share a priority, those of them who do not renounce shall concur in nominating another to act for them or in applying for appointment. If they are unable to concur in nominating another to act for them or in applying for appointment, the court may appoint any qualified person.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(3); amd. Sec. 2335, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-3-505. Rights of conservators relating to appointment. Conservators of the estates of protected persons or, if there is no conservator, any guardian except a guardian ad litem of a minor or incapacitated person may exercise the same right to nominate, to object to another's appointment, or to participate in determining the preference of a majority in interest of the heirs and devisees that the protected person or ward would have if qualified for appointment.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(4).**

Cross-References

Persons under disability — guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

72-3-506. Priority of domiciliary personal representative. A personal representative appointed by a court of the decedent's domicile has priority over all other persons, except where the decedent's will nominates different persons to be personal representative in this state and in the state of domicile. The domiciliary personal representative may nominate another, who shall have the same priority as the domiciliary personal representative.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(7).**

72-3-507. Appointment of one not having priority. Appointment of one who does not have priority, including priority resulting from renunciation or nomination determined pursuant to 72-3-504, may be made only in formal proceedings. Before appointing one without priority, the court must determine that those having priority, although given notice of the proceedings, have failed to request appointment or to nominate another for appointment and that administration is necessary.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(5).**

72-3-508. Application of priority provisions to appointment of successor. Sections 72-3-501 through 72-3-507 govern priority for appointment of a successor personal representative but do not apply to the selection of a special administrator.

History: **En. 91A-3-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-203(8).**

72-3-509 and 72-3-510 reserved.

72-3-511. Acceptance of appointment — consent to jurisdiction. By accepting appointment, a personal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by any interested person. Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the personal representative or mailed to the personal representative by ordinary first-class mail at the address as listed in the application or petition for appointment or as reported to the court and to the personal representative's address as then known to the petitioner.

History: En. 91A-3-602 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-602; amd. Sec. 2336, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-512. Qualification — filing of bond and statement of acceptance. Prior to receiving letters, a personal representative shall qualify by filing with the appointing court any required bond and a statement of acceptance of the duties of the office.

History: En. 91A-3-601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-601.

Cross-References

Documents requiring seals, 3-1-206.

Authority of agent, Title 28, ch. 10, part 4.

72-3-513. Bond — when required. (1) Bond is not required of a personal representative appointed in informal proceedings, except:

(a) upon the appointment of a special administrator;

(b) when an executor or other personal representative is appointed to administer an estate under a will containing an express requirement of bond; or

(c) when bond is required under 72-3-514.

(2) Bond may be required by court order at the time of appointment of a personal representative appointed in any formal proceeding, except that bond is not required of a personal representative appointed in formal proceedings if the will relieves the personal representative of bond unless bond has been requested by an interested party and the court is satisfied that it is desirable. Bond required by any will may be dispensed with in formal proceedings upon determination by the court that it is not necessary.

(3) Bond is not required of any personal representative who, pursuant to statute, has deposited cash or collateral with an agency of this state to secure performance of the personal representative's duties.

History: En. 91A-3-603 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-603; amd. Sec. 2337, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Authority of agent, Title 28, ch. 10, part 4.

72-3-514. Demand for bond by interested person. (1) Any person apparently having an interest in the estate worth in excess of $5,000 or any creditor having a claim in excess of $5,000 may make a written demand that a personal representative give bond. The demand must be filed with the clerk and a copy mailed to the personal representative, if appointment and qualification have occurred. Upon filing of the demand, bond is required, but the requirement ceases if the person demanding bond ceases to be interested in the estate or if bond is excused as provided in 72-3-513 or 72-3-515.

(2) After the personal representative has received notice and until the filing of the bond or cessation of the requirement of bond, the personal representative shall refrain from exercising any powers of the personal representative's office except as necessary to preserve the estate.

(3) Failure of the personal representative to meet a requirement of bond by giving suitable bond within 30 days after receipt of notice is cause for removal and appointment of a successor personal representative.

History: En. 91A-3-605 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-605; amd. Sec. 2338, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Authority of agent, Title 28, ch. 10, part 4.

72-3-515. Bond amount — security — reduction. (1) If bond is required and the provisions of the will or order do not specify the amount, unless stated in the application or petition, the person qualifying shall file a statement under oath with the clerk indicating the person's best estimate of the value of the personal estate of the decedent and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year, and the person shall execute and file a bond with the clerk or give other suitable security in an amount not less than the estimate.

(2) The clerk shall determine that the bond is duly executed by a corporate surety or one or more individual sureties whose performance is secured by pledge of personal property, mortgage on real property, or other adequate security.

(3) The clerk may permit the amount of the bond to be reduced by the value of assets of the estate deposited with a domestic financial institution in a manner that prevents their unauthorized disposition. On petition of the personal representative or another interested person, the court may excuse a requirement of bond, increase or reduce the amount of the bond, release sureties, or permit the substitution of another bond with the same or different sureties.

History: **En. 91A-3-604 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-604; amd. Sec. 2339, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Authority of agent, Title 28, ch. 10, part 4.

72-3-516. Terms of bond — liability of surety. (1) The following requirements and provisions apply to any bond required by this part:

(a) Bonds must name the state as obligee for the benefit of the persons interested in the estate and must be conditioned upon the faithful discharge by the fiduciary of all duties according to law.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the personal representative and with each other. The address of sureties must be stated in the bond.

(c) By executing an approved bond of a personal representative, the surety consents to the jurisdiction of the probate court that issued letters to the primary obligor in any proceedings pertaining to the fiduciary duties of the personal representative and naming the surety as a party. Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the surety or mailed to the surety by certified mail at the surety's address as listed with the court where the bond is filed and to the surety's address as then known to the petitioner.

(d) On petition of a successor personal representative, any other personal representative of the same decedent, or any interested person, a proceeding in the court may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the bond of the personal representative.

(e) The bond of the personal representative is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(2) No action or proceeding may be commenced against the surety on any matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

History: **En. 91A-3-606 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-606; amd. Sec. 2340, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Authority of agent, Title 28, ch. 10, part 4.

72-3-517 through 72-3-520 reserved.

72-3-521. Termination of appointment — general effect. Termination of appointment of a personal representative occurs as indicated in 72-3-522 through 72-3-526, inclusive. Termination ends the right and power pertaining to the office of personal representative as conferred by this code or any will, except that a personal representative, at any time prior to distribution or until restrained or enjoined by court order, may perform acts necessary to protect the estate and may deliver the assets to a successor representative. Termination does not discharge a personal representative from liability for transactions or omissions occurring before termination or relieve the personal representative of the duty to preserve assets subject to the personal representative's control, to account for the assets, and to deliver the assets. Termination does not affect the jurisdiction of the court over the personal representative but terminates the personal representative's authority to represent the estate in any pending or future proceeding.

History: **En. 91A-3-608 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-608; amd. Sec. 2341, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-522. Termination of appointment — death or disability. (1) The death of a personal representative or the appointment of a conservator for the estate of a personal representative terminates the personal representative's appointment.

(2) Until appointment and qualification of a successor or special representative to replace the deceased or protected representative, the representative of the estate of the deceased or protected personal representative, if any, has the duty to protect the estate possessed and being administered by the representative's decedent or ward at the time the appointment terminates,

has the power to perform acts necessary for protection, and shall account for and deliver the estate assets to a successor or special personal representative upon that person's appointment and qualification.

History: En. 91A-3-609 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-609; amd. Sec. 2342, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-523. Termination of appointment — change of testacy status. Except as otherwise ordered in formal proceedings, the probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of a personal representative in intestacy or under a will that is superseded by formal probate of another will or the vacation of an informal probate of a will subsequent to the appointment of the personal representative under the will does not terminate the appointment of the personal representative although the personal representative's powers may be reduced as provided in 72-3-304. Termination occurs upon appointment in informal or formal appointment proceedings of a person entitled to appointment under the later assumption concerning testacy. If a request for new appointment is not made within 30 days after expiration of time for appeal from the order in formal testacy proceedings or from the informal probate changing the assumption concerning testacy, the previously appointed personal representative upon request may be appointed personal representative under the subsequently probated will or as in intestacy, as the case may be.

History: En. 91A-3-612 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-612; amd. Sec. 2343, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-524. Termination of appointment — closing of estate. (1) An appointment of a personal representative terminates, as provided in 72-3-1004, 1 year after the filing of a closing statement.

(2) An order closing an estate as provided in 72-3-1001, 72-3-1002, or 72-3-1003 terminates an appointment of a personal representative.

History: En. 91A-3-610 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-610(1), (2).

72-3-525. Termination of appointment — voluntary. A personal representative may resign the position by filing a written statement of resignation with the clerk after the personal representative has given at least 15 days' written notice to the persons known to be interested in the estate. If no one applies or petitions for appointment of a successor representative within the time indicated in the notice, the filed statement of resignation is ineffective as a termination of appointment and in any event is effective only upon the appointment and qualification of a successor representative and delivery of the assets to the successor representative.

History: En. 91A-3-610 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-610(3); amd. Sec. 2344, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-526. Termination of appointment — removal for cause. (1) A person interested in the estate may petition for removal of a personal representative for cause at any time. Upon filing of the petition, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing. Notice must be given by the petitioner to the personal representative and to other persons as the court may order. Except as otherwise ordered as provided in 72-3-617, after receipt of notice of removal proceedings, the personal representative may not act except to account, to correct maladministration, or preserve the estate. If removal is ordered, the court also shall direct by order the disposition of the assets remaining in the name of or under the control of the personal representative being removed.

(2) Cause for removal exists:

(a) when removal would be in the best interests of the estate; or

(b) if it is shown that a personal representative or the person seeking the personal representative's appointment intentionally misrepresented material facts in the proceedings leading to the appointment or that the personal representative has disregarded an order of the court, has become incapable of discharging the duties of the office, or has mismanaged the estate or failed to perform any duty pertaining to the office.

(3) Unless the decedent's will directs otherwise, a personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile, incident to securing self-appointment or appointment of the personal representative's nominee as ancillary personal representative, may obtain removal of another who was appointed personal representative in this state to administer local assets.

History: En. 91A-3-611 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-611; amd. Sec. 2345, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-3-527. Successor personal representative. (1) Parts 2 and 3 of this chapter govern roceedings for appointment of a personal representative to succeed one whose appointment as been terminated.

(2) After appointment and qualification, a successor personal representative may be ubstituted in all actions and proceedings to which the former personal representative was party, and a notice, process, or claim that was given or served upon the former personal epresentative is not required to be given to or served upon the successor in order to preserve ny position or right the person giving the notice or filing the claim may have obtained or reserved with reference to the former personal representative.

(3) Except as otherwise ordered by the court, the successor personal representative has he powers and duties in respect to the continued administration that the former personal epresentative would have had if the former personal representative's appointment had not een terminated.

History: **En. 91A-3-613 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-613; amd. Sec. 2346, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 6
Personal Representative Powers, Duties, and Compensation

72-3-601. Time of accrual of duties and powers — power of executor prior to ppointment — ratification. (1) The duties and powers of a personal representative commence pon appointment. The powers of a personal representative relate back in time to give acts by he person appointed that are beneficial to the estate occurring prior to appointment the same ffect as those occurring after appointment.

(2) Prior to appointment, a person named executor in a will may carry out written nstructions of the decedent relating to the decedent's body, funeral, and burial arrangements.

(3) A personal representative may ratify and accept acts on behalf of the estate done by thers when the acts would have been proper for a personal representative.

History: **En. 91A-3-701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-701; amd. Sec. 2347, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-602. Priority among different letters. A person to whom general letters are issued rst has exclusive authority under the letters until the person's appointment is terminated or nodified. If, through error, general letters are afterwards issued to another, the first appointed epresentative may recover any property of the estate in the hands of the representative ubsequently appointed, but the acts of the subsequent representative done in good faith before otice of the first letters are not void for want of validity of appointment.

History: **En. 91A-3-702 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-702; amd. Sec. 2348, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-603. Notice of appointment to heirs and devisees. (1) Not later than 30 days fter appointment, every personal representative, except any special administrator, shall give nformation of the appointment to the heirs and devisees, including, if there has been no formal estacy proceeding and if the personal representative was appointed on the assumption that the ecedent died intestate, the devisees in any will mentioned in the application for appointment f a personal representative. The information must be delivered or sent by ordinary mail to each f the heirs and devisees whose address is reasonably available to the personal representative. he duty does not extend to require information to persons who have been adjudicated in a prior ormal testacy proceeding to have no interest in the estate.

(2) (a) The information must:

(i) include the name and address of the personal representative;

(ii) indicate that it is being sent to persons who have or may have some interest in the state being administered;

(iii) indicate whether bond has been filed; and

(iv) describe the court where papers relating to the estate are on file.

(b) The information must state that the estate is being administered by the personal epresentative under the Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the court but hat recipients are entitled to information regarding the administration from the personal epresentative and may petition the court in any matter relating to the estate, including istribution of assets and expenses of administration.

(3) The personal representative's failure to give this information is a breach of the personal representative's duty to the persons concerned but does not affect the validity of the personal representative's appointment, powers, or other duties.

(4) A personal representative may inform other persons of the appointment by delivery or ordinary first-class mail.

History: En. 91A-3-705 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-705; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2349, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-604. Standing to sue. Except as to proceedings that do not survive the death of the decedent, a personal representative of a decedent domiciled in this state at death has the same standing to sue and be sued in the courts of this state and the courts of any other jurisdiction as the decedent had immediately prior to death.

History: En. 91A-3-703 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-703(3); amd. Sec. 2350, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-605. Personal representative to proceed without court order — power to invoke jurisdiction. A personal representative shall proceed expeditiously with the settlement and distribution of a decedent's estate and, except as otherwise specified under this code or ordered in regard to a supervised personal representative, do so without adjudication, order, or direction of the court, but the personal representative may invoke the jurisdiction of the court, in proceedings authorized by this code, to resolve questions concerning the estate or its administration.

History: En. 91A-3-704 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-704; amd. Sec. 2351, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-606. Possession and protection of estate. (1) Except as otherwise provided by a decedent's will, a personal representative has a right to and shall take possession or control of the decedent's property, except that any real property or tangible personal property may be left with or surrendered to the person presumptively entitled to the property unless or until, in the judgment of the personal representative, possession of the property by the personal representative will be necessary for purposes of administration. The request by a personal representative for delivery of any property possessed by an heir or devisee is conclusive evidence, in any action against the heir or devisee for possession of the property, that the possession of the property by the personal representative is necessary for purposes of administration.

(2) The personal representative shall pay taxes on and take all steps reasonably necessary for the management, protection, and preservation of the estate in the personal representative's possession. The personal representative may maintain an action to recover possession of property or to determine the title to the property.

History: En. 91A-3-708 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-708; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2352, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Disposition of property of deceased — suicide note, 7-4-2917.

Estate tax, Title 72, ch. 16, part 9.

72-3-607. Inventory — appraisal. (1) Within 9 months after appointment, a personal representative who is not a special administrator or a successor to another representative who has previously discharged this duty shall prepare an inventory of probate property owned by the decedent at the time of the decedent's death, listing the inventory of property with reasonable detail and indicating for each listed item its fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death and the type and amount of any encumbrance that may exist with reference to the item.

(2) The inventory must include a statement of the fair market value of the decedent's interest in every item listed in the inventory. The personal representative may employ a qualified and disinterested appraiser to assist in ascertaining the fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death of any asset the value of which may be subject to reasonable doubt. Different persons may be employed to appraise different kinds of assets included in the estate. The names and addresses of any appraiser must be indicated on the inventory with the item or items appraised.

(3) The personal representative shall:

(a) send a copy of the inventory to the following who request it: heirs, devisees, and creditors with allowed claims that have not been satisfied; or

(b) file the original of the inventory with the court and send a copy of the inventory to interested persons who request it.

(4) An heir, devisee, creditor, and any other interested person may waive their right to receive a copy of the inventory by executing a written waiver that is delivered to the personal representative. For the purposes of subsection (3)(a), the personal representative is considered to have sent a copy of the inventory to the waiving party.

(5) The personal representative may prepare a list of all property owned by the decedent at the time of decedent's death, including both probate and nonprobate property, the fair market value and nature of the decedent's interest in the property on the date of the decedent's death, and the name of each nonprobate transferee.

(6) Unless the court orders otherwise after notice and hearing, within 90 days of a demand by the decedent's spouse who has a right to election under 72-2-232 and whose right has not expired pursuant to 72-2-241, the personal representative who is not a special administrator or a successor to another representative who has previously discharged this duty shall prepare a list of all property owned by the decedent at the time of decedent's death, including both probate and nonprobate property, the fair market value and nature of the decedent's interest in the property on the date of the decedent's death, and the name of each nonprobate transferee, in each case, to the extent known or reasonably discoverable by the personal representative, and shall mail a copy of the list to the surviving spouse who has demanded it.

(7) The personal representative has authority to acquire information necessary to complete the inventory described in subsection (1) and to complete the list described in subsections (5) and (6). Parties providing the information requested by the personal representative are discharged from all liability for doing so. The personal representative is discharged from all liability for disclosing the information necessary to fulfill the personal representative's duties and for disclosing the information to the surviving spouse under subsection (5).

History: En. 91A-3-706 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-706; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 68, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

72-3-608. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 52, L. 1981.

History: En. 91A-3-715.1 by Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-715.1.

72-3-609. Supplemental inventory. If any property not included in the original inventory comes to the knowledge of a personal representative or if the personal representative learns that the value or description indicated in the original inventory for any item is erroneous or misleading, the personal representative shall make a supplemental inventory or appraisal showing the market value as of the date of the decedent's death of the new item or the revised market value or descriptions and the appraisers or other data relied upon, if any. The personal representative shall file the supplemental inventory with the court if the original inventory was filed or shall furnish copies of the supplemental inventory or information to persons interested in the new information.

History: En. 91A-3-707 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-707; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 68, L. 2003.

72-3-610. General duties — fiduciary. A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall observe the standards of care applicable to trustees under the laws of the state of Montana. A personal representative is under a duty to settle and distribute the estate of the decedent in accordance with the terms of any probated and effective will and this code and as expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with the best interests of the estate. The personal representative shall use the authority conferred upon the personal representative by this code, the terms of the will, if any, and any order in proceedings to which the personal representative is party for the best interests of successors to the estate.

History: En. 91A-3-703 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-703(1); amd. Sec. 2353, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

72-3-611. No surcharge for authorized acts generally — limitation. (1) A personal representative may not be surcharged for acts of administration or distribution if the conduct in question was authorized at the time. Subject to other obligations of administration and of this code, an informally probated will is authority to administer and distribute the estate according to its terms. Subject to the provisions of this code, an order of appointment of a personal representative, whether issued in informal or formal proceedings, is authority to distribute apparently intestate assets to the heirs of the decedent if, at the time of distribution, the personal representative is not aware of a pending testacy proceeding, a proceeding to vacate an order entered in an earlier testacy proceeding, a formal proceeding questioning the personal representative's appointment or fitness to continue, or a supervised administration proceeding.

(2) This section does not affect the duty of the personal representative to administer and distribute the estate in accordance with the rights of claimants whose claims have been allowed, the surviving spouse, any minor and dependent children, and any pretermitted child of the decedent as described elsewhere in this code.

History: En. 91A-3-703 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-703(2); amd. Sec. 2354, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-612. No individual liability — exceptions — certain claims to be brought against personal representative. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a personal representative is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in the personal representative's fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the estate unless the personal representative fails to reveal the representative capacity and identify the estate in the contract.

(2) A personal representative is individually liable for obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate or for torts committed in the course of administration of the estate only if the personal representative is personally at fault.

(3) Claims based on contracts entered into by a personal representative in a fiduciary capacity, on obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate, or on torts committed in the course of estate administration may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the personal representative in the personal representative's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the personal representative is individually liable.

(4) Issues of liability as between the estate and the personal representative individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, or indemnification or other appropriate proceeding.

History: En. 91A-3-808 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-808; amd. Sec. 2355, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-613. Transactions authorized for personal representative. Except as restricted by this code or otherwise provided by the will or by an order in a formal proceeding and subject to the priorities stated in 72-3-901, a personal representative, acting reasonably for the benefit of the interested persons, may properly:

(1) retain assets owned by the decedent pending distribution or liquidation, including those in which the representative is personally interested or which are otherwise improper for trust investment;

(2) receive assets from fiduciaries or other sources;

(3) perform, compromise, or refuse performance of the decedent's contracts that continue as obligations of the estate, as the personal representative may determine under the circumstances. In performing enforceable contracts by the decedent to convey or lease land, the personal representative, among other possible courses of action, may:

(a) execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of all sums remaining due or the purchaser's note for the sum remaining due secured by a mortgage or deed of trust on the land; or

(b) deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the successors of the decedent, as designated in the escrow agreement;

(4) satisfy written charitable pledges of the decedent irrespective of whether the pledges constituted binding obligations of the decedent or were properly presented as claims, if in the judgment of the personal representative the decedent would have wanted the pledges completed under the circumstances;

(5) if funds are not needed to meet debts and expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, deposit or invest liquid assets of the estate, including money received from the sale of other assets, in federally insured interest-bearing accounts, readily marketable secured loan arrangements, or other prudent investments that would be reasonable for use by trustees generally. If the personal representative is authorized to invest funds in United States obligations, the personal representative may invest in these obligations either directly or in the form of securities of or other interests in an open-end or closed-end management type investment company or investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 through 80a-64), as amended, if:

(a) the portfolio of the investment company or investment trust is limited to United States government obligations and repurchase agreements fully collateralized by United States government obligations; and

(b) the investment company or investment trust takes delivery of the collateral for any repurchase agreement, either directly or through an authorized custodian.

(6) acquire or dispose of an asset, including land in this or another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon an estate asset;

(7) make ordinary or extraordinary repairs or alterations in buildings or other structures, demolish any improvements, raze existing or erect new party walls or buildings;

(8) subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use; make or obtain the vacation of plats and adjust boundaries; adjust differences in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving considerations; or dedicate easements to public use without consideration;

(9) enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee, with or without option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the period of administration;

(10) enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or other natural resources or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement;

(11) abandon property when in the opinion of the personal representative it is valueless or is so encumbered or is in condition that it is of no benefit to the estate;

(12) vote stocks or other securities in person or by general or limited proxy;

(13) pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or accruing against or on account of securities, unless barred by the provisions relating to claims;

(14) hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the interest of the estate, but the personal representative is liable for any act of the nominee in connection with the security so held;

(15) insure the assets of the estate against damage, loss, and liability and the personal representative against liability as to third persons;

(16) borrow money with or without security to be repaid from the estate assets or otherwise and advance money for the protection of the estate;

(17) effect a fair and reasonable compromise with any debtor or obligor or extend, renew, or in any manner modify the terms of any obligation owing to the estate. If the personal representative holds a mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property of another person, the personal representative may, in lieu of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered assets from the owner thereof in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by lien.

(18) pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the personal representative, and other expenses incident to the administration of the estate;

(19) sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights; consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise;

(20) allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as permitted or provided by law;

(21) employ persons, including attorneys, auditors, investment advisors, or agents, even if they are associated with the personal representative, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's administrative duties; act without independent investigation upon their recommendations; and, instead of acting personally, employ one or more agents to perform any act of administration, whether or not discretionary;

(22) prosecute or defend claims or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate and of the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's duties;

(23) sell, mortgage, or lease any real or personal property of the estate or any interes therein for cash, credit, or for part cash and part credit and with or without security for unpaid balances;

(24) continue any unincorporated business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of death in the same business form, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, or limited liability company, unless otherwise ordered by the court in a formal proceeding initiated by an interested person on the basis that continuation of the business is not in the best interests of the estate or its beneficiaries;

(25) incorporate any business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time o death;

(26) satisfy and settle claims and distribute the estate as provided in this code.

History: En. 91A-3-713 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-713; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1989 amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 290, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-614. Power to recover property that is subject of void or voidable transfer The property liable for the payment of unsecured debts of a decedent includes all property transferred by the decedent by any means that is in law void or voidable as against the decedent's creditors, and subject to prior liens, the right to recover this property, so far as necessary for the payment of unsecured debts of the decedent, is exclusively in the personal representative.

History: En. 91A-3-709 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-709; amd. Sec. 2356, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

72-3-615. Transaction involving conflict of interest — voidable — exceptions. Any sale or encumbrance to the personal representative, the personal representative's spouse, agent or attorney, or any corporation or trust in which the personal representative has a substantia beneficial interest or any transaction that is affected by a substantial conflict of interest on the part of the personal representative is voidable by any person interested in the estate except one who has consented after fair disclosure unless:

(1) the will or a contract entered into by the decedent expressly authorized the transaction or

(2) the transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons.

History: En. 91A-3-711 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-711; amd. Sec. 2357, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-3-616. Improper exercise of power — breach of fiduciary duty. (1) If any exercise of power concerning the estate is improper, the personal representative is liable to interested persons for damage or loss resulting from breach of the personal representative's fiduciary duty to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust.

(2) The rights of purchasers and others dealing with a personal representative must be determined as provided in 72-3-615 and 72-3-618.

History: En. 91A-3-710 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-710; amd. Sec. 2358, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References

Duties of trustees, Title 72, ch. 38, part 8.

72-3-617. Order restraining personal representative. (1) On petition of any person who appears to have an interest in the estate, the court by temporary order may restrain a personal representative from performing specified acts of administration, disbursement, or distribution or exercise of any powers or discharge of any duties of the office or make any other order to secure proper performance of the personal representative's duty if it appears to the court that the personal representative otherwise may take some action that would jeopardize unreasonably the interest of the applicant or of some other interested person. Persons with whom the personal representative may transact business may be made parties.

(2) The matter must be set for hearing within 10 days unless the parties otherwise agree Notice as the court directs must be given to the personal representative and the persona representative's attorney of record, if any, and to any other parties named defendant in the petition.

History: En. 91A-3-607 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-607; amd. Sec. 2359, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-3-618. Persons dealing with personal representative — protection. (1) A person who in good faith and without notice either assists a personal representative or deals with a personal representative for value is protected as if the personal representative properly exercised the personal representative's power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a personal representative does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise. Except for restrictions on powers of supervised personal representatives that are endorsed on letters as provided in 72-3-404, a provision in any will or order of court purporting to limit the power of a personal representative is not effective except as to persons with actual knowledge of the provision.

(2) A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to a personal representative.

(3) The protection expressed in this section extends to instances in which some procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect occurred in proceedings leading to the issuance of letters, including a case in which the alleged decedent is found to be alive. The protection expressed in this section is not a substitution for that provided by comparable provisions of the laws relating to commercial transactions and laws simplifying transfers of securities by fiduciaries.

History: En. 91A-3-712 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-712; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-619. Powers of personal representatives in general. (1) Until termination of his appointment a personal representative has the same power over the title to property of the estate that an absolute owner would have, in trust however, for the benefit of the creditors and others interested in the estate. This power may be exercised without notice, hearing, or order of court.

(2) A personal representative has access to and authority over a digital asset of the decedent to the extent provided by the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act or by order of court.

History: En. Sec. 72, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-620 reserved.

72-3-621. Powers and duties of successor personal representative. A successor personal representative has the same power and duty as the original personal representative to complete the administration and distribution of the estate as expeditiously as possible, but the successor personal representative may not exercise any power expressly made personal to the executor named in the will.

History: En. 91A-3-716 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-716; amd. Sec. 2360, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-622. Corepresentatives — when joint action required. If two or more persons are appointed corepresentatives and unless the will provides otherwise, the concurrence of all is required on all acts connected with the administration and distribution of the estate. This restriction does not apply:

(1) when any corepresentative receives and receipts for property due the estate;

(2) when the concurrence of all cannot readily be obtained in the time reasonably available for emergency action necessary to preserve the estate; or

(3) when a corepresentative has been delegated to act for the others.

History: En. 91A-3-717 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-717(part).

72-3-623. Persons dealing with single corepresentative — protection. Persons dealing with a corepresentative, if actually unaware that another has been appointed to serve with the corepresentative or if advised by the personal representative with whom they deal that the personal representative has authority to act alone for any of the reasons mentioned in this part, are as fully protected as if the person with whom they dealt had been the sole personal representative.

History: En. 91A-3-717 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-717(part); amd. Sec. 2361, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-624. Powers of remaining corepresentative. Unless the terms of the will otherwise provide, every power exercisable by personal corepresentatives may be exercised by the one or more remaining after the appointment of one or more is terminated, and if one of two or more nominated as coexecutors is not appointed, those appointed may exercise all the powers incident to the office.

History: En. 91A-3-718 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-718.

72-3-625 through 72-3-630 reserved.

72-3-631. Compensation of personal representative. (1) A personal representative is entitled to reasonable compensation for services.

(2) If the will provides for the compensation of the personal representative and there is no contract with the decedent regarding compensation, the personal representative may renounce the provision before qualifying and be entitled to compensation under the terms of this section A personal representative also may renounce the right to all or any part of the compensation. A written renunciation of fee may be filed with the court.

History: En. 91A-3-719 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-719; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 424, L. 1979 amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Compensation of Public Administrator, 72-15-301.

Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-3-632. Expenses of personal representative in estate litigation. If a personal representative or person nominated as personal representative defends or prosecutes a proceeding in good faith, whether successful or not, the personal representative is entitled to receive from the estate the personal representative's necessary expenses and disbursements including reasonable attorney fees incurred.

History: En. 91A-3-721 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-721; amd. Sec. 2362, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-3-633. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. 91A-3-720 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-720.

72-3-634. Proceedings for review of employment of agents and compensation of personal representatives and employees. (1) Upon the filing of a motion for settlement of fees by the court filed by an interested person, the personal representative, or the person employed by the personal representative and after notice to all interested persons, the propriety of employment of any person by a personal representative, including any attorney auditor, investment adviser, or other specialized agent or assistant, the reasonableness of the compensation of any person employed, or the reasonableness of the compensation determined by the personal representative for the personal representative's own services must be reviewed and determined by the court.

(2) In a dispute concerning fees, the court shall set the fee.

(3) A person who has received excessive compensation from an estate for services rendered may be ordered to make appropriate refunds.

History: En. 91A-3-722 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-722; amd. Sec. 2363, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Part 7
Special Administrator

72-3-701. Special administrator — how and when appointed. A special administrator may be appointed:

(1) informally by the clerk on the application of any interested person when necessary to protect the estate of a decedent prior to the appointment of a general personal representative or if a prior appointment has been terminated as provided in 72-3-522;

(2) in a formal proceeding by order of the court on the petition of any interested person and finding, after notice and hearing, that appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its proper administration, including its administration in circumstances where a general personal representative cannot or should not act. If it appears to the court that an emergency exists, appointment may be ordered without notice.

History: En. 91A-3-614 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-614.

72-3-702. Special administrator — who may be appointed. (1) If a special administrator is to be appointed pending the probate of a will which is the subject of a pending application or petition for probate, the person named executor in the will shall be appointed if available and qualified.

(2) In other cases, any proper person may be appointed special administrator.

History: En. 91A-3-615 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-615.

72-3-703. Special administrator appointed informally — powers and duties. A special administrator appointed by the clerk in informal proceedings pursuant to 72-3-701(1) has the duty to collect and manage the assets of the estate, to preserve them, to account for them, and to deliver them to the general personal representative upon the personal representative's qualification. The special administrator has the power of a personal representative under the code necessary to perform the special administrator's duties.

History: En. 91A-3-616 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-616; amd. Sec. 2364, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-704. Special administrator — formal proceedings — power and duties. A special administrator appointed by order of the court in any formal proceeding has the power of a general personal representative, except as limited in the appointment and duties as prescribed in the order. The appointment may be for a specified time, to perform particular acts, or on other terms as the court may direct.

History: En. 91A-3-617 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-617.

72-3-705. Special administrator — termination of appointment. The appointment of a special administrator terminates in accordance with the provisions of the order of appointment or on the appointment of a general personal representative. In other cases, the appointment of a special administrator is subject to termination as provided in 72-3-521 through 72-3-526.

History: En. 91A-3-618 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-618.

Part 8
Creditors' Claims

72-3-801. Notice to creditors. (1) Unless notice has already been given under this section, a personal representative upon appointment shall publish a notice once a week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county announcing the personal representative's appointment and address and notifying creditors of the estate to present their claims within 4 months after the date of the first publication of the notice or be forever barred.

(2) A personal representative may give written notice by mail or other delivery to any creditor, notifying the creditor to present the creditor's claim within 4 months from the published notice if given as provided in subsection (1) or within 30 days from the mailing or other delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred. Written notice must be the notice described in subsection (1) or a similar notice.

(3) The personal representative is not liable to any creditor or to any successor of the decedent for giving or failing to give notice under this section.

History: En. 91A-3-801 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2365, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-802. Statutes of limitations — waiver — suspension. (1) Unless an estate is insolvent, the personal representative, with the consent of all successors whose interests would be affected, may waive any defense of limitations available to the estate. If the defense is not waived, no claim which was barred by any statute of limitations at the time of the decedent's death shall be allowed or paid.

(2) The running of any statute of limitations measured from some other event than death or the giving of notice to creditors is suspended during the 4 months following the decedent's death but resumes thereafter as to claims not barred pursuant to the sections which follow.

(3) For purposes of any statute of limitations, the proper presentation of a claim under 72-3-804 is equivalent to commencement of a proceeding on the claim.

History: En. 91A-3-802 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-802; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 500, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

72-3-803. Nonclaim — limitations on presentation of claims — exceptions. (1) All claims against a decedent's estate that arose before the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any subdivision of the state, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, if not barred earlier by other statute of limitations, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees and nonprobate transferees of the decedent unless presented within the earlier of the following time limitations:

(a) within 1 year after the decedent's death; or

(b) within the time provided by 72-3-801(2) for creditors who are given actual notice and within the time provided in 72-3-801(1) for all creditors barred by publication.

(2) A claim described in subsection (1) which is barred by the nonclaim statute at the decedent's domicile before the giving of notice to creditors in this state is barred in this state.

(3) All claims against a decedent's estate that arise at or after the death of the decedent, including claims of the state and any subdivision of the state, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, founded on contract, tort, or other legal basis, are barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the heirs and devisees of the decedent unless presented as follows:

(a) a claim based on a contract with the personal representative, within 4 months after performance by the personal representative is due;

(b) any other claim, within the later of 4 months after it arises or the time specified in subsection (1)(a).

(4) This section does not affect or prevent:

(a) any proceeding to enforce any mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property of the estate;

(b) to the limits of the insurance protection only, any proceeding to establish liability of the decedent or the personal representative for which the decedent or the personal representative is protected by liability insurance; or

(c) collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for expenses advanced by the personal representative or by the attorney or accountant for the personal representative of the estate.

History: En. 91A-3-803 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 352, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-803; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2366, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — secured transactions, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.
Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-3-804. Manner of presentation of claims. Claims against a decedent's estate may be presented as follows:

(1) The claimant shall mail to the personal representative return receipt requested a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed or may file a written statement of the claim, in the form prescribed by rule, with the clerk of the court. The claim is considered presented on the first to occur of receipt of the written statement of claim by the personal representative or the filing of the claim with the court. If a claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due must be stated. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty must be stated. If the claim is secured, the security must be described. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, and the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate the presentation made.

(2) The claimant may commence a proceeding against the personal representative, in any court where the personal representative may be subjected to jurisdiction, to obtain payment of the claim against the estate, but the commencement of the proceeding must occur within the time limited for presenting the claim. A presentation of claim is not required in regard to matters claimed in proceedings against the decedent that were pending at the time of death.

(3) If a claim is presented under subsection (1), a proceeding on the claim may not be commenced more than 60 days after the personal representative has mailed a notice of disallowance, but in the case of a claim that is not presently due or that is contingent or unliquidated, the personal representative may consent to an extension of the 60-day period or,

o avoid injustice, the court, on petition, may order an extension of the 60-day period, but the xtension may not run beyond the applicable statute of limitations.

History: **En. 91A-3-804 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-804; amd. Sec. 2367, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-805. Allowance and disallowance of claims — interest on allowed claims. 1) As to claims presented in the manner described in 72-3-804 within the time limit prescribed n 72-3-803, the personal representative may mail a notice to any claimant stating that the laim has been disallowed. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative hanges the decision concerning the claim, the personal representative shall notify the claimant. The personal representative may not change a disallowance of a claim after the time for the laimant to file a petition for allowance or to commence a proceeding on the claim has run and the claim has been barred. A claim that is disallowed in whole or in part by the personal epresentative is barred so far as it is not allowed unless the claimant files a petition for llowance in the court or commences a proceeding against the personal representative not later han 60 days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance if the notice warns the claimant of the impending bar. Failure of the personal representative to mail notice o a claimant of action on the claimant's claim for 60 days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired has the effect of a notice of allowance.

(2) After allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative may change the llowance or disallowance as provided in this section. The personal representative may change he allowance to a disallowance, in whole or in part, prior to payment, but not after allowance by a ourt order or judgment or an order directing payment of the claim. The personal representative shall notify the claimant of the change to disallowance, and the disallowed claim is then subject o bar as provided in subsection (1). The personal representative may change a disallowance to n allowance, in whole or in part, until it is barred under subsection (1). After it is barred, it nay be allowed and paid only if the estate is solvent and all successors whose interests would be ffected consent.

(3) Upon the petition of the personal representative or of a claimant in a proceeding for the purpose, the court may allow, in whole or in part, any claim or claims presented to the personal epresentative or filed with the clerk of the court in due time and not barred by subsection (1). Notice in this proceeding must be given to the claimant, the personal representative, and those other persons interested in the estate that the court may direct by order entered at the time the proceeding is commenced.

(4) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a personal representative to nforce a claim against a decedent's estate is an allowance of the claim.

(5) Unless otherwise provided in a judgment in another court entered against the personal epresentative, an allowed claim bears interest at the legal rate for the period commencing 60 days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired unless based on a contract making a provision for interest, in which case the claim bears interest in accordance with that provision.

History: **En. 91A-3-806 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-806; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2368, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Legal interest, 31-1-106.

Interest rate allowed by agreement, 31-1-107.

72-3-806. Counterclaims — deduction. (1) In allowing a claim, the personal epresentative may deduct any counterclaim which the estate has against the claimant. In determining a claim against an estate, a court shall reduce the amount allowed by the amount of any counterclaims and, if the counterclaims exceed the claim, render a judgment against the claimant in the amount of the excess.

(2) A counterclaim, liquidated or unliquidated, may arise from a transaction other than that upon which the claim is based. A counterclaim may give rise to relief exceeding in amount or different in kind from that sought in the claim.

History: **En. 91A-3-811 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-811.**

72-3-807. Classification of claims as to priority of payment. (1) If the applicable assets of the estate are insufficient to pay all claims in full, the personal representative shall make payment in the following order:

(a) costs and expenses of administration;

(b) reasonable funeral expenses and reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, including compensation of persons attending the decedent;

(c) federal estate and Montana state estate taxes;

(d) debt for a current support obligation and past-due support for the decedent's children pursuant to a support order as defined in 40-5-201;

(e) debts with preference under federal and Montana law;

(f) other federal and Montana state taxes;

(g) all other claims.

(2) A preference may not be given in the payment of any claim over any other claim of the same class, and a claim due and payable may not be entitled to a preference over claims not due.

History: En. 91A-3-805 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 352, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-805; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 482, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

Cross-References

Wages — preferred debts, 71-3-302.

72-3-808. Payment of claims. (1) Upon the expiration of the earlier of the time limitations provided in 72-3-803 for the presentation of claims, the personal representative shall proceed to pay the claims allowed against the estate in the order of priority prescribed, after making provision for homestead, family, and support allowances, for claims already presented that have not yet been allowed or whose allowance has been appealed, and for unbarred claims that may yet be presented, including costs and expenses of administration.

(2) By petition to the court in a proceeding for the purpose or by appropriate motion if the administration is supervised, a claimant whose claim has been allowed but not paid as provided in this section may secure an order directing the personal representative to pay the claim to the extent that funds of the estate are available for the payment.

(3) The personal representative at any time may pay any just claim that has not been barred, with or without formal presentation, but the personal representative is personally liable to any other claimant whose claim is allowed and who is injured by the payment if:

(a) the payment was made before the expiration of the time limit stated in subsection (1) and the personal representative failed to require the payee to give adequate security for the refund of any of the payment necessary to pay other claimants; or

(b) the payment was made, due to the negligence or willful fault of the personal representative, in a manner that deprives the injured claimant of the claimant's priority.

History: En. 91A-3-807 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-807; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2369, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-809 and 72-3-810 reserved.

72-3-811. Secured claims. Payment of a secured claim is upon the basis of the amount allowed if the creditor surrenders the creditor's security. Otherwise, payment is upon the basis of one of the following:

(1) if the creditor exhausts the creditor's security before receiving payment, unless precluded by other law, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the fair value of the security; or

(2) if the creditor does not have the right to exhaust the creditor's security or has not done so, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the value of the security determined by converting it into money according to the terms of the agreement pursuant to which the security was delivered to the creditor or by the creditor and personal representative by agreement, arbitration, compromise, or litigation.

History: En. 91A-3-809 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-809; amd. Sec. 2370, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-812. Encumbered assets. (1) If any assets of the estate are encumbered by mortgage, pledge, lien, or other security interest, the personal representative may pay the encumbrance or any part of the encumbrance, renew or extend any obligation secured by the encumbrance, or convey or transfer the assets to the creditor in satisfaction of the lien, in whole or in part, whether or not the holder of the encumbrance has filed a claim, if it appears to be for the best interest of the estate.

(2) Payment of an encumbrance does not increase the share of the distributee entitled to the encumbered assets unless the distributee is entitled to exoneration.

History: En. 91A-3-814 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-814; amd. Sec. 2371, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — secured transactions, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.

72-3-813. Execution and levies prohibited. No execution may issue upon nor may any levy be made against any property of the estate under any judgment against a decedent or a personal representative, but this section shall not be construed to prevent the enforcement of mortgages, pledges, or liens upon real or personal property in an appropriate proceeding.

History: En. 91A-3-812 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-812.

Cross-References

Uniform Commercial Code — secured transactions, Title 30, ch. 9A.
Mortgages, Pledges, and Liens, Title 71.

72-3-814. Claims not due and contingent or unliquidated claims. (1) If a claim that will become due at a future time or a contingent or unliquidated claim becomes due or certain before the distribution of the estate and if the claim has been allowed or established by a proceeding, it is paid in the same manner as presently due and absolute claims of the same class.

(2) In other cases the personal representative or, on petition of the personal representative or the claimant in a special proceeding for the purpose, the court may provide for payment as follows:

(a) If the claimant consents, the claimant may be paid the present or agreed value of the claim, taking any uncertainty into account.

(b) Arrangement for future payment or possible payment on the happening of the contingency or on liquidation may be made by creating a trust, giving a mortgage, obtaining a bond or security from a distributee, or otherwise.

History: En. 91A-3-810 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-810; amd. Sec. 2372, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Mortgages, Title 71, ch. 1.
Trust Code, Title 72, ch. 38.

72-3-815. Compromise of claims. When a claim against the estate has been presented in any manner, the personal representative may, if it appears for the best interest of the estate, compromise the claim, whether due or not due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated.

History: En. 91A-3-813 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-813; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-816 through 72-3-820 reserved.

72-3-821. Administration in more than one state — payment of claims. (1) All assets of estates being administered in this state are subject to all claims, allowances, and charges existing or established against the personal representative wherever appointed.

(2) If the estate either in this state or as a whole is insufficient to cover all family exemptions and allowances determined by the law of the decedent's domicile, prior charges and claims, after satisfaction of the exemptions, allowances, and charges, each claimant whose claim has been allowed either in this state or elsewhere in administrations of which the personal representative is aware is entitled to receive payment of an equal proportion of the claim. If a preference or security in regard to a claim is allowed in another jurisdiction but not in this state, the creditor benefited is to receive dividends from local assets only upon the balance of the creditor's claim after deducting the amount of the benefit.

(3) In case the family exemptions and allowances, prior charges, and claims of the entire estate exceed the total value of the portions of the estate being administered separately and this state is not the state of the decedent's last domicile, the claims allowed in this state must be paid their proportion if local assets are adequate for the purpose, and the balance of local assets must be transferred to the domiciliary personal representative. If local assets are not sufficient to pay all claims allowed in this state the amount to which they are entitled, local

assets must be marshalled so that each claim allowed in this state is paid its proportion as far as possible, after taking into account all dividends on claims allowed in this state from assets in other jurisdictions.

History: En. 91A-3-815 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-815; amd. Sec. 2373, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-822. Distribution to domiciliary personal representative — exceptions. (1) The estate of a nonresident decedent being administered by a personal representative appointed in this state shall, if there is a personal representative of the decedent's domicile willing to receive it, be distributed to the domiciliary personal representative for the benefit of the successors of the decedent unless:

(a) by virtue of the decedent's will, if any, and applicable choice of law rules, the successors are identified pursuant to the local law of this state without reference to the local law of the decedent's domicile;

(b) the personal representative of this state, after reasonable inquiry, is unaware of the existence or identity of a domiciliary personal representative; or

(c) the court orders otherwise in a proceeding for a closing order under 72-3-1001 or incident to the closing of a supervised administration.

(2) In other cases, distribution of the estate of a decedent shall be made in accordance with the other parts of this chapter.

History: En. 91A-3-816 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-816.

Part 9
Special Provisions Relating to Distribution

72-3-901. Abatement. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) and except as provided in connection with the share of the surviving spouse who elects to take an elective share, shares of distributees abate, without any preference or priority as between real and personal property, in the following order:

(a) property not disposed of by the will;
(b) residuary devises;
(c) general devises;
(d) specific devises.

(2) For purposes of abatement, a general devise charged on any specific property or fund is a specific devise to the extent of the value of the property on which it is charged and, upon the failure or insufficiency of the property on which it is charged, a general devise to the extent of the failure or insufficiency. Abatement within each classification is in proportion to the amounts of property each of the beneficiaries would have received if full distribution of the property had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

(3) If the will expresses an order of abatement or if the testamentary plan or the express or implied purpose of the devise would be defeated by the order of abatement stated in subsection (1), the shares of the distributees abate as may be found necessary to give effect to the intention of the testator.

(4) If the subject of a preferred devise is sold or used incident to administration, abatement shall be achieved by appropriate adjustments in or contribution from other interests in the remaining assets.

History: En. 91A-3-902 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-902.

72-3-902. Distribution in kind preferred — method — valuation. Unless a contrary intention is indicated by the will, the distributable assets of a decedent's estate must be distributed in kind to the extent possible through application of the following provisions:

(1) A specific devisee is entitled to distribution of the thing devised to that devisee, and a spouse or child who has selected particular assets of an estate as provided in 72-2-413 must receive the items selected.

(2) Any homestead or family allowance or devise of a stated sum of money may be satisfied in kind if:

(a) the person entitled to the payment has not demanded payment in cash;

(b) the property distributed in kind is valued at fair market value as of the date of its distribution; and

(c) no residuary devisee has requested that the asset in question remain a part of the residue of the estate.

(3) For the purpose of valuation under subsection (2), any security regularly traded on a recognized exchange, if distributed in kind, is valued at the price for the last sale of like securities traded on the business day prior to distribution or, if there was no sale on that day, at the median between amounts bid and asked at the close of that day. An asset consisting of a sum owed the decedent or the estate by a solvent debtor as to which there is no known dispute or defense is valued at the sum due with accrued interest or discounted to the date of distribution. For an asset that has no readily ascertainable value, a valuation as of a date not more than 30 days prior to the date of distribution, if otherwise reasonable, controls. For purposes of facilitating distribution, the personal representative may ascertain the value of any asset as of the time of the proposed distribution in any reasonable way, including the employment of qualified appraisers, even if the asset may have been previously appraised.

(4) The residuary estate must be distributed in any equitable manner.

History: En. 91A-3-906 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-906(1); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2374, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Homestead allowance, 72-2-412.

Family allowance, 72-2-414.

72-3-903. Proposal for distribution — delivery — objection. (1) After the probable charges against the estate are known, the personal representative may mail or deliver a proposal for distribution to all persons who have a right to object to the proposed distribution.

(2) The right of any distributee to object to the proposed distribution on the basis of the kind or value of asset the distributee is to receive, if not waived earlier in writing, terminates if the distributee fails to object in writing received by the personal representative within 30 days after mailing or delivery of the proposal.

History: En. 91A-3-906 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-906(2); amd. Sec. 2375, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-904. Distribution in kind — evidence of title. If distribution in kind is made, the personal representative shall execute an instrument or deed of distribution assigning, transferring, or releasing the assets to the distributee as evidence of the distributee's title to the property.

History: En. 91A-3-907 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-907.

72-3-905. Distribution by personal representative conclusive evidence of succession to interest by distributee. Proof that a distributee has received an instrument or deed of distribution of assets in kind or payment in distribution from a personal representative is conclusive evidence that the distributee has succeeded to the interest of the estate in the distributed assets, as against all persons interested in the estate, except that the personal representative may recover the assets or their value if the distribution was improper.

History: En. 91A-3-908 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-908.

72-3-906. Improper distribution or payment — liability of distributee or payee. Unless the distribution or payment can no longer be questioned because of adjudication, estoppel, or limitation, a distributee of property improperly distributed or paid or a claimant who was improperly paid is liable to return the property improperly received and its income since distribution if the claimant has the property. If the claimant does not have the property, then the claimant is liable to return the value as of the date of disposition of the property improperly received and its income and gain received by the claimant.

History: En. 91A-3-909 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-909; amd. Sec. 2376, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-907. Purchases from distributees protected. (1) If property distributed in kind or a security interest in that property is acquired for value by a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who has received an instrument or deed of distribution from the personal representative or is so acquired by a purchaser from or lender to a transferee from the distributee, the purchaser or lender takes title free of rights of any interested person in the estate and incurs no personal liability to the estate or to any interested person, whether or not the distribution was proper or supported by court order or the authority of the personal representative was terminated before execution of the instrument or deed.

(2) This section protects a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who, as personal representative, has executed a deed of distribution to the personal representative distributee, as well as a purchaser from or lender to any other distributee or the distributee's transferee. To be protected under this provision, a purchaser or lender need not inquire as to whether a personal representative acted properly in making the distribution in kind, even if the personal representative and the distributee are the same person, or whether the authority of the personal representative had terminated before the distribution. Any recorded instrument described in this section is prima facie evidence that the transfer was made for value.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "purchaser" includes any lessee or other person acquiring any interest in the property for value.

History: En. 91A-3-910 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-910; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2377, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-908 through 72-3-910 reserved.

72-3-911. Successors' rights if no administration. (1) In the absence of administration, the heirs and devisees are entitled to the estate in accordance with the terms of a probated will or the laws of intestate succession.

(2) Devisees may establish title by the probated will to devised property. Persons entitled to property by homestead allowance, exemption, or intestacy may establish title to the property by proof of the decedent's ownership, the decedent's death, and their relationship to the decedent.

(3) Successors take subject to all charges incident to administration, including the claims of creditors and allowances of surviving spouse and dependent children and subject to the rights of others resulting from abatement, retainer, advancement, and ademption.

History: En. 91A-3-901 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-901; amd. Sec. 2378, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Intestate succession, Title 72, ch. 2, part 1.
Homestead allowance, 72-2-412.
Exempt property, 72-2-413.

72-3-912. Successor's indebtedness to estate offset against interest — defenses available. The amount of a noncontingent indebtedness of a successor to the estate if due or its present value if not due must be offset against the successor's interest. However, the successor has the benefit of any defense that would be available to the successor in a direct proceeding for recovery of the debt.

History: En. 91A-3-903 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-903; amd. Sec. 2379, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-913. Interest on general pecuniary devise. General pecuniary devises bear interest at the legal rate beginning 1 year after the first appointment of a personal representative until payment, unless a contrary intent is indicated by the will.

History: En. 91A-3-904 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-904.

Cross-References

Legal interest, 31-1-106.

72-3-914. Partition for purpose of distribution. When two or more heirs or devisees are entitled to distribution of undivided interests in any real or personal property of the estate, the personal representative or one or more of the heirs or devisees may petition the court, prior to the formal or informal closing of the estate, to make partition. After notice to the interested heirs or devisees, the court shall partition the property in the same manner as provided by the law for civil actions of partition. The court may direct the personal representative to sell any property which cannot be partitioned without prejudice to the owners and which cannot conveniently be allotted to any one party.

History: En. 91A-3-911 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-911.

72-3-915. Private agreements among successors as to distribution — testamentary trustee as successor. (1) Subject to the rights of creditors and taxing authorities, competent successors may agree among themselves to alter the interests, shares, or amounts to which they are entitled under the will of the decedent or under the laws of intestacy in any way that they provide in a written contract executed by all who are affected by its provisions. The personal epresentative shall abide by the terms of the agreement subject to the obligation to administer he estate for the benefit of creditors, to pay all taxes and costs of administration, and to carry out the responsibilities of the personal representative's office for the benefit of any successors of he decedent who are not parties.

(2) Personal representatives of decedents' estates are not required to see to the performance f trusts if the trustee is another person who is willing to accept the trust. Accordingly, trustees f a testamentary trust are successors for the purposes of this section. This section does not elieve trustees of any duties owed to beneficiaries of trusts.

History: En. 91A-3-912 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-912; amd. Sec. 2380, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

ross-References

Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-3-916. Distribution to trustee — registration — bond. (1) Before making a istribution to a trustee, the personal representative may require that the trust be registered f the state in which it is to be administered provides for registration and may require that he trustee inform in writing the current beneficiaries and, if possible, one or more persons vho under 72-1-303 may represent beneficiaries with future interests of the trustee's name nd address and provide each with a copy of the terms of the trust that describe or affect the nterest of the beneficiaries and with relevant information about the assets of the trust and the articulars relating to the administration.

(2) If the trust instrument does not excuse the trustee from posting bond, the personal epresentative may petition the appropriate court to require that the trustee post bond if the ersonal representative believes that distribution might jeopardize the interests of persons who re not able to protect themselves and the personal representative may withhold distribution ntil the court has acted.

(3) An inference of negligence on the part of the personal representative may not be drawn rom the personal representative's failure to exercise the authority conferred by subsections (1) nd (2).

History: En. 91A-3-913 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-913; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. ec. 2381, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

ross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-3-917. Distribution to person under disability. (1) A personal representative nay discharge the personal representative's obligation to distribute to any person under legal lisability by distributing in a manner expressly provided in the will.

(2) Unless contrary to an express provision in the will, the personal representative may lischarge the personal representative's obligation to distribute to a minor or person under other lisability as authorized by 72-5-104 or any other statute. If the personal representative knows hat a conservator has been appointed or that a proceeding for appointment of a conservator is ending, the personal representative is authorized to distribute only to the conservator.

(3) (a) If the heir or devisee is under disability other than minority, the personal epresentative is authorized to distribute to:

(i) an attorney-in-fact who has authority under a power of attorney to receive property for hat person; or

(ii) the spouse, parent, or other close relative with whom the person under disability esides if the distribution is of amounts not exceeding $10,000 a year or property not exceeding 50,000 in value, unless the court authorizes a larger amount or greater value.

(b) Any person receiving money or property for the disabled person is obligated to apply he money or property to the support of the disabled person, but the receiving person may ot accept any pay except by way of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for goods and ervices necessary for the support of the disabled person. Excess sums must be preserved for uture support of the disabled person. The personal representative is not responsible for the roper application of money or property distributed pursuant to this subsection (3).

History: En. 91A-3-915 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-915; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 582, L. 1989; md. Sec. 64, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 109, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

ross-References

Persons under disability — guardianship and conservatorship, Title 72, ch. 5.

72-3-918. Disposition of unclaimed assets — escheat. (1) If an heir, devisee, or claimant cannot be found, the personal representative shall distribute the missing person's share to the person's conservator, if any, otherwise to the department of revenue to be deposited in the state escheat fund as provided in Title 72, chapter 14.

(2) A person having any claim to a share deposited in the state escheat fund under the provisions of this code shall follow the procedures set out in Title 72, chapter 14, concerning escheated estates, to claim the share.

History: En. 91A-3-914 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-914; amd. Sec. 2382, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 10
Closing Estates

72-3-1001. Formal proceedings terminating administration — testate or intestate — order of complete settlement. (1) A personal representative or any interested person may petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate. The personal representative may petition at any time, and any other interested person may petition after 1 year from the appointment of the original personal representative, except that no petition under this section may be entertained until the time for presenting claims which arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired.

(2) The petition may request the court to determine testacy, if not previously determined, to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe any will or determine heirs, and to adjudicate the final settlement and distribution of the estate.

(3) After notice to all interested persons and hearing, the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any interested person.

History: En. 91A-3-1001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1001(1).

72-3-1002. Order of complete settlement as to persons previously omitted or unnotified in previous formal testacy proceeding. If one or more heirs or devisees were omitted as parties in or were not given notice of a previous formal testacy proceeding, the court, on proper petition for an order of complete settlement of the estate under 72-3-1001 and after notice to the omitted or unnotified persons and other interested parties determined to be interested on the assumption that the previous order concerning testacy is conclusive as to those given notice of the earlier proceeding, may determine testacy as it affects the omitted persons and confirm or alter the previous order of testacy as it affects all interested persons as appropriate in the light of the new proofs. In the absence of objection by an omitted or unnotified person, evidence received in the original testacy proceeding shall constitute prima facie proof of due execution of any will previously admitted to probate or of the fact that the decedent left no valid will if the prior proceedings determined this fact.

History: En. 91A-3-1001 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1001(2).

72-3-1003. Formal proceedings terminating administration under informally probated will — settlement order construing will without adjudicating testacy. (1) A personal representative administering an estate under an informally probated will or any devisee under an informally probated will may petition for an order of settlement of the estate that will not adjudicate the testacy status of the decedent. The personal representative may petition at any time and a devisee may petition after 1 year from the appointment of the original personal representative, except that a petition under this section may not be entertained until the time for presenting claims that arose prior to the death of the decedent has expired.

(2) The petition may request the court to consider the final account or compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe the will, and adjudicate final settlement and distribution of the estate. After notice to all devisees and the personal representative and hearing, the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate under the will and, as circumstances require, approving settlement and directing or approving distribution of the estate and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of any devisee who is a party to the

proceeding and those the devisee represents. If it appears that a part of the estate is intestate, the proceedings must be dismissed or amendments must be made to meet the provisions of 72-3-1001 and 72-3-1002.

History: En. 91A-3-1002 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1002; amd. Sec. 2383, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-1004. Closing estate by sworn statement of personal representative. (1) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered in supervised administration proceedings, a personal representative may close an estate by filing with the court no earlier than 6 months after the date of original appointment of a general personal representative for the estate a verified statement stating that the personal representative, or a prior personal representative, has:

(a) determined that the time limitation for presentation of creditors' claims has expired;

(b) fully administered the estate of the decedent by making payment, settlement, or other disposition of all claims that were presented, expenses of administration, and estate and other death taxes, except as specified in the statement, and that the assets of the estate have been distributed to the persons entitled; if any claims remain undischarged, the statement must state whether the personal representative has distributed the estate subject to possible liability with the agreement of the distributees or it must state in detail other arrangements that have been made to accommodate outstanding liabilities; and

(c) sent a copy of the statement to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom the personal representative is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of the administration to the distributees whose interests are affected by the accounting.

(2) If proceedings involving the personal representative are not pending in the court 1 year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

History: En. 91A-3-1003 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

Cross-References

Notice to creditors, 72-3-801.
Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-3-1005. Final accounting required to close estate. (1) Before an estate may be finally closed and the personal representative relieved of duties and obligations, the personal representative shall either file with the court or deliver to all interested persons an accounting under oath showing the amount of money received and expended by the personal representative, the amount of all claims presented against the estate, and the names of the claimants and all other matters necessary to show the state of its affairs.

(2) Any interested person at any time during the course of the administration of an estate may for good cause shown require further accountings.

(3) If the personal representative is the sole residual beneficiary of the estate, an accounting need not be made.

History: En. 91A-3-1012 by Sec. 5, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1012; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2384, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-1006. Certificate. (1) In probate proceedings under this code requiring the filing of a duplicate United States estate tax return with the department of revenue pursuant to 72-16-906, a final distribution to successors may not be made and petitions may not be granted under 72-3-1001, 72-3-1002, 72-3-1003, or 72-3-1004, unless there has been filed with the clerk:

(a) a certificate from the department of revenue stating that any estate tax due on the assets of the estate has been paid or that no tax is payable; or

(b) an agreement with the department of revenue for extension of time for payment of estate taxes.

(2) This section does not prohibit a partial distribution that may become necessary in the course of administration.

History: En. 91A-3-1004 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1004; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 68, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 364, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-3-1007 through 72-3-1010 reserved.

72-3-1011. Limitation on actions against personal representative. Unless previously barred by adjudication and except as provided in the closing statement, the rights of successors and of creditors whose claims have not otherwise been barred against the personal representative for breach of fiduciary duty are barred unless a proceeding to assert the same is commenced within 6 months after the filing of the closing statement. The rights thus barred do not include rights to recover from a personal representative for fraud, misrepresentation, or inadequate disclosure related to the settlement of the decedent's estate.

History: En. 91A-3-1006 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1006.

Cross-References

Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Remedies for fraud — statute of limitations, 72-1-111.

72-3-1012. Liability of distributees to claimants. (1) After assets of an estate have been distributed and subject to 72-3-1013, an undischarged claim that is not barred may be prosecuted in a proceeding against one or more distributees. No distributee shall be liable to claimants for amounts received as exempt property, homestead or family allowances, or for amounts in excess of the value of the distributee's distribution as of the time of distribution or for amounts in excess of the value of the distributee's distribution as of the time of distribution.

(2) As between distributees, each shall bear the cost of satisfaction of unbarred claims as if the claim had been satisfied in the course of administration. Any distributee who fails to notify other distributees of the demand made upon the distributee by the claimant in sufficient time to permit them to join in any proceeding in which the claim was asserted against the distributee loses the right of contribution against other distributees.

History: En. 91A-3-1005 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1005; amd. Sec. 2385, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-3-1013. Limitation on actions against distributees. (1) Unless previously adjudicated in a formal testacy proceeding or in a proceeding settling the accounts of a personal representative or otherwise barred, the claim of any claimant to recover from a distributee who is liable to pay the claim and the right of any heir or devisee or of a successor personal representative acting in their behalf to recover property improperly distributed or the value thereof from any distributee is forever barred at the later of 3 years after the decedent's death or 1 year after the time of distribution, but all claims of creditors of the decedent are barred 1 year after the decedent's death.

(2) This section does not bar an action to recover property or value received as the result of fraud.

History: En. 91A-3-1007 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1007; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Kinds of fraud, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.
Remedies for fraud — statute of limitations, 72-1-111.

72-3-1014. Certificate discharging liens securing fiduciary performance. After the personal representative's appointment has terminated, the personal representative, the personal representative's sureties, or any successor of either, upon the filing of a verified application showing so far as is known by the applicant that an action concerning the estate is not pending in any court, is entitled to receive a certificate from the clerk that the personal representative appears to have fully administered the estate in question. The certificate evidences discharge of any lien on any property given to secure the obligation of the personal representative in lieu of bond or any surety but does not preclude action against the personal representative or the surety.

History: En. 91A-3-1008 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1008; amd. Sec. 2386, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.

72-3-1015. Estate to be closed within two years. (1) If an estate has not been closed within 2 years from the date of appointment of the personal representative, the supreme court administrator shall notify the district judge. The judge shall order the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney to appear before the court and show cause why the estate has not been closed.

(2) If, after the show cause hearing, the judge determines that good cause does not exist for failure to close the estate, the judge may make an order directing that the estate be closed within 30 days and that the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney may not receive a fee or other compensation from the estate.

History: En. 91A-3-1011 by Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 104, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2387, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-3-1016. Subsequent administration upon discovery of other property. If other property of the estate is discovered after an estate has been settled and the personal representative discharged or after 1 year after a closing statement has been filed, the court upon petition of any interested person and upon notice as it directs may appoint the same or a successor personal representative to administer the subsequently discovered estate. If a new appointment is made, unless the court orders otherwise, the provisions of this code apply as appropriate; but no claim previously barred may be asserted in the subsequent administration.

History: En. 91A-3-1009 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1009.

Part 11
Collection of Personal Property by Affidavit and Summary Administration Procedure for Small Estates

72-3-1101. Collection of personal property by affidavit. (1) Thirty days after the death of a decedent, any person indebted to the decedent or having possession of tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the decedent shall make payment of the indebtedness or deliver the tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action to a person claiming to be the successor of the decedent upon being presented an affidavit made by or on behalf of the successor stating that:

(a) the value of the probate estate, wherever located, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed $100,000, except as provided in subsection (2);

(b) 30 days have elapsed since the death of the decedent;

(c) no application or petition for the appointment of a personal representative is pending or has been granted in any jurisdiction; and

(d) the claiming successor is entitled to payment or delivery of the property.

(2) The department of revenue may refund unclaimed property to a successor of the decedent, pursuant to the provisions of Title 70, chapter 9, part 8, if the value of the unclaimed property is $5,000 or less regardless of the value of the estate.

(3) A transfer agent of any security shall change the registered ownership on the books of a corporation from the decedent to the successor or successors upon the presentation of an affidavit as provided in subsection (1).

History: En. 91A-3-1201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1201; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 453, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

72-3-1102. Effect of affidavit. (1) The person paying, delivering, transferring, or issuing personal property or the evidence of personal property pursuant to affidavit is discharged and released to the same extent as if the person dealt with a personal representative of the decedent. The person is not required to see to the application of the personal property or evidence of personal property or to inquire into the truth of any statement in the affidavit.

(2) If any person to whom an affidavit is delivered refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue any personal property or evidence of personal property, it may be recovered or its payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of their right in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the persons entitled to the property.

(3) A person to whom payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance is made is answerable and accountable for the property to any person representative of the estate or to any other person having a superior right.

History: **En. 91A-3-1202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1202; amd. Sec. 2388, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-3-1103. Small estates — summary administration procedure. If it appears from the inventory and appraisal that the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, family allowance, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent, the personal representative, without giving notice to the creditors, may immediately disburse and distribute the estate to the persons entitled thereto and file a closing statement as provided in 72-3-1104.

History: **En. 91A-3-1203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1203; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 1981 amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 582, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Exempt property and allowances, Title 72, ch. 2, part 4.

72-3-1104. Small estates — closing by sworn statement of personal representative. (1) Unless prohibited by order of the court and except for estates being administered by supervised personal representatives, a personal representative may close an estate administered under the summary procedures of 72-3-1103 by filing with the court, at any time after disbursement and distribution of the estate, a verified statement stating that:

(a) to the best knowledge of the personal representative, the value of the entire estate less liens and encumbrances, did not exceed homestead allowance, exempt property, family allowance, costs and expenses of administration, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable necessary medical and hospital expenses of the last illness of the decedent;

(b) the personal representative has fully administered the estate by payment of estate taxes and by disbursing and distributing it to the persons entitled to it; and

(c) the personal representative has sent a copy of the closing statement to all distributees of the estate and to all creditors or other claimants of whom the personal representative is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred and has furnished a full account in writing of the administration to the distributees whose interests are affected.

(2) If actions or proceedings involving the personal representative are not pending in the court 1 year after the closing statement is filed, the appointment of the personal representative terminates.

(3) A closing statement filed under this section has the same effect as one filed under 72-3-1004.

History: **En. 91A-3-1204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1204; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 1981 amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.**

Cross-References

Liens — general provisions, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.
Exempt property and allowances, Title 72, ch. 2, part 4.
Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

CHAPTER 4
UPC — FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATION

Part 1 — General Provisions

72-4-101. Definitions.

Part 2 — Jurisdiction Over Foreign Personal Representatives

72-4-201. Jurisdiction by act of foreign personal representative.
72-4-202. Jurisdiction by act of decedent.
72-4-203. Service on foreign personal representative.

Part 3 — Powers and Duties of Foreign Personal Representative

72-4-301. Renumbered 72-4-310.
72-4-302. Renumbered 72-4-311.
72-4-303. Filing of letters, bond, inventory, and affidavit.
72-4-304. Repealed.

72-4-305. Right to inspect estate assets for inventory.
72-4-306. Payment of debt and delivery of property to foreign representative.
72-4-307. Payment or delivery discharges debtor or possessor.
72-4-308. Payment or delivery to foreign representative prohibited by resident creditor notice.
72-4-309. Proof of authority — bond.
72-4-310. Powers of foreign representative generally.
72-4-311. Effect of local administration on foreign representative, third persons, and local representative.

Part 4 — Ancillary Administration

72-4-401. Ancillary administration — provisions governing.
72-4-402. Adjudication in other jurisdiction binding on local representative.

Part 1
General Provisions

72-4-101. Definitions. In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Local administration" means administration by a personal representative appointed n this state pursuant to appointment proceedings described in chapter 3.

(2) "Local personal representative" includes any personal representative appointed in this tate pursuant to appointment proceedings described in chapter 3 and excludes foreign personal epresentatives who acquire the power of a local personal representative pursuant to 72-4-310.

(3) "Resident creditor" means a person domiciled in or doing business in this state who is r could be a claimant against an estate of a nonresident decedent.

History: En. 91A-4-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-101.

Part 2
Jurisdiction Over Foreign Personal Representatives

72-4-201. Jurisdiction by act of foreign personal representative. (1) A foreign ersonal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in any roceeding relating to the estate by:

(a) filing authenticated copies of the foreign personal representative's appointment as rovided in 72-4-309;

(b) receiving payment of money or taking delivery of personal property under 72-4-306; or

(c) doing any act as a personal representative in this state that would have given the state urisdiction over the foreign personal representative as an individual.

(2) Jurisdiction under subsection (1)(b) is limited to the money or value of personal roperty collected.

History: En. 91A-4-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-301; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 52, L. 1981; md. Sec. 2389, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-4-202. Jurisdiction by act of decedent. In addition to jurisdiction conferred by 72-4-201, a foreign personal representative is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this tate to the same extent that the foreign personal representative's decedent was subject to urisdiction immediately prior to death.

History: En. 91A-4-302 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-302; amd. Sec. 2390, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-4-203. Service on foreign personal representative. (1) Service of process may be nade upon the foreign personal representative by registered or certified mail addressed to the oreign personal representative's last reasonably ascertainable address requesting a return eceipt signed by addressee only. Notice by ordinary first-class mail is sufficient if registered r certified mail service to the addressee is unavailable. Service may be made upon a foreign ersonal representative in the manner in which service could have been made under other laws of this state on either the foreign personal representative or the foreign personal representative's lecedent immediately prior to death.

(2) If service is made upon a foreign personal representative as provided in subsection (1), he foreign personal representative must be allowed at least 30 days within which to appear or espond.

History: En. 91A-4-303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-303; amd. Sec. 2391, Ch. 56, L. 2009; md. Sec. 80, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

Part 3
Powers and Duties of Foreign Personal Representative

72-4-301. Renumbered 72-4-310. Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1981.

72-4-302. Renumbered 72-4-311. Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1981.

72-4-303. Filing of letters, bond, inventory, and affidavit. (1) The domiciliary foreign personal representative of the estate of a nonresident decedent, who wishes to receive payment and delivery as described in 72-4-306 or to exercise the powers over assets described in 72-4-310, shall file with a district court in this state in a county in which property belonging to the decedent is located:

(a) an authenticated copy of the personal representative's appointment and of any official bond given;

(b) an inventory of the property of the nonresident decedent located in this state, which must contain the information prescribed in 72-3-607; and

(c) an affidavit stating:

(i) the date of death of the nonresident decedent; and

(ii) that no local administration or application or petition for local administration is pending in this state.

(2) Upon receiving the information required by subsection (1), the clerk of court shall issue a certificate to the domiciliary foreign personal representative identifying the representative as having registered with the district court and stating the name and date of death of the decedent.

History: En. 91A-4-201 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-201; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 68, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 2005.

Cross-References

District Court Clerk fees, 25-1-201.
Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-4-304. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91A-4-202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-202.

72-4-305. Right to inspect estate assets for inventory. A person holding property of a nonresident decedent, including any instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action, shall permit the domiciliary foreign personal representative of the nonresident decedent to inspect and appraise the property for purposes of completing the inventory called for in 72-4-303(1) upon being presented with proof of the representative's appointment and an affidavit made by or on behalf of the representative stating:

(1) the date of death of the nonresident decedent;

(2) that no local administration or application or petition for local administration is pending in this state; and

(3) that the domiciliary foreign personal representative is entitled to make the inspection and appraisal.

History: En. 91A-4-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-203; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 68, L. 2003.

72-4-306. Payment of debt and delivery of property to foreign representative. At any time after the expiration of 60 days from the death of a nonresident decedent, a person indebted to the estate of the nonresident decedent or having possession or control of personal property or of an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the estate of the nonresident decedent may pay the debt or deliver the personal property or the instrument evidencing the debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action to the domiciliary foreign personal representative of the nonresident decedent upon being presented with proof of the domiciliary foreign personal representative's appointment and an affidavit made by or on behalf of the representative, stating:

(1) the date of the death of the nonresident decedent;

(2) that no local administration or application or petition for local administration is pending in this state;

(3) that the domiciliary foreign personal representative is entitled to payment or delivery.

History: En. 91A-4-204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-204; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2392, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-4-307. Payment or delivery discharges debtor or possessor. Payment or delivery made in good faith on the basis of the certificate of the clerk of court and the certificate of the department of revenue releases the debtor or person having possession of the personal property to the same extent as if payment or delivery had been made to a local personal representative.

History: **En. 91A-4-205 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-205.**

72-4-308. Payment or delivery to foreign representative prohibited by resident creditor notice. Payment or delivery under 72-4-306 may not be made if a resident creditor of the nonresident decedent has notified the debtor of the nonresident decedent or the person having possession of the personal property belonging to the nonresident decedent that the debt should not be paid or the property delivered to the domiciliary foreign personal representative.

History: **En. 91A-4-206 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-206; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 52, L. 1981.**

72-4-309. Proof of authority — bond. If a local administration or application or petition for local administration is not pending in this state, a domiciliary foreign personal representative may file with a court in this state in a county in which property belonging to the decedent is located, authenticated copies of the domiciliary foreign personal representative's appointment and of any official bond that the domiciliary foreign personal representative has given.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2393, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-4-310. Powers of foreign representative generally. A domiciliary foreign personal representative who has complied with 72-4-309 may exercise as to assets in this state all powers of a local personal representative and may maintain actions and proceedings in this state, subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties generally.

History: **En. 91A-4-207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-207; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 52, L. 1981; MCA 1979, 72-4-301; redes. 72-4-310 by Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1981.**

72-4-311. Effect of local administration on foreign representative, third persons, and local representative. (1) The power of a domiciliary foreign personal representative under 72-4-306 or 72-4-310 may be exercised only if there is no administration or application for administration pending in this state. An application or petition for local administration of the estate terminates the power of the foreign personal representative to act under 72-4-310, but the local court may allow the foreign personal representative to exercise limited powers to preserve the estate.

(2) A person who, before receiving actual notice of a pending local administration, has changed the person's position in reliance upon the powers of a foreign personal representative may not be prejudiced by reason of the application or petition for or grant of local administration. The local personal representative is subject to all duties and obligations that have accrued by virtue of the exercise of the powers by the foreign personal representative and may be substituted for the foreign personal representative in any action or proceedings in this state.

History: **En. 91A-4-208 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-208; MCA 1979, 72-4-302; redes. 72-4-311 by Sec. 17, Ch. 52, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2394, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 4
Ancillary Administration

72-4-401. Ancillary administration — provisions governing. In respect to a nonresident decedent, the provisions of this code govern:

(1) proceedings, if any, in a court of this state for probate of the will, appointment, removal, supervision, and discharge of the local personal representative and any other order concerning the estate; and

(2) the status, powers, duties, and liabilities of any local personal representative and the rights of claimants, purchasers, distributees, and others in regard to a local administration.

History: **En. 91A-4-209 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-209.**

72-4-402. Adjudication in other jurisdiction binding on local representative. An adjudication rendered in any jurisdiction in favor of or against any personal representative of the estate is as binding on the local personal representative as if the local personal representative were a party to the adjudication.

History: **En. 91A-4-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-4-401; amd. Sec. 2395, Ch. 56, L. 2009**

Cross-References

Effect of judicial record of another state, 26-3-203.

CHAPTER 5
UPC — PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP

Part 1 — General Provisions

72-5-101. Definitions.
72-5-102. Consolidation of proceedings.
72-5-103. Delegation of powers by parent or guardian.
72-5-104. Informal discharge of duty to pay or deliver property to minor.
72-5-105 through 72-5-109 reserved.
72-5-110. Vaccination status prohibited as evidence or grounds for decision.

Part 2 — Guardians of Minors

72-5-201. Status of guardian of minor — how acquired generally — letters to indicate means of appointment.
72-5-202. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment.
72-5-203 through 72-5-210 reserved.
72-5-211. Testamentary appointment of guardian of minor — when effective — priorities — notice of appointment.
72-5-212. Recognition of appointment of guardian by foreign will.
72-5-213. Objection by minor 14 years of age or older to testamentary appointment.
72-5-214 through 72-5-220 reserved.
72-5-221. Venue for proceedings for court appointment of guardian of minor.
72-5-222. Court appointment of guardian of minor — when allowed — priority of testamentary appointment.
72-5-223. Guardian of minor by court appointment — qualifications — nominee of minor preferred.
72-5-224. Temporary guardian of minor.
72-5-225. Procedure for court appointment of guardian of minor — notice — hearing — representation by attorney.
72-5-226 through 72-5-230 reserved.
72-5-231. Powers and duties of guardian of minor.
72-5-232. Repealed.
72-5-233. Termination of appointment — how effected — certain liabilities and obligations not affected.
72-5-234. Procedure for resignation or removal — petition, notice, and hearing — representation by attorney.

Part 3 — Guardians of Incapacitated Persons

72-5-301. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment.
72-5-302. Testamentary appointment of guardian for incapacitated person — when effective — priorities.
72-5-303. Recognition of appointment of guardian by foreign will.
72-5-304. Objection by alleged incapacitated person to testamentary appointment.
72-5-305. Definitions.
72-5-306. Purpose and basis for guardianship.
72-5-307 through 72-5-310 reserved.
72-5-311. Venue for proceedings for court appointment of guardian.
72-5-312. Who may be guardian — priorities.
72-5-313. Visitor in guardianship proceedings defined.
72-5-314. Notices in guardianship proceedings.
72-5-315. Procedure for court appointment of guardian — hearing — examination — interview — procedural rights.
72-5-316. Findings — order of appointment.
72-5-317. Temporary guardians.
72-5-318. Request for notice — interested person.
72-5-319. Contents of petition for appointment of guardian.
72-5-320. Purposes for establishment of limited guardianship.
72-5-321. Powers and duties of guardian of incapacitated person.
72-5-322. Petition of guardian for treatment of ward.
72-5-323. Repealed.
72-5-324. Termination of appointment — how effected — certain liabilities and obligations not affected.
72-5-325. Petition for removal or resignation of guardian — termination of incapacity — appointment of successor guardian.

Part 4 — Protection of Property of Minors and Persons Under Disability

72-5-401. Original petition for appointment or protective order — who may petition.
72-5-402. Contents of petition.
72-5-403. Notice — waiver.
72-5-404. Request for notice — interested person.

72-5-405. Exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction of particular court after petition and notice.
72-5-406. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment as conservator.
72-5-407. Venue.
72-5-408. Procedure concerning hearing and order on original petition.
72-5-409. Cause for appointment of conservator or issuance of protective order.
72-5-410. Who may be appointed conservator — priorities.
72-5-411. Bond — court may require — amount.
72-5-412. Terms and requirements of bond.
72-5-413. Petitions for orders subsequent to appointment — interested persons.
72-5-414. Resignation or removal of conservator for cause — successor conservator.
72-5-415. Public administrator as conservator when no other appropriate person.
72-5-416 through 72-5-420 reserved.
72-5-421. Powers of court as to property and affairs of protected persons generally — temporary conservatorship.
72-5-422. Power of court to authorize particular protective arrangements or transactions without appointing conservator.
72-5-423. Fiduciary duty of conservator.
72-5-424. Inventory and records.
72-5-425. Title by appointment as conservator — appointment not transfer for certain purposes.
72-5-426. Letters as evidence of transfer of assets — recording.
72-5-427. Powers of conservator in administration.
72-5-428. Distributive powers and duties of conservator generally.
72-5-429. Distribution upon attainment of majority, termination of disability, or death of protected person.
72-5-430. Enlargement or limitation of powers of conservator by court.
72-5-431. Preservation of estate plan — right to inspect will.
72-5-432. Compensation and expenses.
72-5-433. Claims against protected person — presentment, allowance, and payment — priorities.
72-5-434. Transaction involving conflict of interest — voidable — exceptions.
72-5-435. Persons dealing with conservator — protection.
72-5-436. Claims arising during conservatorship — individual liability of conservator.
72-5-437. Termination of conservatorship.
72-5-438. Accounts — final and intermediate.
72-5-439. Payment of debt and delivery of property to foreign conservator without local proceedings.
72-5-440 through 72-5-443 reserved.
72-5-444. Petition to authorize proposed action — substituted judgment.
72-5-445. Notice of hearing.
72-5-446. Consent or lack of capacity of protected person — adequate provision for protected person and dependents.
72-5-447. Circumstances to be considered in determining whether to authorize or require proposed action.
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72-5-449. No duty to propose action.
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Part 5 — Powers of Attorney

72-5-501. When health care power of attorney not affected by disability.
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Part 6 — Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act

72-5-601. Short title.
72-5-602. Definitions.
72-5-603. International application.
72-5-604. Communication between courts.
72-5-605. Cooperation between courts.
72-5-606. Taking testimony in another state.
72-5-607 through 72-5-610 reserved.
72-5-611. Definitions — significant connection factors.
72-5-612. Exclusive basis.
72-5-613. Jurisdiction.
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72-5-615. Exclusive and continuing jurisdiction.
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72-5-617. Jurisdiction declined by reason of conduct.
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72-5-619. Proceedings in more than one state.
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72-5-624. Transfer of guardianship or conservatorship to another state.
72-5-625. Accepting guardianship or conservatorship transferred from another state.
72-5-626 through 72-5-628 reserved.
72-5-629. Registration of guardianship orders.
72-5-630. Registration of protective orders.

72-5-631. Effect of registration.
72-5-632 through 72-5-635 reserved.
72-5-636. Uniformity of application and construction.
72-5-637. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.
72-5-638. Transitional provision.

Chapter Cross-References

Costs of committing patient already voluntarily admitted — transportation costs for voluntary admission 53-21-113.

Part 1
General Provisions

72-5-101. Definitions. Unless otherwise apparent from the context, in chapters 1 through 5 and chapter 16, part 6, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Incapacitated person" means any person who is impaired by reason of mental illness mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, or other cause, except minority, to the extent that the person lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning the person or which cause has so impaired the person's judgment that the person is incapable of realizing and making a rational decision with respect to the person's need for treatment.

(2) "Protected person" means a minor or other person for whom a conservator has been appointed or other protective order has been made.

(3) "Protective proceeding" means a proceeding under the provisions of 72-5-409 to determine that a person cannot effectively manage or apply the person's estate to necessary ends, either because the person lacks the ability or is otherwise inconvenienced or because the person is a minor, and to secure administration of the person's estate by a conservator or other appropriate relief.

(4) "Substituted judgment" means the judgment that an incapacitated person would make if restored to capacity based upon:

(a) the person's present preference or, if the person is incapable of indicating the person's preference, the person's prior expressed preference;

(b) the person's personal, moral, and religious convictions;

(c) the person's relationship with family members;

(d) the consequences if the action proposed is not taken;

(e) the consequences if the action proposed is taken; and

(f) other relevant factors.

(5) "Ward" means a person for whom a guardian has been appointed. A "minor ward" is a minor for whom a guardian has been appointed solely because of minority.

History: En. 91A-5-101 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-101 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2396, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 237, L. 2009.

72-5-102. Consolidation of proceedings. When both guardianship and protective proceedings as to the same person are commenced or pending in the same court, the proceedings may be consolidated.

History: En. 91A-5-102 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-102; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-103. Delegation of powers by parent or guardian. (1) A parent or a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding 6 months, any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor child or ward, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward.

(2) The 6-month limitation provided in subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) a member of the Montana national guard who serves for more than 180 continuous days on duty pursuant to Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code or on state military duty as defined in 10-1-1003;

(b) a member of the active duty military forces of the United States; or

(c) a member of the federal reserves who serves for more than 180 continuous days on duty pursuant to Title 10 of the United States Code.

(3) As used in this section, "federal reserves" means the United States air force reserve, army reserve, navy reserve, marine corps reserve, or coast guard reserve.

History: **En. 91A-5-104 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-104; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 235, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Judicial approval of marriage of minor, 40-1-213.
Powers of attorney, Title 72, ch. 5, part 5.

72-5-104. Informal discharge of duty to pay or deliver property to minor. (1) A person under a duty to pay or deliver money or personal property to a minor may perform this duty, in amounts not exceeding $5,000 a year, by paying or delivering the money or property to:

(a) the minor, if the minor has attained 18 years of age or is married;

(b) any person having the care and custody of the minor with whom the minor resides;

(c) a guardian of the minor; or

(d) a financial institution incident to a deposit in a federally insured savings account in the sole name of the minor and giving notice of the deposit to the minor.

(2) This section does not apply if the person making payment or delivery has actual knowledge that a conservator has been appointed or proceedings for appointment of a conservator of the estate of the minor are pending.

(3) The persons, other than the minor or any financial institution under subsection (1)(d), receiving money or property for a minor are obligated to apply the money to the support and education of the minor but may not pay themselves except by way of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for goods and services necessary for the minor's support. Any excess sums must be preserved for future support of the minor, and any balance not so used and any property received for the minor must be turned over to the minor when the minor attains majority. Persons who pay or deliver in accordance with provisions of this section are not responsible for the proper application of the money or property.

History: **En. 91A-5-103 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-103; amd. Sec. 2397, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-105 through 72-5-109 reserved.

72-5-110. Vaccination status prohibited as evidence or grounds for decision. In considering and deciding a petition for guardianship of a minor pursuant to part 2 or of an incapacitated adult pursuant to part 3, a court may not:

(1) admit into evidence the vaccination status of a person seeking appointment as a guardian; or

(2) consider a person's vaccination status when making an order on the petition.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 286, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved April 26, 2023.

Part 2
Guardians of Minors

Part Cross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

72-5-201. Status of guardian of minor — how acquired generally — letters to indicate means of appointment. (1) A person becomes a guardian of a minor by acceptance of a testamentary appointment or upon appointment by the court.

(2) Letters of guardianship must indicate whether the guardian was appointed by will or by court order.

(3) The guardianship status continues until terminated, without regard to the location from time to time of the guardian and minor ward.

History: **En. 91A-5-201, 91A-5-208 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-201, 91A-5-208(part).**

72-5-202. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment. (1) By accepting a testamentary or court appointment as guardian, a guardian submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding relating to the guardianship that may be instituted by any interested person.

(2) Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the guardian or mailed to the guardian by ordinary mail at the guardian's address as listed in the court records and to the guardian's address as then known to the petitioner.

History: En. 91A-5-208 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-208(part); amd. Sec. 2398, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-203 through 72-5-210 reserved.

72-5-211. Testamentary appointment of guardian of minor — when effective — priorities — notice of appointment. (1) The parent of a minor may appoint by will a guardian of an unmarried minor. Subject to the right of the minor under 72-5-213, a testamentary appointment becomes effective upon filing the guardian's acceptance in the court in which the will is probated if before acceptance both parents are dead or the surviving parent is adjudged incapacitated. If both parents are dead, an effective appointment by the parent who died later has priority.

(2) Upon acceptance of an appointment, written notice of acceptance must be given by the guardian to the minor and to the person having the minor's care or to the minor's nearest adult relations.

History: En. 91A-5-202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-202(part); amd. Sec. 2399, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-212. Recognition of appointment of guardian by foreign will. This state recognizes a testamentary appointment effected by filing the guardian's acceptance under a will probated in another state which is the testator's domicile.

History: En. 91A-5-202 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-202(part).

Cross-References

Effect of judicial record of another state, 26-3-203.

72-5-213. Objection by minor 14 years of age or older to testamentary appointment. A minor 14 years of age or older may prevent an appointment of the minor's testamentary guardian from becoming effective or may cause a previously accepted appointment to terminate by filing with the court in which the will is probated a written objection to the appointment before it is accepted or within 30 days after notice of its acceptance. An objection may be withdrawn. An objection does not preclude appointment by the court in a proper proceeding of the testamentary nominee or any other suitable person.

History: En. 91A-5-203 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-203; amd. Sec. 2400, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Rights of persons not adults, Art. II, sec. 15, Mont. Const.

72-5-214 through 72-5-220 reserved.

72-5-221. Venue for proceedings for court appointment of guardian of minor. The venue for guardianship proceedings for a minor is in the place where the minor resides or is present.

History: En. 91A-5-205 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-205.

72-5-222. Court appointment of guardian of minor — when allowed — priority of testamentary appointment. (1) The court may appoint a guardian for an unmarried minor if all parental rights of custody have been terminated or if parental rights have been suspended or limited by circumstances or prior court order.

(2) A guardian appointed by will as provided in 72-5-211 and 72-5-212 whose appointment has not been prevented or nullified under 72-5-213 has priority over any guardian who may be appointed by the court, but the court may proceed with an appointment upon a finding that the testamentary guardian has failed to accept the testamentary appointment within 30 days after notice of the guardianship proceeding.

History: En. 91A-5-204 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-204; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

72-5-223. Guardian of minor by court appointment — qualifications — nominee of minor preferred. The court may appoint as guardian any person whose appointment would be in the best interests of the minor, including the minor's interest in continuity of care. The ourt shall appoint a person nominated by the minor if the minor is 14 years of age or older nless the court finds the appointment contrary to the best interests of the minor.

History: **En. 91A-5-206 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-206; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 210, L. 2009.**

ross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.
Best interests of child, 40-4-212.

72-5-224. Temporary guardian of minor. If necessary, the court may appoint a emporary guardian with the status of an ordinary guardian of a minor, but the authority of a emporary guardian shall not last longer than 6 months.

History: **En. 91A-5-207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-207(3).**

ross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

72-5-225. Procedure for court appointment of guardian of minor — notice — earing — representation by attorney. (1) Notice of the time and place of hearing of a etition for the appointment of a guardian of a minor must be given by the petitioner in the anner prescribed by 72-1-301 to:

(a) the minor, if the minor is 14 years of age or older;

(b) the person who has had the principal care and custody of the minor during the 60 days receding the date of the petition; and

(c) any living parent of the minor.

(2) Upon hearing, the court shall make the appointment if the court finds that a ualified person seeks appointment, venue is proper, the required notices have been given, he requirements of 72-5-222 have been met, and the welfare and best interests of the minor, ncluding the need for continuity of care, will be served by the requested appointment. In other ases, the court may dismiss the proceedings or make any other disposition of the matter that ill best serve the interests of the minor.

(3) If, at any time in the proceeding, the court determines that the interests of the minor re or may be inadequately represented, the court may order the office of state public defender, rovided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 7, chapter 1, to represent the minor.

History: **En. 91A-5-207 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-207(1), (2), (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, 1979; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 210, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 358, L. 2017.**

ross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

72-5-226 through 72-5-230 reserved.

72-5-231. Powers and duties of guardian of minor. Unless otherwise limited by the ourt, a guardian of a minor has the powers and responsibilities of a parent who has not been eprived of custody of the parent's minor and unemancipated child, except that a guardian is ot legally obligated to provide from the guardian's own funds for the ward and is not liable o third persons by reason of the parental relationship for acts of the ward. In particular and ithout qualifying the foregoing, a guardian has the following powers and duties:

(1) The guardian shall take reasonable care of the ward's personal effects and commence rotective proceedings if necessary to protect other property of the ward.

(2) The guardian may receive money payable for the support of the ward to the ward's arent, guardian, or custodian under the terms of any statutory benefit or insurance system or ny private contract, devise, trust, conservatorship, or custodianship. The guardian also may eceive money or property of the ward paid or delivered by virtue of 72-5-104. Any sums received ust be applied to the ward's current needs for support, care, and education. The guardian hall exercise due care to conserve any excess for the ward's future needs unless a conservator as been appointed for the estate of the ward, in which case the excess must be paid at least nnually to the conservator. Sums received by the guardian may not be used for compensation or the guardian's services except as approved by an order of the court or as determined by a uly appointed conservator other than the guardian. A guardian may institute proceedings to ompel the performance by any person of a duty to support the ward or to pay sums for the elfare of the ward.

(3) The guardian is empowered to facilitate the ward's education, social, or other activitie and to authorize medical or other professional care, treatment, or advice. A guardian is no liable by reason of this consent for injury to the ward resulting from the negligence or acts o third persons unless it would have been illegal for a parent to have consented. A guardian ma consent to the marriage or adoption of the ward.

(4) A guardian shall report the condition of the ward and of the ward's estate that ha been subject to the guardian's possession or control, as ordered by the court on petition of an person interested in the minor's welfare or as required by court rule.

(5) Upon the death of a guardian's ward, the guardian, upon an order of the court and i there is no personal representative authorized to do so, may make necessary arrangements fo the removal, transportation, and final disposition, including burial, entombment, or cremation of the ward's physical remains and for the receipt and disposition of the ward's clothing furniture, and other personal effects that may be in the possession of the person in charge of th ward's care, comfort, and maintenance at the time of the ward's death.

History: En. 91A-5-209 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-209; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 1997 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Action by parent or guardian for injury to or death of child or ward, 27-1-512.

72-5-232. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

History: En. 91A-5-211 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-211.

72-5-233. Termination of appointment — how effected — certain liabilities an obligations not affected. (1) A guardian's authority and responsibility terminates upon th death, resignation, or removal of the guardian or upon the minor's death, except as provided i subsection (2), adoption, marriage, or attainment of majority, but termination does not affec a guardian's liability for prior acts or a guardian's obligation to account for funds and assets o the guardian's ward. Resignation of a guardian does not terminate the guardianship until it ha been approved by the court. A testamentary appointment under an informally probated wil terminates if the will is later denied probate in a formal proceeding.

(2) The guardian's authority and responsibility for a minor who dies while the minor is ward of the guardian terminates when the guardian has completed arrangements for the fina disposition of the ward's physical remains and personal effects as provided in 72-5-231(5).

History: En. 91A-5-210 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-210; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 238, L. 2003.

72-5-234. Procedure for resignation or removal — petition, notice, and hearin — representation by attorney. (1) Any person interested in the welfare of a ward or th ward, if 14 years of age or older, may petition for removal of a guardian on the ground tha removal would be in the best interests of the ward. A guardian may petition for permission t resign. A petition for removal or for permission to resign may but need not include a request fo appointment of a successor guardian.

(2) After notice and hearing on a petition for removal or for permission to resign, the cour may terminate the guardianship and make any further order that may be appropriate.

(3) If at any time in the proceeding the court determines that the interests of the ward ar or may be inadequately represented, it may order the office of state public defender, provided fo in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel under the provisions of the Montana Public Defender Act, Titl 47, chapter 1, to represent the minor.

History: En. 91A-5-212 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-212; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 449, L. 2005 amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

Part 3

Guardians of Incapacitated Persons

Part Cross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

Proxy decisionmakers, Title 50, ch. 5, part 13.

72-5-301. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment. (1) By acceptin appointment, a guardian submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceedin relating to the guardianship that may be instituted by any interested person.

(2) Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the guardian or mailed to the guardian by ordinary mail at the guardian's address as listed in the court records and to the guardian's address as then known to the petitioner.

History: **En. 91A-5-305 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-305; amd. Sec. 2401, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-302. Testamentary appointment of guardian for incapacitated person — when effective — priorities. (1) The parent of an unmarried incapacitated person may appoint by will or other writing signed by the parent and attested by at least two witnesses a guardian of the incapacitated person. If both parents are dead or the surviving parent is adjudged incapacitated, a parental appointment becomes effective when, after having given 7 days' prior written notice of intention to do so to the incapacitated person and to the person having care of the person or to the nearest adult relative, the guardian files acceptance of appointment in the court in which the will is informally or formally probated or, in the case of a nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the incapacitated person resides or is present. The notice must state that the appointment may be terminated by filing a written objection in the court, as provided by 72-5-304. If both parents are dead, an effective appointment by the parent who died later has priority.

(2) The spouse of a married incapacitated person may appoint by will or other writing signed by the spouse and attested by at least two witnesses a guardian of the incapacitated person. The appointment becomes effective when, after having given 7 days' prior written notice of intention to do so to the incapacitated person and to the person having care of the incapacitated person or to the nearest adult relative, the guardian files acceptance of appointment in the court in which the will is informally or formally probated or, in the case of nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the incapacitated person resides or is present. The notice must state that the appointment may be terminated by filing a written objection in the court, as provided by 72-5-304. An effective appointment by a spouse has priority over an appointment by a parent.

History: **En. 91A-5-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-301(1), (2); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 582, L. 1989.**

72-5-303. Recognition of appointment of guardian by foreign will. An appointment effected by filing the guardian's acceptance under a will probated in the state of the decedent's domicile is effective in this state.

History: **En. 91A-5-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-301(3); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 582, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Effect of judicial record of another state, 26-3-203.

72-5-304. Objection by alleged incapacitated person to testamentary appointment. Upon the filing in the court in which the will was probated or, in the case of a nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the incapacitated person resides or is present, of written objection to the appointment by the incapacitated person for whom a parental or spousal appointment of guardian has been made, the appointment is terminated. An objection does not prevent appointment by the court in a proper proceeding of the parental or spousal nominee or any other suitable person upon an adjudication of incapacity in proceedings under 72-5-305, 72-5-306, 72-5-311 through 72-5-322, 72-5-324, and 72-5-325.

History: **En. 91A-5-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-301(4); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-305. Definitions. In this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Full guardian" means a guardian who possesses all the legal duties and powers enumerated in 72-5-321.

(2) "Guardian" includes a full guardian and a limited guardian.

(3) "Less restrictive alternative" means an approach to meeting a person's needs that restricts fewer rights of the person than would the appointment of a guardian. The term includes supported decisionmaking, appropriate technological assistance, and appointment of a representative payee.

(4) "Limited guardian" means a guardian who possesses fewer than all of the legal duties and powers of a full guardian and whose rights, powers, and duties have been specifically enumerated by the court.

(5) "Supported decisionmaking" means assistance from one or more persons of a person's choosing in:

(a) understanding the nature and consequences of potential personal and financial decisions, which enables the person to make the decisions; and

(b) communicating a decision, once made, if consistent with the person's wishes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 2021.

72-5-306. Purpose and basis for guardianship. Guardianship for an incapacitated person may be used only as is necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the person. The guardianship must be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence in the person and may be ordered only to the extent that the person's actual mental and physical limitations require it. An incapacitated person for whom a guardian has been appointed is not presumed to be incompetent and retains all legal and civil rights except those that have been expressly limited by court order or have been specifically granted to the guardian by the court.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 1981.

72-5-307 through 72-5-310 reserved.

72-5-311. Venue for proceedings for court appointment of guardian. The venue for guardianship proceedings for an incapacitated person is in the place where the incapacitated person resides or is present. If the incapacitated person is admitted to an institution pursuant to order of a court of competent jurisdiction, venue is also in the county in which that court sits.

History: En. 91A-5-302 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-302.

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

72-5-312. Who may be guardian — priorities. (1) Any competent person or a suitable institution, association, or nonprofit corporation or any of its members may be appointed guardian of an incapacitated person.

(2) Persons who are not disqualified have priority for appointment as guardian in the following order:

(a) a person, association, or private, nonprofit corporation nominated by the incapacitated person if the court specifically finds that at the time of the nomination the incapacitated person had the capacity to make a reasonably intelligent choice;

(b) the spouse of the incapacitated person;

(c) an adult child of the incapacitated person;

(d) a parent of the incapacitated person, including a person nominated by will or other writing signed by a deceased parent;

(e) any relative of the incapacitated person with whom the incapacitated person has resided for more than 6 months prior to the filing of the petition;

(f) a relative or friend who has demonstrated a sincere, longstanding interest in the welfare of the incapacitated person;

(g) a private association or nonprofit corporation with a guardianship program for incapacitated persons, a member of the private association or nonprofit corporation approved by the association or corporation to act as a guardian for the incapacitated person, or a person included on an official list of the association or organization as willing and suitable to act as guardian of incapacitated persons;

(h) a person nominated by the person who is caring for the incapacitated person or paying benefits to the incapacitated person.

(3) The priorities established in subsection (2) are not binding, and the court shall select the person, association, or nonprofit corporation that is best qualified and willing to serve.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), the court may not appoint a person, institution, association, or nonprofit corporation to be the guardian of an incapacitated person if the person, institution, association, or nonprofit corporation:

(a) provides or is likely to provide during the guardianship substantial services to the incapacitated person in the professional or business capacity other than in the capacity of guardian;

(b) is or is likely to become during the guardianship period a creditor of the incapacitated person, other than in the capacity of guardian;

(c) has or is likely to have during the guardianship period interests that may conflict with those of the incapacitated person; or

(d) is employed by a person, institution, association, or nonprofit corporation that would be disqualified under subsections (4)(a) through (4)(c).

(5) If the court determines that there is no qualified person willing and able to serve as guardian, the court may appoint an agency of the state or federal government that is authorized or required by statute to provide services to the person or to persons suffering from the kind of disability from which the incapacitated person is suffering or a designee of the agency, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4). Whenever an agency is appointed guardian, the court may also appoint a limited guardian to represent a specified interest of the incapacitated person. Whenever a limited guardian is appointed pursuant to this subsection, the specified interest of the incapacitated person is the sole responsibility of the limited guardian and is removed from the responsibility of the agency.

History: **En. 91A-5-311 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-311; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2402, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-313. Visitor in guardianship proceedings defined. A visitor is, with respect to guardianship proceedings, a person who is trained in law, nursing, social work, medical care, mental health care, pastoral care, education, or rehabilitation and is an officer, employee, or special appointee of the court with no personal interest in the proceedings.

History: **En. 91A-5-308 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-308; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 344, L. 1981.**

72-5-314. Notices in guardianship proceedings. (1) In a proceeding for the appointment or removal of a guardian of an incapacitated person other than the appointment of a temporary guardian or temporary suspension of a guardian, notice of hearing must be given to each of the following:

(a) the ward or the person alleged to be incapacitated and the ward's or person's spouse, parents, and adult children;

(b) any person who is serving as the ward's or person's guardian or conservator or who has the ward's or person's care and custody; and

(c) in case no other person is notified under subsection (1)(a), at least one of the ward's or person's closest adult relatives, if any can be found.

(2) Notice must be served personally on the alleged incapacitated person and the person's spouse and parents if they can be found within the state. Notice to the spouse and parents, if they cannot be found within the state, and to all other persons except the alleged incapacitated person must be given as provided in 72-1-301. Waiver of notice by the person alleged to be incapacitated is not effective unless the person attends the hearing or the person's waiver of notice is confirmed in an interview with the visitor. Representation of the alleged incapacitated person by a guardian ad litem is not necessary.

History: **En. 91A-5-309 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-309; amd. Sec. 2403, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Appointment of guardian ad litem, 25-5-301.

72-5-315. Procedure for court appointment of guardian — hearing — examination — interview — procedural rights. (1) The incapacitated person or any person interested in the incapacitated person's welfare, including the county attorney, may petition for a finding of incapacity and appointment of a guardian.

(2) Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall set a date for hearing on the issues of incapacity. The allegedly incapacitated person may have counsel of the person's own choice or the court may, in the interest of justice, appoint an appropriate official or order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, to represent the person in the proceeding.

(3) The person alleged to be incapacitated must be examined by a physician appointed by the court who shall submit a report in writing to the court and must be interviewed by a visitor sent by the court. Whenever possible, the court shall appoint as visitor a person who has particular experience or expertise in treating, evaluating, or caring for persons with the kind of disabling condition that is alleged to be the cause of the incapacity. The visitor shall also interview the person who appears to have caused the petition to be filed and the person who is nominated to serve as guardian and visit the present place of abode of the person alleged to be incapacitated and the place it is proposed that the person will be detained or reside if the requested appointment is made and submit the visitor's report in writing to the court. Whenever possible without undue delay or expense beyond the ability to pay of the alleged incapacitated person, the court, in formulating the judgment, shall utilize the services of any public or charitable agency that offers or is willing to evaluate the condition of the allegedly incapacitated person and make recommendations to the court regarding the most appropriate form of state intervention in the person's affairs.

(4) The person alleged to be incapacitated is entitled to be present at the hearing in person and to see or hear all evidence bearing upon the person's condition. The person is entitled to be present by counsel, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, including the court-appointed physician and the visitor, and to trial by jury. The issue may be determined at a closed hearing without a jury if the person alleged to be incapacitated or the person's counsel requests it.

History: En. 91A-5-303 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 514, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-303; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

72-5-316. Findings — order of appointment. (1) If the court is satisfied that the person for whom a guardianship is sought is incapacitated, that the identified needs of the person cannot be met by a less restrictive alternative, and that judicial intervention in the person's personal freedom of action and decision is necessary to meet essential requirements for the person's physical health or safety, it may appoint a full guardian having the powers described in 72-5-321 or a limited guardian having the powers described in the order. If the court is satisfied that the allegedly incapacitated person could handle the essential requirements for physical health or safety if the person's financial resources were managed by another, it shall order that the petition be treated as a petition for a protective order under Title 72, chapter 5, part 4, and proceed accordingly. Alternatively, the court may dismiss the proceeding or enter any other appropriate order that is not inconsistent with the specific provisions of this part. In issuing its order, the court shall make specific findings of fact.

(2) The court may not invest a guardian with powers or duties beyond those sought in the petition and may, upon petition for a full guardianship, create a limited guardianship or conservatorship when the court determines that a limited guardianship or conservatorship is all that is required for the care and protection of the incapacitated person. The order must specify whether a full or limited guardianship is being created. In the case of a limited guardianship, the order must specify the particular powers and duties vested in the limited guardian and the period for which the limited guardianship is created.

(3) An incapacitated person may not be limited in the exercise of any civil or political rights except those that are clearly inconsistent with the exercise of the powers granted to the guardian unless the court's order specifically provides for the limitations. The order must state that all rights not specifically limited are retained by the incapacitated person.

History: En. 91A-5-304 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-304; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2404, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 40, L. 2021.

72-5-317. Temporary guardians. (1) If an incapacitated person has no guardian and an emergency exists, the court may exercise the power of a guardian pending notice and hearing.

(2) If an appointed guardian is not effectively performing the guardian's duties or if there is no appointed guardian and the court further finds that the welfare of the incapacitated person requires immediate action, it may, with or without notice, appoint a temporary guardian for the incapacitated person for a specified period not to exceed 6 months. The court may appoint either a full or a limited temporary guardian depending on the needs and circumstances of the incapacitated person. The court may not invest a temporary guardian with more powers than

are required by the circumstances necessitating the appointment. The order of appointment of a temporary guardian must state whether a full or limited temporary guardianship is being created and, in the case of a limited temporary guardian, the specific powers and duties of the limited temporary guardian.

(3) If there is no person available and willing to act as temporary guardian for an incapacitated person who is in need of a temporary guardian except a person or entity who is ineligible to act as guardian pursuant to the provisions of 72-5-312(4), the court may appoint as temporary guardian a person or entity who would otherwise be ineligible under that provision to act as guardian. This subsection does not permit the appointment of a person or entity who has an actual conflict of interest in regard to the purpose for which the temporary guardianship is sought. A temporary guardian who is otherwise ineligible shall serve until a person or entity who is not ineligible to serve as guardian and who is otherwise qualified to be guardian is appointed by the court to act as temporary guardian, but the temporary guardian may not serve for longer than 6 months.

(4) A temporary full guardian is entitled to the care and custody of the ward, and the authority of any permanent guardian previously appointed by the court is suspended as long as a temporary guardian has authority. A temporary limited guardian is entitled to exercise powers that are specifically granted to the temporary guardian in the order of appointment, and the power of any permanent guardian previously appointed by the court to exercise those powers is suspended so long as the temporary limited guardian has authority. The court by specific order may suspend all authority of the permanent guardian upon appointment of a temporary limited guardian. A temporary guardian may be removed at any time. A temporary guardian shall make any report the court requires. In other respects, the provisions of this code concerning guardians apply to temporary guardians.

History: En. 91A-5-310 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-310; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2405, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-318. Request for notice — interested person. (1) An interested person who desires to be notified before any order is made in a guardianship proceeding may file with the clerk a request for notice upon payment of any fee required by statute or court rule. The clerk shall mail a copy of the demand to the guardian if one has been appointed.

(2) A request is not effective unless it contains a statement showing the interest of the person making it and the person's address or that of the person's attorney and is effective only as to matters occurring after the filing. Any governmental agency paying or planning to pay benefits to the alleged incapacitated person is an interested person in guardianship proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2406, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-319. Contents of petition for appointment of guardian. (1) The petition for appointment of a guardian must contain:

(a) the name, residence, and mailing address of the petitioner, the petitioner's relationship to the alleged incapacitated person, and the petitioner's interest in the matter;

(b) the name, residence, and mailing address of the alleged incapacitated person;

(c) the nature and degree of the alleged incapacity;

(d) if the petition in any way affects the management of the property of the alleged incapacitated person, the approximate value and description of the property, including any compensation, pension, insurance, or allowance to which the person may be entitled;

(e) whether there is, in any state, a full guardian or limited guardian for the person or estate of the incapacitated person or a conservator of the person's property;

(f) the name, residence, and mailing address of the person whom the petitioner seeks to have appointed guardian;

(g) the names, residences, and nature of relationship, so far as is known or can reasonably be ascertained, of the persons most closely related by blood or marriage to the alleged incapacitated person;

(h) the name and residence of the person or institution having the care and custody of the alleged incapacitated person;

(i) the reasons why the appointment of a guardian is sought, including:

(i) any less restrictive alternatives for meeting the alleged incapacitated person's needs that have been implemented or, if no less restrictive alternatives have been implemented, the reason why; and

(ii) the reason why a less restrictive alternative is insufficient to meet the alleged incapacitated person's needs;

(j) whether a limited guardianship or full guardianship is requested;

(k) the facts supporting the allegations of incapacity and the need for a guardian;

(l) the specific areas of protection and assistance requested and the limitation of rights requested to be included in the order of appointment;

(m) in the case of a petition for limited guardianship, the particular powers and areas of authority that the petition seeks to have vested in the limited guardian as provided in 72-5-320 and the term for which the limited guardianship is requested;

(n) in the case of a petition for full guardianship, the length of time the guardianship is expected to last.

(2) The petition may also include a request for temporary guardianship as provided in 72-5-317 if the petitioner believes that the requisites of that section are met and that the appointment of a temporary guardian, pending the completion of guardianship proceedings, is necessary to protect the welfare of the alleged incapacitated person. The facts requiring appointment of a temporary guardian must be stated with specificity.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2407, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 40, L. 2021.

72-5-320. Purposes for establishment of limited guardianship. A petition seeking the establishment of a limited guardianship must specify the particular powers that the limited guardian is proposed to exercise and the particular areas of protection and assistance required. The purposes for which a limited guardian may be appointed include:

(1) to care for and maintain the alleged incapacitated person;

(2) to assert and protect the rights and best interests of the alleged incapacitated person;

(3) to provide timely and informed consent to necessary medical procedures and procedures implemented in connection with habilitation and training programs;

(4) to assist in the acquisition of necessary training, habilitation, and education for the incapacitated person;

(5) to exercise any other powers, duties, or limitations in regard to the care of the incapacitated person or the management of the person's property that the petition explicitly specifies, which may not be greater than the powers a full guardian may exercise.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2408, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-321. Powers and duties of guardian of incapacitated person. (1) The powers and duties of a limited guardian are those specified in the order appointing the guardian. The limited guardian is required to report the condition of the incapacitated person and of the estate that has been subject to the guardian's possession and control, as required by the court or by court rule.

(2) A full guardian of an incapacitated person has the same powers, rights, and duties respecting the ward that a parent has respecting an unemancipated minor child, except that a guardian is not liable to third persons for acts of the ward solely by reason of the parental relationship. In particular and without qualifying the foregoing, a full guardian has the following powers and duties, except as limited by order of the court:

(a) To the extent that it is consistent with the terms of any order by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to detention or commitment of the ward, the full guardian is entitled to custody of the person of the ward and may establish the ward's place of residence within or outside of this state.

(b) If entitled to custody of the ward, the full guardian shall make provision for the care, comfort, and maintenance of the ward and whenever appropriate arrange for the ward's training and education. Without regard to custodial rights of the ward's person, the full guardian shall take reasonable care of the ward's clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects and commence protective proceedings if other property of the ward is in need of protection.

(c) A full guardian may give any consents or approvals that may be necessary to enable the ward to receive medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment, or service. This subsection (2)(c) does not authorize a full guardian to consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment or to a do not resuscitate order if the full guardian does not have authority to consent pursuant to the Montana Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, Title 50, chapter

9, or to the do not resuscitate provisions of Title 50, chapter 10. A full guardian may petition the court for authority to consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment or to a do not resuscitate order. The court may not grant that authority if it conflicts with the ward's wishes to the extent that those wishes can be determined. To determine the ward's wishes, the court shall determine by a preponderance of evidence if the ward's substituted judgment, as applied to the ward's current circumstances, conflicts with the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment or a do not resuscitate order.

(d) If a conservator for the estate of the ward has not been appointed, a full guardian may:

(i) institute proceedings to compel any person under a duty to support the ward or to pay sums for the welfare of the ward to perform that person's duty;

(ii) receive money and tangible property deliverable to the ward and apply the money and property for support, care, and education of the ward. However, the full guardian may not use funds from the ward's estate for room and board that the full guardian or the full guardian's spouse, parent, or child has furnished the ward unless a charge for the service is approved by order of the court made upon notice to at least one of the next of kin of the incompetent ward, f notice is possible. The full guardian must exercise care to conserve any excess for the ward's needs.

(e) Unless waived by the court, a full guardian is required to report the condition of the ward and of the estate that has been subject to the full guardian's possession or control annually for the preceding year. A copy of the report must be served upon the ward's parent, child, or sibling if that person has made an effective request under 72-5-318.

(f) If a conservator has been appointed, all of the ward's estate received by the full guardian n excess of those funds expended to meet current expenses for support, care, and education of the ward must be paid to the conservator for management as provided in this chapter, and the full guardian must account to the conservator for funds expended.

(3) Upon failure, as determined by the clerk of court, of the guardian to file an annual report, the court shall order the guardian to file the report and give good cause for the guardian's failure to file a timely report.

(4) Any full guardian of one for whom a conservator also has been appointed shall control he custody and care of the ward. A limited guardian of a person for whom a conservator has been appointed shall control those aspects of the custody and care of the ward over which the imited guardian is given authority by the order establishing the limited guardianship. The full guardian or limited guardian is entitled to receive reasonable sums for the guardian's services and for room and board furnished to the ward as agreed upon between the guardian and the onservator, provided the amounts agreed upon are reasonable under the circumstances. The ull guardian or limited guardian authorized to oversee the incapacitated person's care may request the conservator to expend the ward's estate by payment to third persons or institutions or the ward's care and maintenance.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), a full guardian or limited guardian may not nvoluntarily commit for mental health treatment or for treatment of a developmental disability or for observation or evaluation a ward who is unwilling or unable to give informed consent to ommitment, except as provided in 72-5-322, unless the procedures for involuntary commitment et forth in Title 53, chapters 20 and 21, are followed. This chapter does not abrogate any of the ights of mentally disabled persons provided for in Title 53, chapters 20 and 21.

(6) (a) If the court has found that a ward has a primary diagnosis of a major neurocognitive disorder, as defined in the fifth edition of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders adopted by the American psychiatric association, and because of this disorder the ward s unwilling or unable to give informed consent to treatment, a full guardian or limited guardian may seek admission of the ward for stabilization and treatment to a hospital, skilled nursing acility, or another appropriate treatment facility other than the Montana state hospital.

(b) If the ward is admitted to the Montana mental health nursing care center, the court shall review every 90 days whether the Montana mental health nursing care center is the ppropriate placement for the ward or whether a less restrictive placement exists.

(7) Upon the death of a full guardian's or limited guardian's ward, the full guardian or mited guardian, upon an order of the court and if there is no personal representative authorized to do so, may make necessary arrangements for the removal, transportation, and final disposition

of the ward's physical remains, including burial, entombment, or cremation, and for the receipt and disposition of the ward's clothing, furniture, and other personal effects that may be in the possession of the person in charge of the ward's care, comfort, and maintenance at the time of the ward's death.

History: **En. 91A-5-312 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-312; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 344, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 238, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 480, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 237 L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 381, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 40, L. 2021.**

72-5-322. Petition of guardian for treatment of ward. (1) If a guardian believes that the guardian's ward should receive medical treatment for a mental disorder and the ward refuses, the court may, upon petition by the guardian, grant an order for evaluation or treatment. However, the order may not forcibly detain the ward against the ward's will for more than 72 hours.

(2) The ward is entitled to the assignment of counsel, in accordance with the provisions of the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, and a hearing along with all the other rights guaranteed to a person with a mental disorder and who requires commitment under 53-21-114, 53-21-115, 53-21-119, and 53-21-120.

History: **En. 91A-5-314 by Sec. 3, Ch. 514, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-314; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 490, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 449, L. 2005.**

72-5-323. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

History: **En. 91A-5-313 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-313.**

72-5-324. Termination of appointment — how effected — certain liabilities and obligations not affected. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), the authority and responsibility of a guardian for an incapacitated person terminates upon the death of the guardian or ward, the determination of incapacity of the guardian, or upon removal or resignation as provided in 72-5-325. Testamentary appointment under an informally probated will terminates if the will is later denied probate in a formal proceeding.

(b) The guardian's authority and responsibility for an incapacitated person who dies while the person is a ward of the guardian terminate when the guardian has completed arrangements for the final disposition of the ward's physical remains and personal effects, as provided in 72-5-321(7).

(2) Termination does not affect the guardian's liability for prior acts or the guardian's obligation to account for funds and assets of the ward.

History: **En. 91A-5-306 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-306; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 238, L. 2003 amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 381, L. 2015.**

72-5-325. Petition for removal or resignation of guardian — termination of incapacity — appointment of successor guardian. (1) On petition of the ward or any person interested in the ward's welfare, the court, after hearing, may remove a guardian if in the best interests of the ward. On petition of the guardian, the court, after hearing, may accept a resignation.

(2) An order adjudicating incapacity may specify a minimum period, not exceeding 6 months, during which a petition for an adjudication that the ward is no longer incapacitated may not be filed without special leave. Subject to that restriction, the ward or any person interested in the welfare of the ward may petition for an order that the ward is no longer incapacitated and for termination of the guardianship. A request for an order may also be made informally to the court, and any person who knowingly interferes with transmission of the request may be adjudged guilty of contempt of court.

(3) Upon removal, resignation, or death of the guardian or if the guardian is determined to be incapacitated, the court may appoint a successor guardian and make any other appropriate order. Before appointing a successor guardian or ordering that a ward's incapacity has terminated, the court shall follow the same procedures to safeguard the rights of the ward that apply to a petition for appointment of a guardian.

History: **En. 91A-5-307 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-307; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 582, L. 1989**

Cross-References

Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.

Part 4

Protection of Property of Minors and Persons Under Disability

Part Cross-References

Rights of persons not adults, Art. II, sec. 15, Mont. Const.
Minors, Title 41.
Persons with developmental disabilities, Title 53, ch. 20.
Mentally ill, Title 53, ch. 21.

72-5-401. Original petition for appointment or protective order — who may petition. The person to be protected, any person who is interested in that person's estate, affairs, or welfare, including that person's parent, guardian, or custodian, or any person who would be adversely affected by lack of effective management of the property and affairs of the person to be protected may petition for the appointment of a conservator or for other appropriate protective order.

History: En. 91A-5-404 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-404(1); amd. Sec. 2409, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-402. Contents of petition. (1) The petition must set forth to the extent known:

(a) the interest of the petitioner;

(b) the name, age, residence, and address of the person to be protected;

(c) the name and address of that person's guardian, if any;

(d) the name and address of that person's nearest relative known to the petitioner;

(e) a general statement of that person's property with an estimate of the value of the property, including any compensation, insurance, pension, or allowance to which the person is entitled; and

(f) the reason why appointment of a conservator or other protective order is necessary.

(2) If the appointment of a conservator is requested, the petition also must set forth the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and the basis of the person's priority for appointment.

(3) The petition must affirm that no mental health care advance directive exists or, if a directive exists, the directive must be attached to the petition.

History: En. 91A-5-404 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-404(2); amd. Sec. 2410, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 329, L. 2011.

72-5-403. Notice — waiver. (1) On a petition for appointment of a conservator or other protective order, the person to be protected and the person's spouse or, if none, the person's parents must be served personally with notice of the proceeding at least 14 days before the date of hearing if they can be found within the state, or if they cannot be found within the state, they must be given notice in accordance with 72-1-301. Waiver by the person to be protected is not effective unless the person attends the hearing or, unless minority is the reason for the proceeding, waiver is confirmed in an interview with the visitor.

(2) Notice of a petition for appointment of a conservator or other initial protective order and of any subsequent hearing must be given to any person who has filed a request for notice under 72-5-404 and to interested persons and other persons as the court may direct. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1), notice must be given in accordance with 72-1-301.

History: En. 91A-5-405 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-405; amd. Sec. 2411, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-404. Request for notice — interested person. (1) An interested person who desires to be notified before any order is made in a protective proceeding may file with the clerk a request for notice subsequent to payment of any fee required by statute or court rule. The clerk shall mail a copy of the demand to the conservator if one has been appointed.

(2) A request is not effective unless it contains a statement showing the interest of the person making it and the person's address or that of the person's attorney and is effective only as to matters occurring after the filing. Any governmental agency paying or planning to pay benefits to the person to be protected is an interested person in protective proceedings.

History: En. 91A-5-406 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-406; amd. Sec. 2412, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-405. Exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction of particular court after petition and notice. After the service of notice in a proceeding seeking the appointment of a conservator or other protective order and until termination of the proceeding, the court in which the petition is filed has:

(1) exclusive jurisdiction to determine the need for a conservator or other protective order until the proceedings are terminated;

(2) exclusive jurisdiction to determine how the estate of the protected person that is subject to the laws of this state is managed, expended, or distributed to or for the use of the protected person or any of the person's dependents;

(3) concurrent jurisdiction to determine the validity of claims against the person or estate of the protected person and the person's title to any property or claim.

History: En. 91A-5-402 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-402; amd. Sec. 2413, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-5-406. Consent to jurisdiction by acceptance of appointment as conservator (1) By accepting appointment, a conservator submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by any interested person.

(2) Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the conservator or mailed to the conservator by certified mail at the conservator's address as listed in the petition for appointment or as reported to the court and to the conservator's address as then known to the petitioner.

History: En. 91A-5-413 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-413; amd. Sec. 2414, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-5-407. Venue. Venue for proceedings under this part is:

(1) in the place in this state where the person to be protected resides, whether or not a guardian has been appointed in another place; or

(2) if the person to be protected does not reside in this state, in any place where the person has property.

History: En. 91A-5-403 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-403; amd. Sec. 2415, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References

Venue, Title 25, ch. 2.

72-5-408. Procedure concerning hearing and order on original petition (1) Upon receipt of a petition for appointment of a conservator or other protective order because of minority, the court shall set a date for hearing on the matters alleged in the petition. If at any time in the proceeding the court determines that the interests of the minor are or may be inadequately represented, the court may order the office of state public defender, provided for in 2-15-1029, to assign counsel pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1 to represent the minor.

(2) Upon receipt of a petition for appointment of a conservator or other protective order for reasons other than minority, the court shall set a date for hearing. Unless the person to be protected has counsel of the person's own choice, the court shall order the office of state public defender to assign counsel to represent the person pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1. If the alleged disability is mental illness or mental deficiency, the court may direct that the person to be protected be examined by a physician or professional person as defined in 53-21-102 designated by the court. If the alleged disability is physical illness or disability, advanced age, chronic use of drugs, or chronic intoxication, the court may direct that the person to be protected be examined by a physician designated by the court. It is preferable that a physician designated by the court not be connected with any institution in which the person is a patient or is detained. The court may send a visitor to interview the person to be protected. The visitor may be a guardian ad litem or an officer or employee of the court.

(3) In the case of an appointment pursuant to 72-5-410(1)(h), the court shall direct that the person to be protected be examined by a physician as set forth in subsection (2).

(4) After hearing, upon finding that a basis for the appointment of a conservator or other protective order has been established, the court shall make an appointment or other appropriate protective order.

History: En. 91A-5-407 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-407; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1985 amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 362, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 358, L. 2017.

72-5-409. Cause for appointment of conservator or issuance of protective order. Upon petition and after notice and hearing in accordance with the provisions of this part, the court may appoint a conservator or make another protective order for cause as follows:

(1) Appointment of a conservator or other protective order may be made in relation to the estate and affairs of a minor if the court determines that a minor owns money or property that requires management or protection that cannot otherwise be provided, that a minor has or may have business affairs that may be jeopardized or prevented by the person's minority, or that funds are needed for the person's support and education and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide funds.

(2) Appointment of a conservator or other protective order may be made in relation to the estate and affairs of a person if the court determines that:

(a) the person is unable to manage the person's property and affairs effectively for reasons such as mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, advanced age, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, confinement, detention by a foreign power, or disappearance; and

(b) the person has property that will be wasted or dissipated unless proper management is provided or that funds are needed for the support, care, and welfare of the person or those entitled to be supported by the person and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide funds.

History: **En. 91A-5-401 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-401; amd. Sec. 2416, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-410. Who may be appointed conservator — priorities. (1) The court may appoint an individual or a corporation with general power to serve as trustee as conservator of the estate of a protected person. The following are entitled to consideration for appointment in the order listed:

(a) a conservator, guardian of property, or other like fiduciary appointed or recognized by the appropriate court of any other jurisdiction in which the protected person resides;

(b) an individual or corporation nominated by the protected person if the person is 14 years of age or older and has, in the opinion of the court, sufficient mental capacity to make an intelligent choice;

(c) the spouse of the protected person;

(d) an adult child of the protected person;

(e) a parent of the protected person or a person nominated by the will of a deceased parent;

(f) any relative of the protected person with whom the protected person has resided for more than 6 months prior to the filing of the petition;

(g) a person nominated by the person who is caring for the person or paying benefits to the person;

(h) a conservator corporation organized under Title 35, chapter 2;

(i) the public administrator.

(2) A person in priorities listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(c) through (1)(f) may nominate in writing a person to serve in that person's stead.

(3) With respect to persons having equal priority, the court is to select the one who is best qualified of those willing to serve. The court, for good cause, may pass over a person having priority and appoint a person having less priority or no priority.

History: **En. 91A-5-410 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-410; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 362, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2417, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-411. Bond — court may require — amount. (1) The court may require a conservator to furnish a bond conditioned upon faithful discharge of all duties of the trust according to law with sureties that it specifies.

(2) Unless otherwise directed, the bond must be in the amount of the aggregate capital value of the property of the estate in the conservator's control plus 1 year's estimated income minus the value of securities deposited under arrangements requiring an order of the court for their removal and the value of any land that the fiduciary, by express limitation of power, lacks power to sell or convey without court authorization.

(3) The court, in lieu of sureties on a bond, may accept other security for the performance of the bond, including a pledge of securities or a mortgage of land.

History: **En. 91A-5-411 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-411; amd. Sec. 2418, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References
Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-5-412. Terms and requirements of bond. (1) The following requirements and provisions apply to any bond required under 72-5-411:

(a) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the conservator and with each other.

(b) By executing an approved bond of a conservator, the surety consents to the jurisdiction of the court that issued letters to the primary obligor in any proceeding pertaining to the fiduciary duties of the conservator and naming the surety as a party defendant. Notice of any proceeding must be delivered to the surety or mailed to the surety by certified mail at the surety's address as listed with the court where the bond is filed and to the surety's address as then known to the petitioner.

(c) On petition of a successor conservator or any interested person, a proceeding may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the bond of the conservator.

(d) The bond of the conservator is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(2) A proceeding may not be commenced against the surety on any matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

History: En. 91A-5-412 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-412; amd. Sec. 2419, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References
Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-5-413. Petitions for orders subsequent to appointment — interested persons. (1) A person interested in the welfare of a person for whom a conservator has been appointed may file a petition in the appointing court for an order:

(a) requiring bond or security or additional bond or security or reducing bond;
(b) requiring an accounting for the administration of the trust;
(c) directing distribution;
(d) removing the conservator and appointing a temporary or successor conservator; or
(e) granting other appropriate relief.

(2) A conservator may petition the appointing court for instructions concerning the conservator's fiduciary responsibility.

(3) Upon notice and hearing, the court may give appropriate instructions or make any appropriate order.

(4) For purposes of this section, any person, institution, or agency that is furnishing or supplying any money for support or care of a person for whom a conservator has been appointed is a person interested in the welfare of the protected person.

History: En. 91A-5-416 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-416; amd. Sec. 2420, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-414. Resignation or removal of conservator for cause — successor conservator. The court may remove a conservator for good cause, upon notice and hearing, or may accept the resignation of a conservator. After the conservator's death, resignation, or removal, the court may appoint another conservator. A conservator so appointed succeeds to the title and powers of the predecessor.

History: En. 91A-5-415 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-415; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2421, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-415. Public administrator as conservator when no other appropriate person. (1) Whenever a professional person, as defined in 53-21-102, has reason to believe that any person is in need of the appointment of a conservator for the effective management of the person's property or affairs under this part and that the person has no relative, friend, or other appropriate person who is able and willing to serve as a conservator for the person, the professional person shall notify the public administrator.

(2) Whenever the public administrator is notified under subsection (1) of the need for the appointment of a conservator and reasonable cause exists, the public administrator shall file a petition for appointment of the public administrator as conservator of the person.

History: En. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 362, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2422, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References
Office of Public Administrator, 7-4-3004; Title 72, ch. 15.

72-5-416 through 72-5-420 reserved.

72-5-421. Powers of court as to property and affairs of protected persons generally — temporary conservatorship. The court has the following powers that may be exercised directly or through a conservator in respect to the estate and affairs of protected persons:

(1) While a petition for appointment of a conservator or other protective order is pending and after preliminary hearing and without notice to others, the court has power to preserve and apply the property of the person to be protected as may be required for the protected person's benefit or the benefit of the protected person's dependents. If the court finds that the welfare of the person requires immediate action, it may, with or without notice, appoint a temporary conservator for the person for a specified period not to exceed 6 months. The court may designate the authority of the temporary conservator, depending on the needs and circumstances of the protected person. The court may not invest a temporary conservator with more powers than are required by the circumstances necessitating the appointment. The order of appointment of a temporary conservator must state the specific powers and duties of the temporary conservator.

(2) After hearing and upon determining that a basis for an appointment or other protective order exists with respect to a minor without other disability, the court has all those powers over the estate and affairs of the minor that are or might be necessary for the best interests of the minor, the minor's family, and members of the minor's household.

(3) After hearing and upon determining that a basis for an appointment or other protective order exists with respect to a person for reasons other than minority, the court has, for the benefit of the person and members of the person's household, all the powers over the person's estate and affairs that the person could exercise if present and not under disability, except the power to make a will. These powers include but are not limited to the power to:

(a) make gifts;

(b) convey or release the person's contingent and expectant interests in property, including marital property rights and any right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety;

(c) exercise or release the person's powers as trustee, personal representative, custodian for minors, conservator, or donee of a power of appointment;

(d) enter into contracts;

(e) create revocable or irrevocable trusts of property of the estate that may extend beyond the person's disability or life;

(f) exercise options of the disabled person to purchase securities or other property;

(g) exercise the person's rights to elect options and change beneficiaries under insurance and annuity policies and surrender the policies for their cash value;

(h) exercise the person's right to an elective share in the estate of the person's deceased spouse and renounce any interest by testate or intestate succession or by inter vivos transfer.

(4) The court may exercise or direct the exercise of its authority to exercise or release powers of appointment of which the protected person is donee, to renounce interests, to make gifts in trust or otherwise exceeding 20% of any year's income of the estate, or to change beneficiaries under insurance and annuity policies, only if satisfied, after notice and hearing, that it is in the best interests of the protected person and that the protected person either is incapable of consenting or has consented to the proposed exercise of power.

(5) An order made pursuant to this section, determining that a basis for appointment of a conservator or other protective order exists, has no effect on the capacity of the protected person.

History: **En. 91A-5-408 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-408; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 42, L. 2007.**

72-5-422. Power of court to authorize particular protective arrangements or transactions without appointing conservator. (1) If it is established in a proper proceeding that a basis exists as described in 72-5-409 for affecting the property and affairs of a person, the court without appointing a conservator may authorize, direct, or ratify any transaction necessary or desirable to achieve any security, service, or care arrangement meeting the foreseeable needs of the protected person. Protective arrangements include but are not limited to:

(a) payment, delivery, deposit, or retention of funds or property;

(b) sale, mortgage, lease, or other transfer of property;

(c) entry into an annuity contract, a contract for life care, a deposit contract, or a contract for training and education; or

(d) addition to or establishment of a suitable trust.

(2) When it has been established in a proper proceeding that a basis exists as described in 72-5-409 for affecting the property and affairs of a person, the court without appointing a conservator may authorize, direct, or ratify any contract, trust, or other transaction relating to the protected person's financial affairs or involving the protected person's estate if the court determines that the transaction is in the best interests of the protected person.

(3) Before approving a protective arrangement or other transaction under this section, the court shall consider the interests of creditors and dependents of the protected person and, in view of the protected person's disability, whether the protected person needs the continuing protection of a conservator. The court may appoint a special conservator to assist in the accomplishment of any protective arrangement or other transaction authorized under this section who, upon appointment, has the authority conferred by the order and serves until discharged by order after report to the court of all matters done pursuant to the order of appointment.

History: En. 91A-5-409 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-409; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2423, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-423. Fiduciary duty of conservator. In the exercise of a conservator's powers, a conservator is to act as a fiduciary and shall observe the standards of care applicable to trustees.

History: En. 91A-5-417 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-417; amd. Sec. 2424, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of trustees, Title 72, ch. 38, part 8.

72-5-424. Inventory and records. (1) Within 90 days after appointment, a conservator shall prepare and file with the appointing court a complete inventory of the estate of the protected person, together with the conservator's oath or affirmation that it is complete and accurate so far as the conservator is informed. The conservator shall provide a copy of the inventory to the protected person if the protected person can be located, has attained 14 years of age, and has sufficient mental capacity to understand these matters and to any parent or guardian with whom the protected person resides.

(2) The conservator shall keep suitable records of the conservator's administration and exhibit the records on request of any interested person.

History: En. 91A-5-418 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-418; amd. Sec. 2425, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-425. Title by appointment as conservator — appointment not transfer for certain purposes. (1) The appointment of a conservator vests in the conservator title as trustee to all property of the protected person presently held or thereafter acquired, including title to any property previously held for the protected person by custodians or attorneys-in-fact.

(2) The appointment of a conservator is not a transfer or alienation within the meaning of general provisions of any federal or state statute or regulation, insurance policy, pension plan, contract, will, or trust instrument imposing restrictions upon or penalties for transfer or alienation by the protected person of the protected person's rights or interest, but this section does not restrict the ability of persons to make specific provision by contract or dispositive instrument relating to a conservator.

History: En. 91A-5-420 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-420; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2426, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of trustees, Title 72, ch. 38, part 8.

72-5-426. Letters as evidence of transfer of assets — recording. (1) Letters of conservatorship are evidence of transfer of all assets of a protected person to the conservator. An order terminating a conservatorship is evidence of transfer of all assets of the estate from the conservator to the protected person or the protected person's successors.

(2) Subject to the requirements of general statutes governing the filing or recordation of documents of title to land or other property, letters of conservatorship and orders terminating conservatorships may be filed or recorded to give record notice of title as between the conservator and the protected person.

History: En. 91A-5-421 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-421; amd. Sec. 2427, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-427. Powers of conservator in administration. (1) A conservator has all of the powers conferred in this section and any additional powers conferred by law on trustees in this state. In addition, a conservator of the estate of an unmarried minor under 18 years of age, as to whom no one has parental rights, has the duties and powers of a guardian of a minor described in 72-5-231 until the minor attains 18 years of age or marries, but the parental rights so conferred on a conservator do not preclude appointment of a guardian as provided by Title 72, chapter 5, part 2.

(2) A conservator has power, without court authorization or confirmation, to invest and reinvest funds of the estate as would a trustee.

(3) A conservator, acting reasonably in efforts to accomplish the purpose for which the conservator was appointed, may act without court authorization or confirmation to:

(a) collect, hold, and retain assets of the estate, including land in another state, until in the conservator's judgment disposition of the assets should be made, and the assets may be retained even though they include an asset in which the conservator is personally interested;

(b) receive additions to the estate;

(c) continue or participate in the operation of any business or other enterprise;

(d) acquire an undivided interest in an estate asset in which the conservator in any fiduciary capacity holds an undivided interest;

(e) invest and reinvest estate assets in accordance with subsection (2);

(f) deposit estate funds in a bank, including a bank operated by the conservator;

(g) acquire or dispose of an estate asset, including land in another state, for cash or on credit at public or private sale and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon an estate asset;

(h) make ordinary or extraordinary repairs or alterations in buildings or other structures, demolish any improvements, raze existing or erect new party walls or buildings;

(i) subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use; make or obtain the vacation of plats and adjust boundaries, adjust differences in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving considerations, and dedicate easements to public use without consideration;

(j) enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee, with or without option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the term of the conservatorship;

(k) enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or other natural resources or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement;

(l) grant an option involving disposition of an estate asset or take an option for the acquisition of any asset;

(m) vote a security in person or by general or limited proxy;

(n) pay calls, assessments, and any other sums chargeable or accruing against or on account of securities;

(o) sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights or consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise;

(p) hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the conservatorship so that title to the security may pass by delivery, but the conservator is liable for any act of the nominee in connection with the stock so held;

(q) insure the assets of the estate against damage or loss and the conservator against liability with respect to third persons;

(r) borrow money to be repaid from estate assets or otherwise or advance money for the protection of the estate or the protected person and for all expenses, losses, and liability sustained in the administration of the estate or because of the holding or ownership of any estate assets, and the conservator has a lien on the estate as against the protected person for advances made;

(s) pay or contest any claim or settle a claim by or against the estate or the protected person by compromise, arbitration, or otherwise and release, in whole or in part, any claim belonging to the estate to the extent that the claim is uncollectible;

(t) pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the conservator, and other expenses incurred in the collection, care, administration, and protection of the estate;

(u) allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as provided by law, including creation of reserves out of income for depreciation, obsolescence, or amortization or for depletion in mineral or timber properties;

(v) pay any sum distributable to a protected person or a dependent of the person who is a minor or incompetent, without liability to the conservator, by paying the sum to the distributee or by paying the sum for the use of the distributee either to the person's guardian or, if none, to a relative or other person with custody of the person;

(w) employ persons, including attorneys, auditors, investment advisors, or agents, even though they are associated with the conservator, to advise or assist the conservator in the performance of administrative duties, act upon their recommendation without independent investigation, and instead of acting personally, employ one or more agents to perform any act of administration, whether or not discretionary;

(x) prosecute or defend actions, claims, or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of estate assets and of the conservator in the performance of the conservator's duties; and

(y) execute and deliver all instruments that will accomplish or facilitate the exercise of the powers vested in the conservator.

History: En. 91A-5-424 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-424; amd. Sec. 2428, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-5-428. Distributive powers and duties of conservator generally. (1) A conservator may expend or distribute income or principal of the estate without court authorization or confirmation for the support, education, care, or benefit of the protected person and the protected person's dependents in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The conservator shall consider recommendations relating to the appropriate standard of support, education, and benefit for the protected person made by a parent or guardian, if any. The conservator may not be surcharged for sums paid to persons or organizations actually furnishing support, education, or care to the protected person pursuant to the recommendations of a parent or guardian of the protected person unless the conservator knows that the parent or guardian is deriving personal financial benefit, including relief from any personal duty of support, or unless the recommendations are clearly not in the best interests of the protected person.

(b) The conservator shall expend or distribute sums reasonably necessary for the support education, care, or benefit of the protected person with due regard to:

(i) the size of the estate, the probable duration of the conservatorship, and the likelihood that the protected person, at some future time, may be fully able to manage the person's affairs and the estate that has been conserved for the person;

(ii) the accustomed standard of living of the protected person and members of the person's household;

(iii) other funds or sources used for the support of the protected person.

(c) The conservator may expend funds of the estate for the support of persons legally dependent on the protected person and others who are members of the protected person's household who are unable to support themselves and who are in need of support.

(d) Funds expended under this subsection (1) may be paid by the conservator to any person including the protected person, to reimburse the person for expenditures that the conservator might have made or in advance for services to be rendered to the protected person when it is reasonable to expect that they will be performed and when advance payments are customary or reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

(2) If the estate is ample to provide for the purposes implicit in the distributions authorized by the preceding subsections, a conservator for a protected person other than a minor has power to make gifts to charity and other objects as the protected person might have been expected to make in amounts that do not exceed in total for any year 20% of the income from the estate.

History: En. 91A-5-425 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-425(1), (2); amd. Sec. 2429, Ch. 56 L. 2009.

72-5-429. Distribution upon attainment of majority, termination of disability, or death of protected person. (1) When a minor who has not been adjudged disabled under 72-5-409(2) attains majority, the minor's conservator, after meeting all prior claims and expenses of administration, shall pay over and distribute all funds and properties to the former protected person as soon as possible.

(2) When the conservator is satisfied that a protected person's disability, other than minority, has ceased, the conservator, after meeting all prior claims and expenses of administration, shall pay over and distribute all funds and properties to the former protected person as soon as possible.

(3) If a protected person dies, the conservator shall deliver to the court for safekeeping any will of the deceased protected person that may have come into the conservator's possession, inform the executor or a beneficiary named in the will that the conservator has done so, and retain the estate for delivery to a duly appointed personal representative of the decedent or other persons entitled to the estate. If after 40 days from the death of the protected person no other person has been appointed personal representative and no application or petition for appointment is before the court, the conservator may apply to exercise the powers and duties of a personal representative so that the conservator may proceed to administer and distribute the decedent's estate without additional or further appointment. Upon application for an order granting the powers of a personal representative to a conservator and after notice to any person demanding notice under 72-3-106 and to any person nominated executor in any will of which the applicant is aware, the court may order the conferral of the power upon determining that there is no objection and endorse the letters of the conservator to note that the formerly protected person is deceased and that the conservator has acquired all of the powers and duties of a personal representative. The making and entry of an order under this section has the effect of an order of appointment of a personal representative as provided in 72-3-222, 72-3-223(1), and parts 5 through 10 of chapter 3, except that the estate in the name of the conservator, after administration, may be distributed to the decedent's successors without prior retransfer to the conservator as personal representative.

History: En. 91A-5-425 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-425(3) thru (5); amd. Sec. 2430, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-430. Enlargement or limitation of powers of conservator by court. (1) Subject to the restrictions in 72-5-421(4), the court may confer on a conservator at the time of appointment or later, in addition to the powers conferred on the conservator by 72-5-427, 72-5-428, and 72-5-429, any power that the court itself could exercise under 72-5-421(2) and (3).

(2) The court may, at the time of appointment or later, limit the powers of a conservator conferred by the court and may at any time relieve the conservator of any limitation. If the court limits any power conferred on the conservator by 72-5-427, 72-5-428, or 72-5-429, the limitation must be endorsed upon the conservator's letters of appointment.

History: En. 91A-5-426 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-426; amd. Sec. 2431, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-431. Preservation of estate plan — right to inspect will. In investing the estate and in selecting assets of the estate for distribution under 72-5-428 and in utilizing powers of revocation or withdrawal available for the support of the protected person and exercisable by the conservator or the court, the conservator and the court shall take into account any known estate plan of the protected person, including the protected person's will, any revocable trust of which the protected person is settlor, and any contract, transfer, or joint ownership arrangement with provisions for payment or transfer of benefits or interests at the protected person's death to another or others that the protected person may have originated. The conservator may examine the will of the protected person.

History: En. 91A-5-427 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-427; amd. Sec. 2432, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-432. Compensation and expenses. If not otherwise compensated for services rendered, any visitor, lawyer, physician, conservator, or special conservator appointed in a protective proceeding is entitled to reasonable compensation from the estate.

History: En. 91A-5-414 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-414.

72-5-433. Claims against protected person — presentment, allowance, and payment — priorities. (1) A conservator shall pay from the estate all just claims against the estate and against the protected person arising before or after the conservatorship upon their presentation and allowance. A claim may be presented by either of the following methods:

(a) The claimant may deliver or mail to the conservator a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed.

(b) The claimant may file a written statement of the claim, in the form prescribed by rule with the clerk of the court and deliver or mail a copy of the statement to the conservator.

(2) A presented claim is allowed if it is not disallowed by written statement mailed by the conservator to the claimant within 60 days after its presentation. A claim is considered presented on the first to occur of receipt of the written statement of claim by the conservator or the filing of the claim with the court. The presentation of a claim tolls any statute of limitation relating to the claim until 30 days after its disallowance.

(3) A claimant whose claim has not been paid may petition the court for determination of the claim at any time before it is barred by the applicable statute of limitation and, upon due proof, procure an order for its allowance and payment from the estate. If a proceeding is pending against a protected person at the time of appointment of a conservator or is initiated against the protected person after the appointment, the moving party shall give notice of the proceeding to the conservator if the outcome is to constitute a claim against the estate.

(4) If it appears that the estate in conservatorship is likely to be exhausted before all existing claims are paid, preference must be given to prior claims for the care, maintenance, and education of the protected person or the protected person's dependents and existing claims for expenses of administration.

History: En. 91A-5-428 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-428; amd. Sec. 2433, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-434. Transaction involving conflict of interest — voidable — exceptions. Any sale or encumbrance to a conservator, to the conservator's spouse, agent, or attorney, or to any corporation or trust in which the conservator has a substantial beneficial interest or any transaction that is affected by a substantial conflict of interest is voidable unless the transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons and others as directed by the court.

History: En. 91A-5-422 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-422; amd. Sec. 2434, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-435. Persons dealing with conservator — protection. (1) A person who in good faith either assists a conservator or deals with the conservator for value in any transaction other than those requiring a court order as provided in 72-5-421 is protected as if the conservator properly exercised the power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a conservator does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise, except that restrictions on powers of conservators that are endorsed on letters as provided in 72-5-430 are effective as to third persons. A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to a conservator.

(2) The protection expressed in this section extends to any procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect occurring in proceedings leading to the issuance of letters and is not a substitution for protection provided by comparable provisions of the law relating to commercial transactions or laws simplifying transfers of securities by fiduciaries.

(3) The protection under this section is not a substitution for that provided by comparable provisions of the laws relating to commercial transactions and laws simplifying transfers of securities by fiduciaries.

History: En. 91A-5-423 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-423; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2435, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-5-436. Claims arising during conservatorship — individual liability of conservator. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a conservator is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in the conservator's fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the estate unless the conservator fails to reveal the representative capacity and identify the estate in the contract.

(2) The conservator is individually liable for obligations arising from ownership or control of property of the estate or for torts committed in the course of administration of the estate only if the conservator is personally at fault.

(3) Claims based on contracts entered into by a conservator in a fiduciary capacity on obligations arising from ownership or control of the estate or on torts committed in the course of administration of the estate may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the conservator in the conservator's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the conservator is individually liable.

(4) Any question of liability between the estate and the conservator individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, or indemnification or other appropriate proceeding or action.

History: **En. 91A-5-429 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-429; amd. Sec. 2436, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-437. Termination of conservatorship. The protected person, the protected person's personal representative, the conservator, or any other interested person may petition he court to terminate the conservatorship. A protected person seeking termination is entitled o the same rights and procedures as in an original proceeding for a protective order. The court, upon determining after notice and hearing that the minority or disability of the protected person has ceased, may terminate the conservatorship. Upon termination, title to assets of the estate passes to the former protected person or to the former protected person's successors, subject to provision in the order for expenses of administration or to conveyances from the conservator to the former protected person or the former protected person's successors to evidence the transfer.

History: **En. 91A-5-430 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-430; amd. Sec. 2437, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-438. Accounts — final and intermediate. (1) Each conservator shall account to the court for administration of the trust not less than annually, unless the court directs otherwise, upon resignation or removal, and at other times as the court may direct. On termination of the protected person's minority or disability, a conservator shall account to the court or to the formerly protected person or the successors of that person.

(2) Subject to appeal or vacation within the time permitted, an order, after notice and hearing, allowing an intermediate account of a conservator adjudicates as to liabilities concerning the matters considered in connection with the hearing; and an order, following notice and hearing, allowing a final account adjudicates as to all previously unsettled liabilities of the conservator to the protected person or the protected person's successors relating to the conservatorship.

(3) In connection with any account, the court may require a conservator to submit to a physical check of the estate, to be made in any manner the court specifies.

History: **En. 91A-5-419 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-419; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 582, L. 1989.**

72-5-439. Payment of debt and delivery of property to foreign conservator without local proceedings. (1) A person indebted to a protected person or having possession of property or of an instrument evidencing a debt, stock, or chose in action belonging to a protected person may pay or deliver to a conservator, guardian of the estate, or other fiduciary appointed by a court of the state or residence of the protected person upon being presented with proof of the conservator's, guardian's, or fiduciary's appointment and an affidavit made by the conservator, guardian, or fiduciary or on the conservator's, guardian's, or fiduciary's behalf stating that:

(a) no protective proceeding relating to the protected person is pending in this state; and

(b) the foreign conservator is entitled to payment or to receive delivery.

(2) If the person to whom the affidavit is presented is not aware of any protective proceeding pending in this state, payment or delivery in response to the demand and affidavit discharges the debtor or possessor.

History: **En. 91A-5-431 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-431; amd. Sec. 2438, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-5-440 through 72-5-443 reserved.

72-5-444. Petition to authorize proposed action — substituted judgment. (1) The conservator or other interested person may file a petition under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450 for an order of the court authorizing or requiring the conservator to take a proposed action for any one or more of the following purposes:

(a) benefiting the protected person or the estate;

(b) minimizing current or prospective taxes or expenses of administration of the conservatorship estate or of the estate upon the death of the protected person; or

(c) providing gifts for any purposes and to any charities, relatives (including the protected person's spouse, descendants, or ancestors), friends, or other objects of bounty as would be likely beneficiaries of gifts from the protected person.

(2) The action proposed in the petition may include but is not limited to the following:

(a) making gifts of principal or income, or both, of the estate, outright or in trust;

(b) conveying or releasing the protected person's contingent and expectant interests in property, including marital property rights and any right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety;

(c) exercising or releasing the protected person's powers as donee of a power of appointment;

(d) entering into contracts;

(e) creating for the benefit of the protected person or others revocable or irrevocable trusts of the property of the estate that may extend beyond the protected person's disability or life;

(f) transferring to a trust created by the conservator or protected person any property unintentionally omitted from the trust;

(g) exercising options of the protected person to purchase or exchange securities or other property;

(h) exercising the rights of the protected person to elect benefit or payment options, to terminate or to change beneficiaries or ownership, to assign rights, to borrow, or to receive cash value in return for a surrender of rights under any of the following:

(i) life insurance policies, plans, or benefits;

(ii) annuity policies, plans, or benefits;

(iii) mutual fund and other dividend investment plans; or

(iv) retirement, profit sharing, and employee welfare plans and benefits;

(i) exercising the right of the protected person to disclaim any interest that may be disclaimed;

(j) exercising the right of the protected person to revoke or modify a revocable trust or to surrender the right to revoke or modify a revocable trust. The court may not authorize or require the conservator to exercise the right to revoke or modify a revocable trust if the instrument governing the trust:

(i) evidences an intent to reserve the right of revocation or modification exclusively to the protected person;

(ii) provides expressly that a conservator may not revoke or modify the trust; or

(iii) otherwise evidences an intent that would be inconsistent with authorizing or requiring the conservator to exercise the right to revoke or modify the trust.

(3) If an existing trust has been or is being amended, the order of the court may authorize the conservator to execute, after the trust amendment, a new "pour over" will or codicil that devises to the trustee of the amended trust other property of the protected person that had not previously been transferred to the trust.

History: En. Sec. 133, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-5-445. Notice of hearing. Notice of the hearing of the petition must be given, regardless of age, for the period and in the manner provided by 72-1-301 to all of the following:

(1) the persons required to be named in a petition for the appointment of a conservator;

(2) so far as is known to the petitioner, beneficiaries under any document executed by the protected person that may have testamentary effect unless the court for good cause dispenses with such notice;

(3) if the proposed action involves a trust, to all persons entitled to receive notice with respect to such an action under Title 72, chapter 38;

(4) so far as is known to the petitioner, the persons who, if the protected person were to die immediately, would be the protected person's heirs under the laws of intestate succession unless the court for good cause dispenses with the notice; and

(5) other persons as the court may order.

History: En. Sec. 134, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-5-446. Consent or lack of capacity of protected person — adequate provision for protected person and dependents. The court may make an order authorizing or requiring the proposed action under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450 only if the court determines all of the following:

(1) the protected person either:

(a) is not opposed to the proposed action; or

(b) if opposed to the proposed action, lacks legal capacity for the proposed action; and

(2) either the proposed action will have no adverse effect on the estate or the estate remaining after the proposed action is taken will be adequate to provide for the needs of the protected person and for the support of those legally entitled to support, maintenance, and education from the protected person, taking into account the age, physical condition, standards of living, and all other relevant circumstances of the protected person and of those legally entitled to support, maintenance, and education from the protected person.

History: En. Sec. 135, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

72-5-447. Circumstances to be considered in determining whether to authorize or require proposed action. In determining whether to authorize or require a proposed action under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450, the court shall take into consideration all of the relevant circumstances, which may include but are not limited to the following:

(1) whether the protected person has legal capacity for the proposed transaction and, if not, the probability of the protected person's recovery of legal capacity;

(2) the past donative declarations, practices, and conduct of the protected person;

(3) the traits of the protected person;

(4) the relationship and intimacy of the prospective donees with the protected person, their standards of living, and the extent to which they would be natural objects of the protected person's bounty by any objective test based on the relationship, intimacy, and standards of living;

(5) the wishes of the protected person;

(6) any known estate plan of the protected person, including but not limited to:

(a) the protected person's will;

(b) any trust of which the protected person is the settlor or beneficiary;

(c) any power of appointment created by or exercisable by the protected person; and

(d) any contract, transfer, or joint ownership arrangement with provisions for payment or transfer of benefits or interests at the protected person's death to another or others that the protected person may have originated;

(7) the manner in which the estate would devolve upon the protected person's death, giving consideration to the age and the mental and physical condition of the protected person, the prospective devisees or heirs of the protected person, and the prospective donees;

(8) the value, liquidity, and productiveness of the estate;

(9) the minimization of current or prospective income, estate, inheritance, or other taxes or expenses of administration;

(10) changes of tax laws and other laws that would likely have motivated the protected person to alter the protected person's estate plan;

(11) the likelihood from all the circumstances that the protected person as a reasonably prudent person would take the proposed action if the protected person had the capacity to do so;

(12) whether any beneficiary is the spouse of the protected person;

(13) whether a beneficiary has committed physical abuse, neglect, false imprisonment, or financial abuse against the protected person after the protected person was substantially unable to manage his or her financial resources or resist fraud or undue influence and whether the protected person's disability persisted throughout the time of the hearing on the proposed action; or

(14) the mandate of 72-5-446 that if the proposed action is taken, the remaining assets of the estate will be adequate to provide for the needs of the protected person and for the support, maintenance and education of those legally entitled to receive such from the protected person.

History: En. Sec. 136, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-5-448. Order. After hearing, the court in its discretion may approve, modify and approve, or disapprove the proposed action and may authorize or direct the conservator to transfer or dispose of assets or take other action as provided in the court's order.

History: En. Sec. 137, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-5-449. No duty to propose action. Nothing in 72-5-444 through 72-5-450 imposes any duty on the conservator to propose any action under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450, and the conservator is not liable for failure to propose any action under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450.

History: En. Sec. 138, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-5-450. Production of protected person's other relevant estate plan documents. (1) As used in this section, "estate plan of the protected person" includes but is not limited to:

(a) the protected person's will;

(b) any trust of which the protected person is the settlor or beneficiary;

(c) any power of appointment created by or exercisable by the protected person; and

(d) any contract, transfer, or joint ownership arrangement with provisions for payment or transfer of benefits or interests at the protected person's death to another or others that the protected person may have originated.

(2) Notwithstanding 26-1-803 or any case law relating to the attorney-client privilege, the court in its discretion may order that any person having possession of any document constituting all or part of the estate plan of the protected person shall deliver the document to the court for examination by the court and, in the discretion of the court, by the attorneys for the persons who have appeared in the proceedings under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450 in connection with the petition filed under 72-5-444 through 72-5-450.

(3) Unless the court otherwise orders, a person who examines any document produced pursuant to an order under this section may not disclose the contents of the document to any other person. If that disclosure is made, the court may adjudge the person making the disclosure to be in contempt of court.

(4) For good cause, the court may order that a document constituting all or part of the estate plan of the protected person, whether or not produced pursuant to an order under this section, must be delivered for safekeeping to the custodian designated by the court. The court may impose conditions that it determines are appropriate for holding and safeguarding the document. The court may authorize the conservator to take any action a depositor may take under Montana law.

History: En. Sec. 139, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 5
Powers of Attorney

Part Cross-References

Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.
Proxy decisionmakers, Title 50, ch. 5, part 13.
Uniform Power of Attorney Act, Title 72, ch. 31, part 3.

72-5-501. When health care power of attorney not affected by disability. (1) A durable health care power of attorney is a power of attorney by which a principal designates another as the principal's attorney-in-fact or agent in writing and the writing contains the words, "This health care power of attorney is not affected by subsequent disability or incapacity of the principal or lapse of time" or "This health care power of attorney becomes effective upon the disability or incapacity of the principal" or similar words showing the intent of the principal that the authority conferred must be exercisable notwithstanding the principal's subsequent disability or incapacity and, unless it states a time of termination, notwithstanding the lapse of time since the execution of the instrument.

(2) If a guardian is appointed for the principal, the attorney-in-fact or agent, during the continuance of the appointment, is accountable to the guardian as well as the principal. The guardian has the same power to revoke or amend the health care power of attorney that the principal would have had if the principal were not disabled or incapacitated. A principal may nominate, by a durable health care power of attorney, the guardian of the principal's person for consideration by the court if protective proceedings for the principal's person or estate are later commenced. The court shall make its appointment in accordance with the principal's most recent nomination in a durable health care power of attorney except for good cause or disqualification.

History: En. 91A-5-501 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-501; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2439, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-5-502. Health care power of attorney not revoked until notice. (1) The disability or incapacity of a principal who has previously executed a health care power of attorney that is not a durable health care power does not revoke or terminate the agency as to the attorney-in-fact or other person who, without actual knowledge of the disability or incapacity of the principal, acts in good faith under the power.

(2) As to acts undertaken in good faith reliance on a health care power of attorney, an affidavit executed by the attorney-in-fact or agent stating that the attorney-in-fact or agent did not have, at the time of exercising the power, actual knowledge of the termination of the power by revocation or of the principal's disability or incapacity is proof of the nonrevocation or nontermination of the power at that time. If the exercise of the power requires execution and delivery of any instrument that is recordable, the affidavit when authenticated for record is likewise recordable.

(3) This section does not affect any provision in a health care power of attorney for its termination by expiration of time or occurrence of an event other than express revocation or a change in the principal's capacity.

History: En. 91A-5-502 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-5-502; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 283, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2440, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

Part 6
Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act

72-5-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-602. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult" means an individual who has attained 18 years of age.

(2) "Conservator" means a person appointed by the court to administer the property of an adult, including a person appointed under 53-20-141, 53-21-141, or Title 72, chapter 5, part 4.

(3) "Guardian" means a person appointed by the court to make decisions regarding the person of an adult, including a person appointed under Title 72, chapter 5, part 3.

(4) "Guardianship order" means an order appointing a guardian.

(5) "Guardianship proceeding" means a judicial proceeding in which an order for the appointment of a guardian is sought or has been issued.

(6) "Incapacitated person" means an adult for whom a guardian has been appointed.

(7) "Party" means the respondent, petitioner, guardian, conservator, or any other person allowed by the court to participate in a guardianship or protective proceeding.

(8) "Person", except in the term incapacitated person or protected person, means an ndividual, a corporation, a business trust, an estate, a trust, a partnership, a limited liability company, an association, a joint venture, a public corporation, a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(9) "Protected person" means an adult for whom a protective order has been issued.

(10) "Protective order" means an order appointing a conservator or other order related to management of an adult's property.

(11) "Protective proceeding" means a judicial proceeding in which a protective order is sought or has been issued.

(12) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(13) "Respondent" means an adult for whom a protective order or the appointment of a guardian is sought.

(14) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-603. International application. A court of this state may treat a foreign country as if it were a state for the purpose of applying 72-5-601 through 72-5-606, 72-5-611 through 72-5-619, 72-5-624, 72-5-625, 72-5-636, and 72-5-637.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-604. Communication between courts. (1) A court of this state may communicate with a court in another state concerning a proceeding arising under this part. The court may allow the parties to participate in the communication. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), the court shall make a record of the communication. The record may be limited to the fact that the communication occurred.

(2) Courts may communicate concerning schedules, calendars, court records, and other administrative matters without making a record.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-605. Cooperation between courts. (1) In a guardianship or protective proceeding in this state, a court of this state may request the appropriate court of another state to do any of the following:

(a) hold an evidentiary hearing;

(b) order a person in that state to produce evidence or give testimony pursuant to procedures of that state;

(c) order that an evaluation or assessment be made of the respondent;

(d) order any appropriate investigation of a person involved in a proceeding;

(e) forward to the court of this state a certified copy of the transcript or other record of a hearing under subsection (1)(a) or any other proceeding, any evidence otherwise produced under subsection (1)(b), and any evaluation or assessment prepared in compliance with an order under subsection (1)(c) or (1)(d);

(f) issue any order necessary to ensure the appearance in the proceeding of a person whose presence is necessary for the court to make a determination, including the respondent or the incapacitated or protected person;

(g) issue an order authorizing the release of medical, financial, criminal, or other relevant information in that state, including protected health information as defined in 45 C.F.R. 164.504.

(2) If a court of another state in which a guardianship or protective proceeding is pending requests assistance of the kind provided in subsection (1), a court of this state has jurisdiction for the limited purpose of granting the request or making reasonable efforts to comply with the request.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-606. Taking testimony in another state. (1) In a guardianship or protective proceeding, in addition to other procedures that may be available, testimony of a witness who is located in another state may be offered by deposition or other means allowable in this state for testimony taken in another state. The court on its own motion may order that the testimony of a witness be taken in another state and may prescribe the manner in which and the terms upon which the testimony is to be taken.

(2) In a guardianship or protective proceeding, a court in this state may permit a witness located in another state to be deposed or to testify by telephone or audiovisual or other electronic means. A court of this state shall cooperate with the court of the other state in designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

(3) Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a court of this state by technological means that do not produce an original writing may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the best evidence rule.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-607 through 72-5-610 reserved.

72-5-611. Definitions — significant connection factors. (1) In 72-5-611 through 72-5-619, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Emergency" means a circumstance that likely will result in substantial harm to a respondent's health, safety, or welfare and for which the appointment of a guardian is necessary because no other person has authority and is willing to act on the respondent's behalf.

(b) "Home state" means the state in which the respondent was physically present, including any period of temporary absence, for at least 6 consecutive months immediately before the filing of a petition for a protective order or the appointment of a guardian, or if none, the state in which the respondent was physically present, including any period of temporary absence, for at least 6 consecutive months ending within the 6 months prior to the filing of the petition.

(c) "Significant-connection state" means a state, other than the home state, with which a respondent has a significant connection other than mere physical presence and in which substantial evidence concerning the respondent is available.

(2) In determining under 72-5-613 and 72-5-624(5) whether a respondent has a significant connection with a particular state, the court shall consider:

(a) the location of the respondent's family and other persons required to be notified of the guardianship or protective proceeding;

(b) the length of time the respondent at any time was physically present in the state and the duration of any absence;

(c) the location of the respondent's property; and

(d) the extent to which the respondent has ties to the state such as voting registration, state or local tax return filing, vehicle registration, driver's license, social relationship, and receipt of services.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-612. Exclusive basis. Sections 72-5-611 through 72-5-619 provide the exclusive urisdictional basis for a court of this state to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order for an adult.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-613. Jurisdiction. A court of this state has jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or ssue a protective order for a respondent if:

(1) this state is the respondent's home state;

(2) on the date the petition is filed, this state is a significant-connection state and:

(a) the respondent does not have a home state or a court of the respondent's home state has declined to exercise jurisdiction because this state is a more appropriate forum; or

(b) the respondent has a home state, a petition for an appointment or order is not pending n a court of that state or another significant-connection state, and before the court makes the appointment or issues the order:

(i) a petition for an appointment or order is not filed in the respondent's home state;

(ii) an objection to the court's jurisdiction is not filed by a person required to be notified of the proceeding; and

(iii) the court in this state concludes that it is an appropriate forum under the factors set forth in 72-5-616;

(3) this state does not have jurisdiction under either subsection (1) or (2), the respondent's home state and all significant-connection states have declined to exercise jurisdiction because this state is the more appropriate forum, and jurisdiction in this state is consistent with the constitutions of this state and the United States; or

(4) the requirements for special jurisdiction under 72-5-614 are met.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-614. Special jurisdiction. (1) A court of this state lacking jurisdiction under 72-5-613(1) through (3) has special jurisdiction to do any of the following:

(a) appoint a guardian in an emergency for a term not exceeding 90 days for a respondent who is physically present in this state;

(b) issue a protective order with respect to real or tangible personal property located in his state;

(c) appoint a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated or protected person for whom a provisional order to transfer the proceeding from another state has been issued under procedures imilar to 72-5-624.

(2) If a petition for the appointment of a guardian in an emergency is brought in this tate and this state was not the respondent's home state on the date the petition was filed, the court shall dismiss the proceeding at the request of the court of the home state, if any, whether dismissal is requested before or after the emergency appointment.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-615. Exclusive and continuing jurisdiction. Except as otherwise provided in 72-5-614, a court that has appointed a guardian or issued a protective order consistent with this part has exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the proceeding until it is terminated by the court or the appointment or order expires by its own terms.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-616. Appropriate forum. (1) A court of this state having jurisdiction under 72-5-613 to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order may decline to exercise its jurisdiction if it determines at any time that a court of another state is a more appropriate forum.

(2) If a court of this state declines to exercise its jurisdiction under subsection (1), it shall either dismiss or stay the proceeding. The court may impose any condition the court considers just and proper, including the condition that a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order be filed promptly in another state.

(3) In determining whether it is an appropriate forum, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including:

(a) any expressed preference of the respondent;

(b) whether abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the respondent has occurred or is likely to occur and which state could best protect the respondent from the abuse, neglect, or exploitation

(c) the length of time the respondent was physically present in or was a legal resident of this or another state;

(d) the distance of the respondent from the court in each state;

(e) the financial circumstances of the respondent's estate;

(f) the nature and location of the evidence;

(g) the ability of the court in each state to decide the issue expeditiously and the procedures necessary to present evidence;

(h) the familiarity of the court of each state with the facts and issues in the proceeding and

(i) if an appointment were made, the court's ability to monitor the conduct of the guardian or conservator.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-617. Jurisdiction declined by reason of conduct. (1) If at any time a court of this state determines that it acquired jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order because of unjustifiable conduct, the court may:

(a) decline to exercise jurisdiction;

(b) exercise jurisdiction for the limited purpose of fashioning an appropriate remedy to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the respondent or the protection of the respondent's property or prevent a repetition of the unjustifiable conduct, including staying the proceeding until a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order is filed in a court of another state having jurisdiction; or

(c) continue to exercise jurisdiction after considering:

(i) the extent to which the respondent and all persons required to be notified of the proceedings have acquiesced in the exercise of the court's jurisdiction;

(ii) whether it is a more appropriate forum than the court of any other state under the factors set forth in 72-5-616(3); and

(iii) whether the court of any other state would have jurisdiction under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of 72-5-613.

(2) If a court of this state determines that it acquired jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order because a party seeking to invoke its jurisdiction engaged in unjustifiable conduct, it may assess against that party necessary and reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, investigative fees, court costs, communication expenses, witness fees and expenses, and travel expenses. The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses of any kind against this state or a governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of this state unless authorized by law other than this part.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-618. Notice of proceeding. If a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order is brought in this state and this state was not the respondent's home state on the date the petition was filed, in addition to complying with the notice requirements of this state, notice of the petition must be given to those persons who would be entitled to notice of the petition if a proceeding were brought in the respondent's home state. The notice must be given in the same manner as notice is required to be given in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-619. Proceedings in more than one state. Except for a petition for the appointment of a guardian in an emergency or issuance of a protective order limited to property located in this state under 72-5-614(1)(a) or (1)(b), if a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order is filed in this state and in another state and neither petition has been dismissed or withdrawn, the following rules apply:

(1) If the court in this state has jurisdiction under 72-5-613, it may proceed with the case unless a court in another state acquires jurisdiction under provisions similar to 72-5-613 before the appointment or issuance of the order.

(2) If the court in this state does not have jurisdiction under 72-5-613, whether at the time the petition is filed or at any time before the appointment or issuance of the order, the court shall stay the proceeding and communicate with the court in the other state. If the court in the other state has jurisdiction, the court in this state shall dismiss the petition unless the court in the other state determines that the court in this state is a more appropriate forum.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-620 through 72-5-623 reserved.

72-5-624. Transfer of guardianship or conservatorship to another state. (1) A guardian or conservator appointed in this state may petition the court to transfer the guardianship or conservatorship to another state.

(2) Notice of a petition under subsection (1) must be given to the persons that would be entitled to notice of a petition in this state for the appointment of a guardian or conservator.

(3) On the court's own motion or on request of the guardian or conservator, the incapacitated or protected person, or other person required to be notified of the petition, the court shall hold a hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection (1).

(4) The court shall issue an order provisionally granting a petition to transfer a guardianship and shall direct the guardian to petition for guardianship in the other state if the court is satisfied that the guardianship will be accepted by the court in the other state and the court finds that:

(a) the incapacitated person is physically present in or is reasonably expected to move permanently to the other state;

(b) an objection to the transfer has not been made or, if an objection has been made, the objector has not established that the transfer would be contrary to the interests of the incapacitated person; and

(c) plans for care and services for the incapacitated person in the other state are reasonable and sufficient.

(5) The court shall issue a provisional order granting a petition to transfer a conservatorship and shall direct the conservator to petition for conservatorship in the other state if the court is satisfied that the conservatorship will be accepted by the court of the other state and the court finds that:

(a) the protected person is physically present in or is reasonably expected to move permanently to the other state or the protected person has a significant connection to the other state considering the factors in 72-5-611(2);

(b) an objection to the transfer has not been made or, if an objection has been made, the objector has not established that the transfer would be contrary to the interests of the protected person; and

(c) adequate arrangements will be made for management of the protected person's property.

(6) The court shall issue a final order confirming the transfer and terminating the guardianship or conservatorship upon its receipt of:

(a) a provisional order accepting the proceeding from the court to which the proceeding is to be transferred that is issued under provisions similar to 72-5-625; and

(b) the documents required to terminate a guardianship or conservatorship in this state.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 236, L. 2009.**

72-5-625. Accepting guardianship or conservatorship transferred from another state. (1) To confirm transfer of a guardianship or conservatorship transferred to this state under provisions similar to 72-5-624, the guardian or conservator shall petition the court in this state to accept the guardianship or conservatorship. The petition must include a certified copy of the other state's provisional order of transfer.

(2) Notice of a petition under subsection (1) must be given to those persons that would be entitled to notice if the petition were a petition for the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order in both the transferring state and this state. The notice must be given in the same manner as notice is required to be given in this state.

(3) On the court's own motion or on request of the guardian or conservator, the incapacitated or protected person, or other person required to be notified of the proceeding, the court shall hold a hearing on a petition filed pursuant to subsection (1).

(4) The court shall issue an order provisionally granting a petition filed under subsection (1) unless:

(a) an objection is made and the objector establishes that transfer of the proceeding would be contrary to the interests of the incapacitated or protected person; or

(b) the guardian or conservator is ineligible for appointment in this state.

(5) The court shall issue a final order accepting the proceeding and appointing the guardian or conservator as guardian or conservator in this state upon its receipt from the court from which the proceeding is being transferred of a final order issued under provisions similar to 72-5-624 transferring the proceeding to this state.

(6) Not later than 90 days after issuance of a final order accepting transfer of a guardianship or conservatorship, the court shall determine whether the guardianship or conservatorship needs to be modified to conform to the law of this state.

(7) In granting a petition under this section, the court shall recognize a guardianship or conservatorship order from the other state, including the determination of the incapacitated or protected person's incapacity and the appointment of the guardian or conservator.

(8) The denial by a court of this state of a petition to accept a guardianship or conservatorship transferred from another state does not affect the ability of the guardian or conservator to seek appointment as guardian or conservator in this state under Title 72, chapter 5, part 3 or 4, if the court has jurisdiction to make an appointment other than by reason of the provisional order of transfer.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-626 through 72-5-628 reserved.

72-5-629. Registration of guardianship orders. If a guardian has been appointed in another state and a petition for the appointment of a guardian is not pending in this state, the guardian appointed in the other state, after giving notice to the appointing court of an intent to register, may register the guardianship order in this state by filing as a foreign judgment in a court, in any appropriate county of this state, certified copies of the order and letters of office.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-630. Registration of protective orders. If a conservator has been appointed in another state and a petition for a protective order is not pending in this state, the conservator appointed in the other state, after giving notice to the appointing court of an intent to register, may register the protective order in this state by filing as a foreign judgment in a court of this state, in any county in which property belonging to the protected person is located, certified copies of the order and letters of office and of any bond.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-631. Effect of registration. (1) Upon registration of a guardianship or protective order from another state, the guardian or conservator may exercise in this state all powers authorized in the order of appointment except as prohibited under the laws of this state, including maintaining actions and proceedings in this state and, if the guardian or conservator is not a resident of this state, subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties.

(2) A court of this state may grant any relief available under this part and other law of this state to enforce a registered order.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-632 through 72-5-635 reserved.

72-5-636. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing his part, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-637. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce ct. This part modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal Electronic Signatures in Global nd National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede ection 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices escribed in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

72-5-638. Transitional provision. (1) This part applies to guardianship and protective roceedings begun on or after October 1, 2009.

(2) Sections 72-5-601 through 72-5-606, 72-5-624, 72-5-625, 72-5-629 through 72-5-631, 2-5-636, and 72-5-637 apply to proceedings begun before October 1, 2009, regardless of whether guardianship or protective order has been issued.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 236, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 6
NONPROBATE TRANSFERS ON DEATH

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Part 1
Provisions Relating to Effect of Death

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72-6-104 through 72-6-106 reserved.

72-6-107. Renumbered 72-9-107. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-108. Renumbered 72-9-108. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-109. Renumbered 72-9-109. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-110. Renumbered 72-9-110. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-111. Nonprobate transfers on death. (1) A provision for a nonprobate transfe on death in an insurance policy, contract of employment, bond, mortgage, promissory note certificated or uncertificated security, account agreement, custodial agreement, deposi agreement, compensation plan, pension plan, individual retirement plan, employee benefit plan trust, conveyance, deed of gift, transfer on death deed, as defined in 72-6-402, marital propert agreement, beneficiary designation, as provided in 61-3-226, or other written instrument of a similar nature is nontestamentary. This subsection includes a written provision that:

(a) money or other benefits due to, controlled by, or owned by a decedent before deat must be paid after the decedent's death to a person whom the decedent designates either in the instrument or in a separate writing, including a will, executed either before or at the same tim as the instrument or later;

(b) money due or to become due under the instrument ceases to be payable in the event o death of the promisee or the promisor before payment or demand; or

(c) any property controlled by or owned by the decedent before death that is the subject of the instrument passes to a person the decedent designates either in the instrument or in a separate writing, including a will, executed either before or at the same time as the instrument or later.

(2) This section does not limit rights of creditors under other laws of this state.

History: En. Sec. 83, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 258, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 130, L. 2021.

72-6-112. Liability of nonprobate transferees for creditor claims and statutory allowances. (1) In this section, "nonprobate transfer" means a valid transfer effective at death, other than a transfer of a survivorship interest in a joint tenancy of real estate, by a transferor whose last domicile was in this state to the extent that the transferor immediately before death had power, acting alone, to prevent the transfer by revocation or withdrawal and instead to use the property for the benefit of the transferor or apply it to discharge claims against the transferor's probate estate.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by statute, a transferee of a nonprobate transfer is subject to liability to any probate estate of the decedent for allowed claims against decedent's probate estate and statutory allowances to the decedent's spouse and children to the extent the estate is nsufficient to satisfy those claims and allowances. The liability of a nonprobate transferee may not exceed the value of nonprobate transfers received or controlled by that transferee.

(3) Nonprobate transferees are liable for the insufficiency described in subsection (2) in the following order of priority:

(a) a transferee designated in the decedent's will or any other governing instrument, as provided in the instrument;

(b) the trustee of a trust serving as the principal nonprobate instrument in the decedent's estate plan as shown by its designation as devisee of the decedent's residuary estate or by other facts or circumstances, to the extent of the value of the nonprobate transfer received or controlled;

(c) other nonprobate transferees, in proportion to the values received.

(4) Unless otherwise provided by the trust instrument, interests of beneficiaries in all rusts incurring liabilities under this section abate as necessary to satisfy the liability, as if all of the trust instruments were a single will and the interests were devises under it.

(5) A provision made in one instrument may direct the apportionment of the liability among the nonprobate transferees taking under that or any other governing instrument. If a provision in one instrument conflicts with a provision in another, the later one prevails.

(6) Upon due notice to a nonprobate transferee, the liability imposed by this section is enforceable in proceedings in this state, whether or not the transferee is located in this state.

(7) A proceeding under this section may not be commenced unless the personal representative of the decedent's estate has received a written demand for the proceeding from the surviving spouse or a child, to the extent that statutory allowances are affected, or a creditor. If the personal representative declines or fails to commence a proceeding after demand, a person making demand may commence the proceeding in the name of the decedent's estate, at the expense of the person making the demand and not of the estate. A personal representative who declines in good faith to commence a requested proceeding incurs no personal liability for declining.

(8) A proceeding under this section must be commenced within 1 year after the decedent's death, but a proceeding on behalf of a creditor whose claim was allowed after proceedings challenging disallowance of the claim may be commenced within 60 days after final allowance of the claim.

(9) Unless a written notice asserting that a decedent's probate estate is nonexistent or insufficient to pay allowed claims and statutory allowances has been received from the decedent's personal representative, the following rules apply:

(a) Payment or delivery of assets by a financial institution, registrar, or other obligor, to a nonprobate transferee in accordance with the terms of the governing instrument controlling the transfer releases the obligor from all claims for amounts paid or assets delivered.

(b) A trustee receiving or controlling a nonprobate transfer is released from liability under this section with respect to any assets distributed to the trust's beneficiaries. Each beneficiary to the extent of the distribution received becomes liable for the amount of the trustee's liabilit attributable to assets received by the beneficiary.

History: En. Sec. 82, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-113 reserved.

72-6-114. Renumbered 72-9-114. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-115. Renumbered 72-9-115. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-116. Renumbered 72-9-116. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-117 through 72-6-119 reserved.

72-6-120. Renumbered 72-9-120. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-6-121. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2011.

72-6-122. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 258, L. 2007.

72-6-123. Repealed. Sec. 105, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 140, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 2
Multiple-Party Accounts

Part Cross-References

Ownership by several persons — types, 70-1-306.
Joint interest defined, 70-1-307.

72-6-201. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Account" means a contract of deposit between a depositor and a financial institution and includes a checking account, savings account, certificate of deposit, and share account.

(2) "Agent" means a person authorized to make account transactions for a party.

(3) "Beneficiary" means a person named as one to whom sums on deposit in an account are payable on request after death of all parties or for whom a party is named as trustee.

(4) "Financial institution" means an organization authorized to do business under state or federal laws relating to financial institutions and includes a bank, trust company, savings bank building and loan association, savings and loan company or association, and credit union.

(5) "Multiple-party account" means an account payable on request to one or more of two or more parties, whether or not a right of survivorship is mentioned.

(6) "Party" means a person who, by the terms of an account, has a present right, subject to request, to payment from the account other than as a beneficiary or agent.

(7) "Payment" of sums on deposit includes withdrawal, payment to a party or third person pursuant to check or other request, and a pledge of sums on deposit by a party or a setoff, reduction, or other disposition of all or part of an account pursuant to a pledge.

(8) "POD designation" means the designation of:

(a) a beneficiary in an account payable on request to one party during the party's lifetime and on the party's death to one or more beneficiaries or to one or more parties during their lifetimes and on death of all of them to one or more beneficiaries; or

(b) a beneficiary in an account in the name of one or more parties as trustee for one or more beneficiaries if the relationship is established by the terms of the account and there is no subject of the trust other than the sums on deposit in the account, whether or not payment to the beneficiary is mentioned.

(9) "Receive", as it relates to notice to a financial institution, means receipt in the office or branch office of the financial institution in which the account is established or, if the terms of the account require notice at a particular place, in the place required.

(10) "Request" means a request for payment that complies with all terms of the account, including special requirements concerning necessary signatures and regulations of the financial institution; however, for purposes of this part, if terms of the account condition payment on advance notice, a request for payment is treated as immediately effective and a notice of intent to withdraw is treated as a request for payment.

(11) "Sums on deposit" means the balance payable on an account, including interest and ividends earned, whether or not included in the current balance, and any deposit life insurance roceeds added to the account by reason of death of a party.

(12) "Terms of the account" includes the deposit agreement and other terms and conditions f the contract of deposit, including the type of account, the parties to the account, and the form f the contract.

History: En. Sec. 84, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-6-202. Limitation on scope of part. This part does not apply to:

(1) an account established for a partnership, joint venture, or other organization for a usiness purpose;

(2) an account controlled by one or more persons as an agent or trustee for a corporation, nincorporated association, or charitable or civic organization; or

(3) a fiduciary or trust account in which the relationship is established other than by the erms of the account.

History: En. Sec. 85, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-203. Types of account — existing accounts. (1) An account may be for a single arty or multiple parties. A multiple-party account may be with or without a right of survivorship etween the parties. Subject to 72-6-212(3), either a single-party account or a multiple-party ccount may have a POD designation, an agency designation, or both.

(2) An account established before, on, or after October 1, 1993, whether in the form rescribed in 72-6-204 or in any other form, is either a single-party account or a multiple-party ccount, with or without right of survivorship and with or without a POD designation or an gency designation, within the meaning of this part, and is governed by this part.

History: En. Sec. 86, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-204. Forms. (1) A contract of deposit that contains provisions in substantially the ollowing form establishes the type of account provided, and the account is governed by the rovisions of this part applicable to an account of that type:

UNIFORM SINGLE- OR MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT FORM

ARTIES [Name One or More Parties]:

....

WNERSHIP [Select One and Initial]:

.... SINGLE-PARTY ACCOUNT

.... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT

Parties own account in proportion to net contributions unless there is clear and convincing evidence of a different intent. However, any one party may withdraw the entire amount on deposit in the account.

HANGING TERMS OF ACCOUNT [Select One and Each Party Initial]:

.... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT'S TERMS MAY BE CHANGED BY A SINGLE PARTY

.... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT'S TERMS MAY BE CHANGED ONLY BY AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES

IGHTS AT DEATH [Select One and Initial]:

.... SINGLE-PARTY ACCOUNT

t death of party, ownership passes as part of party's estate.

.... SINGLE-PARTY ACCOUNT WITH POD (PAY ON DEATH) DESIGNATION

Name One or More Beneficiaries]:

....

t death of party, ownership passes to POD beneficiaries and is not part of party's estate.

.... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP

t death of party, ownership passes to surviving parties.

.... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP AND POD (PAY ON DEATH) DESIGNATION

Name One or More Beneficiaries]:

....

At death of last surviving party, ownership passes to POD beneficiaries and is not part of las
surviving party's estate.
..... MULTIPLE-PARTY ACCOUNT WITHOUT RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP
At death of party, deceased party's ownership passes as part of deceased party's estate.

AGENCY (POWER OF ATTORNEY) DESIGNATION

Agents may make account transactions for parties but have no ownership or rights at deat
unless named as POD beneficiaries.
[To Add Agency Designation to Account, Name One or More Agents]:
....
[Select One And Initial]:
..... AGENCY DESIGNATION SURVIVES DISABILITY OR INCAPACITY OF PARTIES
..... AGENCY DESIGNATION TERMINATES ON DISABILITY OR INCAPACITY OF PARTIES

(2) A contract of deposit that does not contain provisions in substantially the form provide in subsection (1) is governed by the provisions of this part applicable to the type of account tha most nearly conforms to the depositor's intent.

History: **En. Sec. 87, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 279, L. 1997.**

72-6-205. Designation of agent. (1) By a writing signed by all parties, the parties may designate as agent of all parties on an account a person other than a party.

(2) Unless the terms of an agency designation provide that the authority of the agent terminates on disability or incapacity of a party, the agent's authority survives disability and incapacity. The agent may act for a disabled or incapacitated party until the authority of the agent is terminated.

(3) Death of the sole party or last-surviving party terminates the authority of an agent.

History: **En. Sec. 88, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

72-6-206. Applicability of beneficial ownership provisions. The provisions o 72-6-211 through 72-6-214 and 72-6-216 concerning beneficial ownership as between parties or as between parties and beneficiaries apply only to controversies between those persons and their creditors and other successors and do not apply to the right of those persons to payment as determined by the terms of the account. Sections 72-6-221 through 72-6-227 govern the liabilit and setoff rights of financial institutions that make payments pursuant to it.

History: **En. Sec. 89, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 150, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-6-207 through 72-6-210 reserved.

72-6-211. Ownership during lifetime. (1) In this section, "net contribution" of a party means the sum of all deposits to an account made by or for the party, less all payments from the account made to or for the party that have not been paid to or applied to the use of another party and a proportionate share of any charges deducted from the account, plus a proportionate share of any interest or dividends earned, whether or not included in the current balance. The term includes deposit life insurance proceeds added to the account by reason of death of the party whose net contribution is in question.

(2) During the lifetime of all parties, an account belongs to the parties in proportion to the net contribution of each to the sums on deposit unless there is clear and convincing evidence o a different intent. As between parties married to each other, in the absence of proof otherwise, the net contribution of each is presumed to be an equal amount.

(3) A beneficiary in an account having a POD designation has no right to sums on deposit during the lifetime of any party.

(4) An agent in an account with an agency designation has no beneficial right to sums on deposit.

History: **En. Sec. 90, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-212. Rights at death. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, on the death o a party, sums on deposit in a multiple-party account belong to the surviving party or parties. If two or more parties survive and one is the surviving spouse of the decedent, the amount to which the decedent, immediately before death, was beneficially entitled under 72-6-211 belongs to the surviving spouse. If two or more parties survive and none is the surviving spouse of the decedent, the amount to which the decedent, immediately before death, was beneficially entitled under 72-6-211 belongs to the surviving parties in equal shares and augments the proportion to which each survivor, immediately before the decedent's death, was beneficially entitled under 72-6-211 and the right of survivorship continues between the surviving parties.

(2) In an account with a POD designation:

(a) on the death of one of two or more parties, the rights in sums on deposit are governed by subsection (1);

(b) on the death of the sole party or the last survivor of two or more parties, sums on deposit belong to the surviving beneficiary or beneficiaries. If two or more beneficiaries survive, sums on deposit belong to them in equal and undivided shares and there is no right of survivorship in the event of the death of a beneficiary thereafter. If no beneficiary survives, sums on deposit belong to the estate of the last-surviving party.

(3) Sums on deposit in a single-party account without a POD designation, or in a multiple-party account that, by the terms of the account, is without right of survivorship, are not affected by the death of a party, but the amount to which the decedent, immediately before death, was beneficially entitled under 72-6-211 is transferred as part of the decedent's estate. A POD designation in a multiple-party account without right of survivorship is ineffective. For purposes of this section, designation of an account as a tenancy in common establishes that the account is without right of survivorship.

(4) The ownership right of a surviving party or beneficiary, or of the decedent's estate, in sums on deposit is subject to requests for payment made by a party before the party's death, whether paid by the financial institution before or after death or unpaid. The surviving party or beneficiary, or the decedent's estate, is liable to the payee of an unpaid request for payment. The liability is limited to a proportionate share of the amount transferred under this section, to the extent necessary to discharge the request for payment.

History: **En. Sec. 91, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-213. Alteration of rights. (1) Rights at death under 72-6-212 are determined by the terms of the account at the death of a party.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) and unless otherwise agreed in writing between the parties to the account, the terms of an account may be altered by written notice given by a party to the financial institution to change the terms of account or to stop or vary payment under the terms of the account. The notice must be signed by a party and received by the financial institution during the party's lifetime.

(3) A financial institution may, in its discretion, refuse to honor a request for alteration of rights that would change:

(a) the financial institution's obligations or rights under the contract of deposit; or

(b) the parties to a multiple-party account if the request is not signed by all of the parties to the account.

(4) A right of survivorship arising from the express terms of the account, from 72-6-212, or from a POD designation may not be altered by will.

History: **En. Sec. 92, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 279, L. 1997.**

72-6-214. Accounts and transfers nontestamentary. Except as provided in Title 72, chapter 2, part 2, or as a consequence of and to the extent directed by 72-6-228, a transfer resulting from the application of 72-6-212 is effective by reason of the terms of the account involved and this part and is not testamentary or subject to Title 72, chapters 1 through 5.

History: **En. Sec. 93, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 151, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-6-215. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 94, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-216. Community property and tenancy by entireties. (1) A deposit of community property in an account does not alter the community character of the property or community rights in the property, but a right of survivorship between parties married to each other that arises from the express terms of the account or 72-6-212 may not be altered by will.

(2) This part does not affect the law governing tenancy by the entireties.

History: **En. Sec. 95, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-217 through 72-6-220 reserved.

72-6-221. Authority of financial institution. A financial institution may enter into a contract of deposit for a multiple-party account to the same extent it may enter into a contract of deposit for a single-party account and may provide for a POD designation and an agency designation in either a single-party account or a multiple-party account. A financial institution need not inquire as to the source of a deposit to an account or as to the proposed application of a payment from an account.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Financial Institutions, Title 32.

72-6-222. Payment on multiple-party account. A financial institution, on request, may pay sums on deposit in a multiple-party account to:

(1) one or more of the parties, whether or not another party is disabled, incapacitated, or deceased when payment is requested and whether or not the party making the request survives another party; or

(2) the personal representative or a successor claiming under 72-3-1101 if proof of death is presented to the financial institution, showing that the deceased party was the survivor of all other persons named on the account as either a party or beneficiary, unless the account is without right of survivorship under 72-6-212.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-223. Payment on POD designation. A financial institution, on request, may pay sums on deposit in an account with a POD designation to:

(1) one or more of the parties, whether or not another party is disabled, incapacitated, or deceased when the payment is requested and whether or not a party survives another party;

(2) the beneficiary or beneficiaries, if proof of death is presented to the financial institution, showing that the beneficiary or beneficiaries survived all persons named as parties; or

(3) the personal representative, if any, or, if there is none, the heirs or devisees of a deceased party, if proof of death is presented to the financial institution, showing that the deceased party was the survivor of all other persons named on the account as either a party or beneficiary.

History: En. Sec. 98, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-224. Payment to designated agent. A financial institution, on request of an agent under an agency designation for an account, may pay to the agent sums on deposit in the account, whether or not a party is disabled, incapacitated, or deceased when the request is made or received and whether or not the authority of the agent terminates on the disability or incapacity of a party.

History: En. Sec. 99, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Agency, Title 28, ch. 10.

72-6-225. Payment to minor. If a financial institution is required or permitted to make payment pursuant to this part to a minor designated as a beneficiary, payment may be made pursuant to the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, Title 72, chapter 26.

History: En. Sec. 100, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-226. Discharge. (1) Payment made pursuant to this part in accordance with the terms of an account, or honoring a request for alteration of rights made in accordance with 72-6-213, discharges the financial institution from all claims for amounts so paid or alterations so made, whether or not the payment or alteration is consistent with the beneficial ownership of the account as between parties, beneficiaries, or their successors. Payment or alteration may be made whether or not a party, beneficiary, or agent is disabled, incapacitated, or deceased when payment or alteration is requested, received, or made.

(2) Protection under this section does not extend to payments or alterations made after a financial institution has received written notice from a party, or from the personal representative, surviving spouse, or heir or devisee of a deceased party, to the effect that payments in accordance with the terms of the account or alteration of rights, including payments or alterations relating to an account having an agency designation, should not be permitted and after the financial

nstitution has had a reasonable opportunity to act on the notice when the payment is made or the alteration is requested. Unless the notice is withdrawn by the person giving it, the successor of any deceased party shall concur in a request for payment or alteration if the financial institution is to be protected under this section. Unless a financial institution has been served with process in an action or proceeding, no other notice or other information shown to have been available to the financial institution affects its right to protection under this section.

(3) A financial institution that receives written notice pursuant to this section or otherwise has reason to believe that a dispute exists as to the rights of the parties may refuse, without liability, to make payments in accordance with the terms of the account or to honor a request for alterations.

(4) Protection of a financial institution under this section does not affect the rights of parties in disputes between themselves or their successors concerning the beneficial ownership of sums on deposit in accounts or payments made from accounts or regarding whether a request for an alteration of rights to an account was improper between the parties.

History: En. Sec. 101, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 592, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1997.

72-6-227. Setoff. Without qualifying any other statutory right to setoff or lien and subject to any contractual provision, if a party is indebted to a financial institution, the financial institution has a right to setoff against the account. The amount of the account subject to setoff is either the proportion to which the party is, or immediately before death was, beneficially entitled under 72-6-211 or, in the absence of proof of that proportion, an equal share with all parties.

History: En. Sec. 102, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-228. Liability of nonprobate transferees for creditor claims and statutory allowances. (1) As used in this section, "nonprobate transfer" means a valid transfer effective at death, other than a transfer of a survivorship interest in a joint tenancy of real estate, by a transferor whose last domicile was in this state to the extent that the transferor immediately before death had power, acting alone, to prevent the transfer by revocation or withdrawal and instead to use the property for the benefit of the transferor or apply it to discharge claims against the transferor's probate estate.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by statute, a transferee of a nonprobate transfer is subject to liability to any probate estate of the decedent for allowed claims against the decedent's probate estate and statutory allowances to the decedent's spouse and children to the extent the estate is insufficient to satisfy those claims and allowances. The liability of a nonprobate transferee may not exceed the value of nonprobate transfers received or controlled by that transferee.

(3) Nonprobate transferees are liable for the insufficiency described in subsection (2) in the following order of priority:

(a) a transferee designated in the decedent's will or any other governing instrument, as provided in the instrument;

(b) the trustee of a trust serving as the principal nonprobate instrument in the decedent's estate plan as shown by its designation as devisee of the decedent's residuary estate or by other facts or circumstances, to the extent of the value of the nonprobate transfer received or controlled;

(c) other nonprobate transferees in proportion to the values received.

(4) Unless otherwise provided by the trust instrument, interests of beneficiaries in all trusts incurring liabilities under this section abate as necessary to satisfy the liability, as if all of the trust instruments were a single will and the interests were devises under it.

(5) A provision made in one instrument may direct the apportionment of the liability among the nonprobate transferees taking under that or any other governing instrument. If a provision in one instrument conflicts with a provision in another, the later one prevails.

(6) Upon due notice to a nonprobate transferee, the liability imposed by this section is enforceable in proceedings in this state, whether or not the transferee is located in this state.

(7) A proceeding under this section may not be commenced unless the personal representative of the decedent's estate has received a written demand for the proceeding from the surviving spouse or a child, to the extent that statutory allowances are affected, or a creditor. If the personal representative declines or fails to commence a proceeding after demand, a person

making demand may commence the proceeding in the name of the decedent's estate, at the expense of the person making the demand and not of the estate. A personal representative who declines in good faith to commence a requested proceeding incurs no personal liability for declining.

(8) A proceeding under this section must be commenced within 1 year after the decedent's death, but a proceeding on behalf of a creditor whose claim was allowed after proceedings challenging disallowance of the claim may be commenced within 60 days after final allowance of the claim.

(9) Unless a written notice asserting that a decedent's probate estate is nonexistent or insufficient to pay allowed claims and statutory allowances has been received from the decedent's personal representative, the following provisions apply:

(a) Payment or delivery of assets by a financial institution, registrar, or other obligor to a nonprobate transferee in accordance with the terms of the governing instrument controlling the transfer releases the obligor from all claims for amounts paid or assets delivered.

(b) A trustee receiving or controlling a nonprobate transfer is released from liability under this section with respect to any assets distributed to the trust's beneficiaries. Each beneficiary to the extent of the distribution received, becomes liable for the amount of the trustee's liability attributable to assets received by the beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 141, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

Part 3
Uniform TOD Security Registration Act

Part Cross-References

Securities, Title 30, ch. 10.

72-6-301. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Beneficiary form" means a registration of a security that indicates the present owner of the security and the intention of the owner regarding the person who will become the owner of the security upon the death of the owner.

(2) "Register", including its derivatives, means to issue a certificate showing the ownership of a certificated security or, in the case of an uncertificated security, to initiate or transfer an account showing ownership of securities.

(3) "Registering entity" means a person who originates or transfers a security title by registration and includes a broker maintaining security accounts for customers and a transfer agent or other person acting for or as an issuer of securities.

(4) "Security" means a share, participation, or other interest in property, in a business or in an obligation of an enterprise or other issuer and includes a certificated security, an uncertificated security, and a security account.

(5) "Security account" means:

(a) a reinvestment account associated with a security, a securities account with a broker, a cash balance in a brokerage account, cash, cash equivalents, interest, earnings, or dividends earned or declared on a security in an account, a reinvestment account, or a brokerage account, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death;

(b) a cash balance or other property held for or due to the owner of a security as a replacement for or product of an account security, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death; or

(c) an investment management or custody account with a trust company or trust division of a bank with trust powers, including the securities in the account, a cash balance in the account, and cash, cash equivalents, interest, earnings, or dividends earned or declared on a security in the account, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death.

History: **En. Sec. 103, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2005.**

72-6-302. Registration in beneficiary form — sole or joint tenancy ownership. Only individuals whose registration of a security shows sole ownership by one individual or multiple ownership by two or more with right of survivorship, rather than as tenants in common, may obtain registration in beneficiary form. Multiple owners of a security registered in beneficiary form hold as joint tenants with right of survivorship, as tenants by the entireties, or as owners of community property held in survivorship form and not as tenants in common.

History: **En. Sec. 104, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

Cross-References
Joint interest defined, 70-1-307.

72-6-303. Registration in beneficiary form — applicable law. (1) A security may be registered in beneficiary form if the form is authorized by this or a similar statute of the state:

(a) of organization of the issuer or registering entity;
(b) of the location of the registering entity's principal office;
(c) of the office of its transfer agent or its office making the registration; or
(d) listed as the owner's address at the time of registration.

(2) A registration governed by the law of a jurisdiction in which this or similar legislation is not in force or was not in force when a registration in beneficiary form was made is nevertheless presumed to be valid and authorized as a matter of contract law.

History: En. Sec. 105, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-304. Origination of registration in beneficiary form. A security, whether evidenced by certificate or account, is registered in beneficiary form when the registration includes a designation of a beneficiary to take the ownership at the death of the owner or the deaths of all multiple owners.

History: En. Sec. 106, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-305. Form of registration in beneficiary form. Registration in beneficiary form may be shown by the words "transfer on death" or the abbreviation "TOD", or by the words "pay on death" or the abbreviation "POD", after the name of the registered owner and before the name of a beneficiary.

History: En. Sec. 107, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-306. Effect of registration in beneficiary form. The designation of a TOD beneficiary on a registration in beneficiary form has no effect on ownership until the owner's death. A registration of a security in beneficiary form may be canceled or changed at any time by the sole owner or all then-surviving owners without the consent of the beneficiary.

History: En. Sec. 108, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-307. Ownership on death of owner. On the death of a sole owner or the last to die of all multiple owners, ownership of securities registered in beneficiary form passes to the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survive all owners. On proof of the death of all owners and compliance with any applicable requirements of the registering entity, a security registered in beneficiary form may be reregistered in the name of the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survived the death of all owners. Until division of the security after the death of all owners, multiple beneficiaries surviving the death of all owners hold their interests as tenants in common. If no beneficiary survives the death of all owners, the security belongs to the estate of the deceased sole owner or the estate of the last to die of all multiple owners.

History: En. Sec. 109, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-6-308. Protection of registering entity. (1) A registering entity is not required to offer or to accept a request for security registration in beneficiary form. If a registration in beneficiary form is offered by a registering entity, the owner requesting registration in beneficiary form assents to the protections given to the registering entity by this part.

(2) By accepting a request for registration of a security in beneficiary form, the registering entity agrees that the registration will be implemented on the death of the deceased owner as provided in this part.

(3) (a) A registering entity is discharged from all claims to a security by the estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner if it registers a transfer of the security in accordance with 72-6-307 and does so in good faith reliance on:

(i) the registration;
(ii) this part; and
(iii) information provided to it by affidavit of the personal representative of the deceased owner, or by the surviving beneficiary or by the surviving beneficiary's representatives, or other information available to the registering entity.

(b) The protections of this part do not extend to a reregistration or payment made after a registering entity has received written notice from any claimant to any interest in the security objecting to implementation of a registration in beneficiary form. No other notice or othe information available to the registering entity affects its right to protection under this part.

(4) The protection provided by this part to the registering entity of a security does not affec the rights of beneficiaries in disputes between themselves and other claimants to ownership o the security transferred or its value or proceeds.

History: **En. Sec. 110, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-309. Nontestamentary transfer on death. (1) A transfer on death, resulting fro a registration in beneficiary form, is effective by reason of the contract regarding the registratio between the owner and the registering entity and this part and is not testamentary.

(2) This part does not limit the rights of creditors of security owners against beneficiarie and other transferees under other laws of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 111, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-310. Terms, conditions, and forms for registration. (1) (a) A registering entit offering to accept registrations in beneficiary form may establish the terms and conditions unde which it will receive requests for:

(i) registrations in beneficiary form; and

(ii) implementation of registrations in beneficiary form, including requests for cancellatio of previously registered TOD beneficiary designations and requests for reregistration to effect change of beneficiary.

(b) The terms and conditions so established may provide for proving death, avoidin or resolving any problems concerning fractional shares, designating primary and contingen beneficiaries, and substituting a named beneficiary's descendants to take in the place of th named beneficiary in the event of the beneficiary's death. Substitution may be indicate by appending to the name of the primary beneficiary the letters LDPS, standing for "linea descendants per stirpes". This designation substitutes a deceased beneficiary's descendants wh survive the owner for a beneficiary who fails to so survive, the descendants to be identifie and to share in accordance with the law of the beneficiary's domicile at the owner's death tha governs inheritance by descendants of an intestate. Other forms of identifying beneficiarie who are to take on one or more contingencies, and rules for providing proofs and assurance needed to satisfy reasonable concerns by registering entities regarding conditions and identitie relevant to accurate implementation of registrations in beneficiary form, may be contained in registering entity's terms and conditions.

(2) The following are illustrations of registrations in beneficiary form that a registerin entity may authorize:

(a) sole owner-sole beneficiary: John S. Brown TOD (or POD) John S. Brown Jr.;

(b) multiple owners-sole beneficiary: John S. Brown Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S Brown Jr.;

(c) multiple owners-primary and secondary (substituted) beneficiaries: John S. Brow Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown Jr. SUB BENE Peter Q. Brown or John S. Brow Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown Jr. LDPS.

History: **En. Sec. 112, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

72-6-311. Application of part. This part applies to registrations of securities in beneficiar form made before or after October 1, 1993, by decedents dying on or after October 1, 1993.

History: **En. Sec. 131, Ch. 494, L. 1993.**

Part 4
Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act

72-6-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Real Property Transfer o Death Act".

History: **En. Sec. 83, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-6-402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Beneficiary" means a person that receives property under a transfer on death deed.

(2) "Designated beneficiary" means a person designated to receive property in a transfe on death deed.

(3) "Joint owner" means an individual who owns property concurrently with one or more other individuals with a right of survivorship. The term includes a joint tenant. The term does not include a tenant in common.

(4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(5) "Property" means an interest in real property located in this state which is transferable on the death of the owner.

(6) "Transfer on death deed" means a deed authorized under this part.

(7) "Transferor" means an individual who makes a transfer on death deed.

History: En. Sec. 84, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-403. Nonexclusivity. This part does not affect any method of transferring property otherwise permitted under the law of this state.

History: En. Sec. 86, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-404. Transfer on death deed authorized. An individual may transfer property to one or more beneficiaries effective at the transferor's death by a transfer on death deed.

History: En. Sec. 87, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-405. Transfer on death deed revocable. A transfer on death deed is revocable even if the deed or another instrument contains a contrary provision.

History: En. Sec. 88, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-406. Transfer on death deed nontestamentary. A transfer on death deed is nontestamentary.

History: En. Sec. 89, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-407. Capacity of transferor. The capacity required to make or revoke a transfer on death deed is the same as the capacity required to make a will.

History: En. Sec. 90, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-408. Requirements. A transfer on death deed:

(1) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), must contain the essential elements and formalities of a properly recordable inter vivos deed;

(2) must state that the transfer to the designated beneficiary is to occur at the transferor's death; and

(3) must be recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the property is located.

History: En. Sec. 91, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-409. Notice, delivery, acceptance, consideration not required. A transfer on death deed is effective without:

(1) notice or delivery to or acceptance by the designated beneficiary during the transferor's life; or

(2) consideration.

History: En. Sec. 92, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-410. Revocation by instrument authorized — revocation by act not permitted. (1) Subject to subsection (2), an instrument is effective to revoke a recorded transfer on death deed, or any part of it, only if the instrument:

(a) is one of the following:

(i) a transfer on death deed that revokes the deed or part of the deed expressly or by inconsistency;

(ii) an instrument of revocation that expressly revokes the deed or part of the deed;

(iii) an inter vivos deed that expressly revokes the transfer on death deed or part of the deed; and

(b) is acknowledged by the transferor after the acknowledgment of the deed being revoked and recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the deed is recorded.

(2) If a transfer on death deed is made by more than one transferor:

(a) revocation by a transferor does not affect the deed as to the interest of another transferor; and

(b) a deed of joint owners is revoked only if it is revoked by all of the living joint owners.

(3) After a transfer on death deed is recorded, it may not be revoked by a revocatory act on the deed.

(4) This section does not limit the effect of an inter vivos transfer of the property, which revokes any prior transfer on death deed to the property.

History: **En. Sec. 93, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-6-411. Effect of transfer on death deed during transferor's life. During a transferor's life, a transfer on death deed does not:

(1) affect an interest or right of the transferor or any other owner, including the right to transfer or encumber the property;

(2) affect an interest or right of a transferee, even if the transferee has actual or constructive notice of the deed;

(3) affect an interest or right of a secured or unsecured creditor or future creditor of the transferor, even if the creditor has actual or constructive notice of the deed;

(4) affect the transferor's or designated beneficiary's eligibility for any form of public assistance;

(5) create a legal or equitable interest in favor of the designated beneficiary; or

(6) subject the property to claims or process of a creditor of the designated beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 94, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-6-412. Effect of transfer on death deed at transferor's death. (1) Except as otherwise provided in the transfer on death deed, in 72-2-712, 72-2-716, 72-2-813, 72-2-814, 72-6-112, or in this section, and subject to chapter 2, part 2, of this title, on the death of the transferor, the following rules apply to property that is the subject of a transfer on death deed and owned by the transferor at death:

(a) Subject to subsection (1)(b), the interest in the property is transferred to the designated beneficiary in accordance with the deed.

(b) The interest of a designated beneficiary is contingent on the designated beneficiary surviving the transferor. The interest of a designated beneficiary that fails to survive the transferor lapses.

(c) Subject to subsection (1)(d), concurrent interests are transferred to the beneficiaries in equal and undivided shares with no right of survivorship.

(d) If the transferor has identified two or more designated beneficiaries to receive concurrent interests in the property, the share of one which lapses or fails for any reason is transferred to the other, or to the others in proportion to the interest of each in the remaining part of the property held concurrently.

(2) Subject to Title 70, chapter 21, a beneficiary takes the property subject to all conveyances, encumbrances, assignments, contracts, mortgages, liens, and other interests to which the property is subject at the transferor's death. For purposes of this subsection and Title 70, chapter 21, the recording of the transfer on death deed is deemed to have occurred at the transferor's death.

(3) If a transferor is a joint owner and is:

(a) survived by one or more other joint owners, the property that is the subject of a transfer on death deed belongs to the surviving joint owner or owners with right of survivorship; or

(b) the last surviving joint owner, the transfer on death deed is effective.

(4) A transfer on death deed transfers property without covenant or warranty of title even if the deed contains a contrary provision.

History: **En. Sec. 95, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2021.**

72-6-413. Disclaimer. A beneficiary may disclaim all or part of the beneficiary's interest as provided by 72-2-817 through 72-2-833, the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act.

History: **En. Sec. 96, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-6-414. Liability for creditor claims and statutory allowances. A beneficiary of a transfer on death deed is liable for an allowed claim against the transferor's probate estate and statutory allowances to a surviving spouse and children to the extent provided in 72-6-112.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-415. Optional form of transfer on death deed. The following form may be used to create a transfer on death deed. The other sections of this part govern the effect of this or any other instrument used to create a transfer on death deed:

(front of form)

REVOCABLE TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED

NOTICE TO OWNER

You should carefully read all information on the other side of this form. You May Want to Consult a Lawyer Before Using This Form.

This form must be recorded before your death, or it will not be effective.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Owner or Owners Making This Deed:

______________________ ______________________

Printed name Mailing address

______________________ ______________________

Printed name Mailing address

Legal description of the property:

____

____

PRIMARY BENEFICIARY

I designate the following beneficiary if the beneficiary survives me.

______________________ ______________________

Printed name Mailing address, if available

ALTERNATE BENEFICIARY - Optional

If my primary beneficiary does not survive me, I designate the following alternate beneficiary if that beneficiary survives me.

______________________ ______________________

Printed name Mailing address, if available

TRANSFER ON DEATH

At my death, I transfer my interest in the described property to the beneficiaries as designated above.

Before my death, I have the right to revoke this deed.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER OR OWNERS MAKING THIS DEED

______________________ ______________

Signature Date

______________________ ______________

Signature Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(insert acknowledgment for deed here)

(back of form)

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF THIS FORM

What does the Transfer on Death (TOD) deed do? When you die, this deed transfers the described property, subject to any liens or mortgages (or other encumbrances) on the property at your death. Probate is not required. The TOD deed has no effect until you die. You can revoke it at any time. You are also free to transfer the property to someone else during your lifetime. If you do not own any interest in the property when you die, this deed will have no effect.

How do I make a TOD deed? Complete this form. Have it acknowledged before a notary public or other individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments. Record the form in each county where any part of the property is located. The form has no effect unless it is acknowledged and recorded before your death.

Is the "legal description" of the property necessary? Yes.

How do I find the "legal description" of the property? This information may be on the deed you received when you became an owner of the property. This information may also be available in the office of the county clerk and recorder for the county where the property is located. If you are not absolutely sure, consult a lawyer.

Can I change my mind before I record the TOD deed? Yes. If you have not yet recorded the deed and want to change your mind, simply tear up or otherwise destroy the deed.

How do I "record" the TOD deed? Take the completed and acknowledged form to the office of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the property is located. Follow the instructions given by the county clerk and recorder to make the form part of the official property records. If the property is in more than one county, you should record the deed in each county.

Can I later revoke the TOD deed if I change my mind? Yes. You can revoke the TOD deed. No one, including the beneficiaries, can prevent you from revoking the deed.

How do I revoke the TOD deed after it is recorded? There are three ways to revoke a recorded TOD deed:

(1) Complete and acknowledge a revocation form, and record it in each county where the property is located.

(2) Complete and acknowledge a new TOD deed that disposes of the same property, and record it in each county where the property is located.

(3) Transfer the property to someone else during your lifetime by a recorded deed that expressly revokes the TOD deed. You may not revoke the TOD deed by will.

I am being pressured to complete this form. What should I do? Do not complete this form under pressure. Seek help from a trusted family member, friend, or lawyer.

Do I need to tell the beneficiaries about the TOD deed? No, but it is recommended. Secrecy can cause later complications and might make it easier for others to commit fraud.

I have other questions about this form. What should I do? This form is designed to fit some but not all situations. If you have other questions, you are encouraged to consult a lawyer.

History: En. Sec. 98, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 143, L. 2021.

72-6-416. Optional form of revocation. The following form may be used to create an instrument of revocation under this part. The other sections of this part govern the effect of this or any other instrument used to revoke a transfer on death deed.

(front of form)

REVOCATION OF TRANSFER ON DEATH DEED

NOTICE TO OWNER

This revocation must be recorded before you die or it will not be effective. This revocation is effective only as to the interests in the property of owners who sign this revocation.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Owner or Owners of Property Making This Revocation:

____________________ ____________________
Printed name Mailing address

____________________ ____________________
Printed name Mailing address

Legal description of the property:

____

____

REVOCATION

I revoke all my previous transfers of this property by transfer on death deed.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER OR OWNERS MAKING THIS REVOCATION

Signature Date

Signature Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(insert acknowledgment here)

(back of form)

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF THIS FORM

How do I use this form to revoke a Transfer on Death (TOD) deed? Complete this form. Have t acknowledged before a notary public or other individual authorized to take acknowledgments. Record the form in the public records in the office of the county clerk and recorder of each county where the property is located. The form must be acknowledged and recorded before your death or it has no effect.

How do I find the "legal description" of the property? This information may be on the TOD deed. It may also be available in the office of the county clerk and recorder for the county where he property is located. If you are not absolutely sure, consult a lawyer.

How do I "record" the form? Take the completed and acknowledged form to the office of he county clerk and recorder of deeds of the county where the property is located. Follow the nstructions given by the county clerk and recorder to make the form part of the official property records. If the property is located in more than one county, you should record the form in each of those counties.

I am being pressured to complete this form. What should I do? Do not complete this form under pressure. Seek help from a trusted family member, friend, or lawyer.

I have other questions about this form. What should I do? This form is designed to fit some but not all situations. If you have other questions, consult a lawyer.

History: En. Sec. 99, Ch. 313, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 143, L. 2021.

72-6-417. Prior executed and recorded beneficiary deed. Any beneficiary deed that was executed and recorded prior to October 1, 2019, and which complied with the law in effect when it was recorded, shall be deemed to be a transfer on death deed for the purposes of this part.

History: En. Sec. 100, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-6-418. Severability. If any provision of this code or the application of this code to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity may not affect other provisions or applications of the code which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this code are declared to be severable.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 7
UNIFORM POWERS OF APPOINTMENT ACT

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Part 1
General Provisions

72-7-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Uniform Powers of Appointmen Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Appointee" means a person to which a powerholder makes an appointment o appointive property.

(2) "Appointive property" means the property or property interest subject to a power o appointment.

(3) "Blanket-exercise clause" means a clause in an instrument that exercises a power o appointment and is not a specific-exercise clause. The term includes a clause that:

(a) expressly uses the words "any power" in exercising any power of appointment th powerholder has;

(b) expressly uses the words "any property" in appointing any property over which th powerholder has a power of appointment; or

(c) disposes of all property subject to disposition by the powerholder.

(4) "Donor" means a person who creates a power of appointment.

(5) "Exclusionary power of appointment" means a power of appointment exercisable i favor of any one or more of the permissible appointees to the exclusion of the other permissibl appointees.

(6) "General power of appointment" means a power of appointment exercisable in favo of the powerholder, the powerholder's estate, a creditor of the powerholder, or a creditor of th powerholder's estate.

(7) "Gift-in-default clause" means a clause identifying a taker in default of appointment.

(8) "Impermissible appointee" means a person who is not a permissible appointee.

(9) "Instrument" means a writing.

(10) "Nongeneral power of appointment" means a power of appointment that is not a eneral power of appointment.

(11) "Permissible appointee" means a person in whose favor a powerholder may exercise a ower of appointment.

(12) "Person" means an individual, estate, trust, business or nonprofit entity, public orporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal ntity.

(13) "Power of appointment" means a power that enables a powerholder acting in a onfiduciary capacity to designate a recipient of an ownership interest in or another power of ppointment over the appointive property. The term does not include a power of attorney.

(14) "Powerholder" means a person in whom a donor creates a power of appointment.

(15) "Presently exercisable power of appointment" means a power of appointment xercisable by the powerholder at the relevant time. The term:

(a) includes a power of appointment not exercisable until the occurrence of a specified vent, the satisfaction of an ascertainable standard, or the passage of a specified time only after:

(i) the occurrence of the specified event;

(ii) the satisfaction of the ascertainable standard; or

(iii) the passage of the specified time; and

(b) does not include a power exercisable only at the powerholder's death.

(16) "Specific-exercise clause" means a clause in an instrument that specifically refers to nd exercises a particular power of appointment.

(17) "Taker in default of appointment" means a person who takes all or part of the appointive roperty to the extent the powerholder does not effectively exercise the power of appointment.

(18) "Terms of the instrument" means the manifestation of the intent of the maker of the strument regarding the instrument's provisions as expressed in the instrument or as may be stablished by other evidence that would be admissible in a legal proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-103. Governing law. Unless the terms of the instrument creating a power of ppointment manifest a contrary intent:

(1) the creation, revocation, or amendment of the power is governed by the law of the onor's domicile at the relevant time; and

(2) the exercise, release, or disclaimer of the power or the revocation or amendment of the xercise, release, or disclaimer of the power is governed by the law of the powerholder's domicile t the relevant time.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-104. Common law and principles of equity. The common law and principles of quity supplement this act, except to the extent modified by this act or a law of this state other han this act.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

Part 2

Creation, Revocation, and Amendment of Power of Appointment

72-7-201. Creation of power of appointment. (1) A power of appointment is created nly if:

(a) the instrument creating the power:

(i) is valid under applicable law; and

(ii) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), transfers the appointive property; and

(b) the terms of the instrument creating the power manifest the donor's intent to create a powerholder a power of appointment over the appointive property exercisable in favor of a ermissible appointee.

(2) Subsection (1)(a)(ii) does not apply to the creation of a power of appointment by the xercise of a power of appointment.

(3) A power of appointment may not be created in a deceased individual.

(4) Subject to an applicable rule against perpetuities, a power of appointment may be created in an unborn or unascertained powerholder.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-202. Nontransferability. A powerholder may not transfer a power of appointment. If a powerholder dies without exercising or releasing a power, the power lapses.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-203. Presumption of unlimited authority. Subject to 72-7-204 and unless the terms of the instrument creating a power of appointment manifest a contrary intent, the power is:

(1) presently exercisable;
(2) exclusionary; and
(3) except as otherwise provided in 72-7-204, general.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-204. Exception to presumption of unlimited authority. Unless the terms of the instrument creating a power of appointment manifest a contrary intent, the power is nongeneral if:

(1) the power is exercisable only at the powerholder's death; and

(2) the permissible appointees of the power are a defined and limited class that does not include the powerholder's estate, the powerholder's creditors, or the creditors of the powerholder's estate.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-205. Rules of classification. (1) In this section, "adverse party" means a person with a substantial beneficial interest in property that would be affected adversely by a powerholder's exercise or nonexercise of a power of appointment in favor of the powerholder, the powerholder's estate, a creditor of the powerholder, or a creditor of the powerholder's estate.

(2) If a powerholder may exercise a power of appointment only with the consent or joinder of an adverse party, the power is nongeneral.

(3) If the permissible appointees of a power of appointment are not defined and limited the power is exclusionary.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-206. Power to revoke or amend. A donor may revoke or amend a power o appointment only to the extent that:

(1) the instrument creating the power is revocable by the donor; or

(2) the donor reserves a power of revocation or amendment in the instrument creating the power of appointment.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

Part 3
Exercise of Power of Appointment

72-7-301. Requisites for exercise of power of appointment. (1) A power of appointment is exercised only:

(a) if the instrument exercising the power is valid under applicable law;

(b) if the terms of the instrument exercising the power:

(i) manifest the powerholder's intent to exercise the power; and

(ii) subject to 72-7-304, satisfy the requirements of exercise, if any, imposed by the donor and

(c) to the extent the appointment is a permissible exercise of the power.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the property subject to a power o appointment may not pass to and may not be administered as a part of the powerholder's probate estate unless:

(a) the power of appointment is a general one that expressly authorizes the powerholder to appoint the appointive property to his or her own estate; and

(b) the powerholder utilizes clear and unequivocal language demonstrating a specific intent to exercise the power in favor of his or her own estate.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-302. Intent to exercise — determining intent from residuary clause. (1) In his section:

(a) "Residuary clause" does not include a residuary clause containing a blanket-exercise lause or a specific-exercise clause.

(b) "Will" includes a codicil and a testamentary instrument that revises another will.

(2) A residuary clause in a powerholder's will or a comparable clause in the powerholder's evocable trust manifests the powerholder's intent to exercise a power of appointment only if:

(a) the terms of the instrument containing the residuary clause do not manifest a contrary ntent;

(b) the power is a general power exercisable in favor of the powerholder's estate;

(c) there is no gift-in-default clause or the clause is ineffective; and

(d) the powerholder did not release the power.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-303. Intent to exercise — after-acquired power. Unless the terms of the nstrument exercising a power of appointment manifest a contrary intent:

(1) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a blanket-exercise clause extends to a ower acquired by the powerholder after executing the instrument containing the clause; and

(2) if the powerholder is also the donor of the power, the clause does not extend to the ower unless there is no gift-in-default clause or the gift-in-default clause is ineffective.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-304. Substantial compliance with donor-imposed formal requirement. A owerholder's substantial compliance with a formal requirement of appointment imposed by he donor, including a requirement that the instrument exercising the power of appointment make reference or specific reference to the power, is sufficient if:

(1) the powerholder knows of and intends to exercise the power; and

(2) the powerholder's manner of attempted exercise of the power does not impair a material urpose of the donor in imposing the requirement.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-305. Permissible appointment. (1) A powerholder of a general power of appointment hat permits appointment to the powerholder or the powerholder's estate may make any ppointment, including an appointment in trust or creating a new power of appointment, that he powerholder could make in disposing of the powerholder's own property.

(2) A powerholder of a general power of appointment that permits appointment only to the creditors of the powerholder or of the powerholder's estate may appoint only to those creditors.

(3) Unless the terms of the instrument creating a power of appointment manifest a ontrary intent, the powerholder of a nongeneral power may:

(a) make an appointment in any form, including an appointment in trust, in favor of a ermissible appointee;

(b) create a general power in a permissible appointee;

(c) create a nongeneral power in any person to appoint to one or more of the permissible ppointees of the original nongeneral power; or

(d) create a nongeneral power in a permissible appointee to appoint to one or more persons the permissible appointees of the new nongeneral power include the permissible appointees of he original nongeneral power.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 293, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 2019.

72-7-306. Appointment to deceased appointee or permissible appointee's escendant. (1) Subject to the antilapse provisions of 72-2-613, an appointment to a deceased ppointee is ineffective.

(2) Unless the terms of the instrument creating a power of appointment manifest a ontrary intent, a powerholder of a nongeneral power may exercise the power in favor of or reate a new power of appointment in a descendant of a deceased permissible appointee whether r not the descendant is described by the donor as a permissible appointee.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-307. Impermissible appointment. (1) Except as otherwise provided in 72-7-306, a exercise of a power of appointment in favor of an impermissible appointee is ineffective.

(2) An exercise of a power of appointment in favor of a permissible appointee is ineffectiv to the extent the appointment is a fraud on the power.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-308. Selective allocation doctrine. If a powerholder exercises a power o appointment in a disposition that also disposes of property the powerholder owns, the owne property and the appointive property must be allocated in the permissible manner that bes carries out the powerholder's intent.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-309. Capture doctrine — disposition of ineffectively appointed propert under general power. To the extent a powerholder of a general power of appointment other than a power to withdraw property from, revoke, or amend a trust, makes an ineffectiv appointment:

(1) the gift-in-default clause controls the disposition of the ineffectively appointed property or

(2) if there is no gift-in-default clause or to the extent the clause is ineffective, th ineffectively appointed property:

(a) passes to:

(i) the powerholder if the powerholder is a permissible appointee and living; or

(ii) if the powerholder is an impermissible appointee or deceased, the powerholder's estate if the estate is a permissible appointee; or

(b) if there is no taker under subsection (2)(a), passes under a reversionary interest to th donor or the donor's transferee or successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-310. Disposition of unappointed property under released or unexercised general power. To the extent a powerholder releases or fails to exercise a general power o appointment, other than a power to withdraw property from, revoke, or amend a trust:

(1) the gift-in-default clause controls the disposition of the unappointed property; or

(2) if there is no gift-in-default clause or to the extent the clause is ineffective:

(a) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)(b), the unappointed property passes to:

(i) the powerholder if the powerholder is a permissible appointee and living; or

(ii) if the powerholder is an impermissible appointee or deceased, the powerholder's estate if the estate is a permissible appointee; or

(b) to the extent the powerholder released the power or if there is no taker under subsection (2)(a), the unappointed property passes under a reversionary interest to the donor or the donor's transferee or successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-311. Disposition of unappointed property under released or unexercised nongeneral power. To the extent a powerholder releases, ineffectively exercises, or fails t exercise a nongeneral power of appointment:

(1) the gift-in-default clause controls the disposition of the unappointed property; or

(2) if there is no gift-in-default clause or to the extent the clause is ineffective, the unappointed property:

(a) passes to the permissible appointees if:

(i) the permissible appointees are defined and limited; and

(ii) the terms of the instrument creating the power do not manifest a contrary intent; or

(b) if there is no taker under subsection (2)(a), passes under a reversionary interest to the donor or the donor's transferee or successor in interest.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-312. Disposition of unappointed property if partial appointment to taker in default. Unless the terms of the instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment manifest a contrary intent, if the powerholder makes a valid partial appointment to a taker in default of appointment, the taker in default of appointment may share fully in unappointed property.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-313. Appointment to taker in default. If a powerholder makes an appointment to a taker in default of appointment and the appointee would have taken the property under a gift-in-default clause had the property not been appointed, the power of appointment is deemed not to have been exercised and the appointee takes under the default clause.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-314. Powerholder's authority to revoke or amend exercise. A powerholder may revoke or amend an exercise of a power of appointment only to the extent that:

(1) the powerholder reserves a power of revocation or amendment in the instrument exercising the power of appointment and, if the power is nongeneral, the terms of the instrument creating the power of appointment do not prohibit the reservation; or

(2) the terms of the instrument creating the power of appointment provide that the exercise is revocable or amendable.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

Part 4
Disclaimer on Release — Contract to Appoint or Not to Appoint

72-7-401. Disclaimer. As provided by 72-2-825 and 72-2-826:

(1) a powerholder may disclaim all or part of a power of appointment; and

(2) a permissible appointee, appointee, or taker in default of appointment may disclaim all or part of an interest in appointive property.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 293, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 313, L. 2019.**

72-7-402. Authority to release. A powerholder may release a power of appointment in whole or in part, except to the extent the terms of the instrument creating the power prevent the release.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-403. Method of release. A powerholder of a releasable power of appointment may release the power in whole or in part:

(1) by substantial compliance with a method provided in the terms of the instrument creating the power; or

(2) if the terms of the instrument creating the power do not provide a method or the method provided in the terms of the instrument is not expressly made exclusive, by a writing manifesting the powerholder's intent by clear and convincing evidence.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-404. Revocation or amendment of release. A powerholder may revoke or amend a release of a power of appointment only to the extent that:

(1) the instrument of release is revocable by the powerholder; or

(2) the powerholder reserves a power of revocation or amendment in the instrument of release.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-405. Power to contract — presently exercisable power of appointment. A powerholder of a presently exercisable power of appointment may contract:

(1) not to exercise the power; or

(2) to exercise the power if the contract when made does not confer a benefit on an impermissible appointee.

History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-406. Power to contract — power of appointment not presently exercisable. A powerholder of a power of appointment that is not presently exercisable may contract to exercise or not to exercise the power only if the powerholder:

(1) is also the donor of the power; and

(2) has reserved the power in a revocable trust.

History: **En. Sec. 30, Ch. 293, L. 2015.**

72-7-407. Remedy for breach of contract to appoint or not to appoint. The remedy for a powerholder's breach of a contract to appoint or not to appoint appointive property is limited to damages payable out of the appointive property or, if appropriate, specific performance of the contract.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

Part 5
Rights of Powerholder's Creditors in Appointive Property

72-7-501. Creditor claim — general power created by powerholder. (1) In this section, "power of appointment created by the powerholder" includes a power of appointment created in a transfer by another person to the extent the powerholder contributed value to the transfer.

(2) Appointive property subject to a general power of appointment created by the powerholder is subject to a claim of a creditor of the powerholder or of the powerholder's estate to the extent provided in the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act, 31-2-326 through 31-2-342, and in 70-20-401, 70-20-402, and 70-20-405.

(3) Subject to subsection (2), appointive property subject to a general power of appointment created by the powerholder is not subject to a claim of a creditor of the powerholder or the powerholder's estate to the extent the powerholder irrevocably appointed the property in favor of a person other than the powerholder or the powerholder's estate.

(4) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) and notwithstanding the presence of a spendthrift provision or whether the claim arose before or after the creation of the power of appointment, appointive property subject to a general power of appointment created by the powerholder is subject to a claim of a creditor of:

(a) the powerholder, to the same extent as if the powerholder owned the appointive property, if the power is presently exercisable; and

(b) the powerholder's estate, to the extent the estate is insufficient to satisfy the claim and subject to the right of a decedent to direct the source from which liabilities are paid, if the power is exercisable at the powerholder's death.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-502. Creditor claim — general power not created by powerholder. (1) Property subject to a general or nongeneral power of appointment created by a person other than the powerholder, including a presently exercisable general or nongeneral power of appointment, is exempt from a claim by a creditor of the powerholder or the powerholder's estate. The powerholder of such a power may not be compelled to exercise the power, and the powerholder's creditors may not acquire the power or any rights to the power or reach the trust property or beneficial interests by any other means. A court may not exercise or require the powerholder to exercise the power of appointment.

(2) Subject to 72-7-504(3), a power of appointment created by a person other than the powerholder that is subject to an ascertainable standard relating to an individual's health, education, support, or maintenance within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. Section 2041(b)(1)(A) or 26 U.S.C. Section 2514(c)(1), on October 1, 2015, is treated for purposes of this act as a nongeneral power.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 293, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 2019.

72-7-503. Power to withdraw. (1) For purposes of this section and except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a power to withdraw property from a trust is treated, during the time the power may be exercised, as a presently exercisable general power of appointment to the extent of the property subject to the power to withdraw.

(2) On the lapse, release, or waiver of a power to withdraw property from a trust, the power is treated as a presently exercisable general power of appointment only to the extent the value of the property affected by the lapse, release, or waiver exceeds the greater of the amount specified in 26 U.S.C. Section 2041(b)(2) and 26 U.S.C. Section 2514(e) or the amount specified in 26 U.S.C. Section 2503(b) on October 1, 2015.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-504. Creditor claim — nongeneral power. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3), appointive property subject to a nongeneral power of appointment is exempt from a claim of a creditor of the powerholder or the powerholder's estate.

(2) Appointive property subject to a nongeneral power of appointment is subject to a claim of a creditor of the powerholder or the powerholder's estate to the extent that the powerholder owned the property and, reserving the nongeneral power, transferred the property in violation of the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act, 31-2-326 through 31-2-342.

(3) If the initial gift in default of appointment is to the powerholder or the powerholder's estate, a nongeneral power of appointment is treated for purposes of this act as a general power.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

Part 6
Miscellaneous Provisions

72-7-601. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-602. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. This chapter modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

72-7-603. Application to existing relationships. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, on and after October 1, 2015:

(a) this act applies to a power of appointment created before, on, or after October 1, 2015;

(b) this act applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of appointment commenced on or after October 1, 2015;

(c) this act applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of appointment commenced before October 1, 2015, unless the court finds that application of a particular provision of this act would interfere substantially with the effective conduct of the judicial proceeding or prejudice a right of a party, in which case the particular provision of this act does not apply and the superseded law applies;

(d) a rule of construction or presumption provided in this act applies to an instrument executed before October 1, 2015, unless there is a clear indication of a contrary intent in the terms of the instrument; and

(e) except as otherwise provided in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d), an action done before October 1, 2015, is not affected by this act.

(2) If a right is acquired, extinguished, or barred on the expiration of a prescribed period that commenced under law of this state other than this act before October 1, 2015, the law continues to apply to the right.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 293, L. 2015.

CHAPTER 8
RESERVED

CHAPTER 9
DISPOSITION OF COMMUNITY PROPERTY RIGHTS AT DEATH

Part 1 — Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death

72-9-101. Short title.
72-9-102. Application.
72-9-103. Rebuttable presumptions.
72-9-104 through 72-9-106 reserved.
72-9-107. Disposition upon death.

72-9-108. Perfection of title of surviving spouse.
72-9-109. Perfection of title of personal representative, heir, or devisee.
72-9-110. Purchaser for value or lender.
72-9-111 through 72-9-113 reserved.
72-9-114. Creditor's rights.
72-9-115. Acts of married persons.
72-9-116. Limitations on testamentary disposition.
72-9-117 through 72-9-119 reserved.
72-9-120. Uniformity of application and construction.

Part 1
Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death

72-9-101. Short title. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Uniforn Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-101, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-101 by Code Commissione 1993.

72-9-102. Application. This part applies to the disposition at death of the followin property acquired by a married person:

(1) (a) all personal property, wherever situated, that was acquired as or became an remained community property under the laws of another jurisdiction; and

(b) all or the proportionate part of that property acquired with the rents, issues, or incom of, the proceeds from, or in exchange for that community property; or

(c) property traceable to that community property; or

(2) all or the proportionate part of any real property situated in this state that was acquire with the rents, issues, or income of, the proceeds from, or in exchange for property acquired a or which became and remained community property under the laws of another jurisdiction, o property traceable to that community property.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-102, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-102 by Code Commissioner 1993.

Cross-References

Exempt property and allowances, Title 72, ch. 2, part 4.
Inheritance and estate taxes, Title 72, ch. 16.

72-9-103. Rebuttable presumptions. In determining whether this part applies to specifi property, the following rebuttable presumptions apply:

(1) property acquired during marriage by a spouse of that marriage while domiciled i a jurisdiction under whose laws property could then be acquired as community property i presumed to have been acquired as or to have become and remained property to which this par applies; and

(2) real property situated in this state and personal property, wherever situated, acquire by a married person while domiciled in a jurisdiction under whose laws property could not the be acquired as community property, title to which was taken in a form which created rights o survivorship, is presumed not to be property to which this part applies.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-103, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-103 by Code Commissioner 1993.

Cross-References

Disputable presumptions, 26-1-602.

72-9-104 through 72-9-106 reserved.

72-9-107. Disposition upon death. Upon death of a married person, one-half of the property to which this part applies is the property of the surviving spouse and is not subject to testamentary disposition by the decedent or distribution under the Uniform Probate Code. One-half of that property is the property of the decedent and is subject to testamentary disposition or distribution under the Uniform Probate Code. With respect to property to which this part applies, the one-half of the property which is the property of the decedent is not subject to the surviving spouse's right to elect against the will.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-107, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-107 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

General probate and administration, Title 72, ch. 3, part 1.
Special provisions relating to distribution, Title 72, ch. 3, part 9.

72-9-108. Perfection of title of surviving spouse. If the title to any property to which this part applies was held by the decedent at the time of death, title of the surviving spouse may be perfected by an order of the district court or by execution of an instrument by the personal representative or the heirs or devisees of the decedent with the approval of the district court. Neither the personal representative nor the district court in which the decedent's estate is being administered has a duty to discover or attempt to discover whether property held by the decedent is property to which this part applies, unless a written demand is made by the surviving spouse or the spouse's successor in interest.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-108, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-108 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

72-9-109. Perfection of title of personal representative, heir, or devisee. If the title to any property to which this part applies is held by the surviving spouse at the time of the decedent's death, the personal representative or an heir or devisee, as those terms are defined in 72-1-103, of the decedent may institute an action to perfect title to the property. The personal representative has no fiduciary duty to discover or attempt to discover whether any property held by the surviving spouse is property to which this part applies, unless a written demand is made by an heir, devisee, or creditor of the decedent.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-109, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-109 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

Powers and duties of personal representative, Title 72, ch. 3, part 6.
Foreign personal representatives, Title 72, ch. 4.

72-9-110. Purchaser for value or lender. (1) If a surviving spouse has apparent title to property to which this part applies, a purchaser for value or a lender taking a security interest in the property takes the purchaser's or lender's interest in the property free of any rights of the personal representative or an heir or devisee, as those terms are defined in 72-1-103, of the decedent.

(2) If a personal representative or an heir or devisee of the decedent has apparent title to property to which this part applies, a purchaser for value or a lender taking a security interest in the property takes the purchaser's or lender's interest in the property free of any rights of the surviving spouse.

(3) A purchaser for value or a lender need not inquire whether a vendor or borrower acted properly.

(4) The proceeds of a sale or creation of a security interest must be treated in the same manner as the property transferred to the purchaser for value or a lender.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-110, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-110 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 2441, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-9-111 through 72-9-113 reserved.

72-9-114. Creditor's rights. This part does not affect rights of creditors with respect to property to which this part applies.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-114, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-114 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

Creditors' claims, Title 72, ch. 3, part 8.

72-9-115. Acts of married persons. This part does not prevent married persons from severing or altering their interests in property to which this part applies.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-115, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-115 by Code Commissioner, 1993.**

Cross-References

Husband and wife — joint interests, obligations and powers, Title 40 ch. 2, part 1.
Elective share of surviving spouse, Title 72, ch. 2, part 2.

72-9-116. Limitations on testamentary disposition. This part does not authorize person to dispose of property by will if it is held under limitations imposed by law preventin testamentary disposition by that person.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-116, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-116 by Code Commissione 1993.

72-9-117 through 72-9-119 reserved.

72-9-120. Uniformity of application and construction. Any person applying an interpreting this part shall do so as to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of thi part among those states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 395, L. 1989; Sec. 72-6-120, MCA 1991; redes. 72-9-120 by Code Commissione 1993.

CHAPTER 10
SUPPLEMENTARY GENERAL PROVISIONS ON PROBATE AND SUCCESSION
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Jurisdiction and Courts (Repealed)

Part 2 — Notice Generally (Repealed)

Part 1
Jurisdiction and Courts
(Repealed)

72-10-101. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 314, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 314, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 314, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2910, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7701, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10355, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1704; re-en. Sec. 10355, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4301(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch 6, L. 1979.

72-10-102. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 314, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 314, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 314, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2910, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7701, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10355, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1704; re-en. Sec. 10355, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4301(part).

72-10-103. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 330, p. 325, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 330, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 330, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2926, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7717, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10371, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1719; re-en. Sec. 10371, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4317.

72-10-104. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 332, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 332, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 332, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2929, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7720, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10374, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1722; re-en. Sec. 10374, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4320; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 6, L 1979.

72-10-105. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 109, p. 264, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 109, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 109, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2530, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; en. Sec. 1, p. 244, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 7484, Rev. C 1907; re-en. Sec. 10120, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1430; re-en. Sec. 10120, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947 91-2001(part).

72-10-106. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 109, p. 264, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 109, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 109, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2530, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; en. Sec. 1, p. 244, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 7484, Rev. C 1907; re-en. Sec. 10120, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1430; re-en. Sec. 10120, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947 91-2001(part).

72-10-107. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 317, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 317, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 317, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2913, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7704, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10358, R.C.M 1921; re-en. Sec. 10358, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4304; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-10-108. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 318, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 318, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 318, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2914, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7705, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10359, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1707; re-en. Sec. 10359, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4305.

72-10-109. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 319, p. 323, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 319, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 319, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2915, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7706, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10360, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1708; re-en. Sec. 10360, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4306; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-10-110. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Secs. 320, 322, p. 323, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 320, 322, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 320, 322, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Secs. 2916, 2918, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Secs. 7707, 7709, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 10361, 10363, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Secs. 1709, 1711; re-en. Secs. 10361, 10363, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4307, 91-4309; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-10-111. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 331, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 331, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 331, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2927, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7718, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10372, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1720; re-en. Sec. 10372, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4318; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-10-112. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 332, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 332, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 332, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2928, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7719, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10373, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1721; re-en. Sec. 10372, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4319.

72-10-113. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 326, p. 324, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 326, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 326, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2922, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7713, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10367, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1715; re-en. Sec. 10367, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4313.

Part 2
Notice Generally
(Repealed)

72-10-201. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 321, p. 323, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 321, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 321, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2917, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7708, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10362, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1710; re-en. Sec. 10362, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4308.

72-10-202. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 316, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 316, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 316, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2912, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7703, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10357, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1706; re-en. Sec. 10357, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4303; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-10-203. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 323, p. 324, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 323, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 323, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2919, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7710, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10364, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1712; re-en. Sec. 10364, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4310.

72-10-204. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 315, p. 322, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 315, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 315, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2911, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7702, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10356, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1705; re-en. Sec. 10356, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 7, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4302.

CHAPTER 11
INTESTATE SUCCESSION

Part 1 — Intestate Succession

72-11-101. Degrees of kinship — how computed.
72-11-102. Types of kinship — lineal and collateral.
72-11-103. Computation of degrees in lineal kinship.
72-11-104. Computation of degrees in collateral kinship.
72-11-105. Repealed.

Part 2 — Wills — Execution and Revocation (Repealed)

Part 3 — Wills — Construction and Operation (Repealed)

Part 1
Intestate Succession

72-11-101. Degrees of kinship — how computed. The degree of kinship is establishe by the number of generations, and each generation is called a degree.

History: En. Secs. 536-557, pp. 366-370, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec 536-557, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1855, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4823, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 707 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1389; re-en. Sec. 7076, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-406; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 49 L. 1993.

Cross-References

Relationship by affinity, 1-1-219.

72-11-102. Types of kinship — lineal and collateral. There are two types of kinship lineal and collateral. Lineal kinship, or the direct line of consanguinity, is the relationshi between persons, one of whom is a descendant of the other. Collateral kinship is the relationshi between people who descend from a common ancestor but are not in a direct line.

History: En. Secs. 536-557, pp. 366-370, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec 536-557, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1856, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4824, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 707 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1390; re-en. Sec. 7077, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-407; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 494 L. 1993.

Cross-References

Representation of heirs, 72-2-116.
Kindred of half blood, 72-2-117.
Share of individual related to decedent through two lines, 72-2-123.

72-11-103. Computation of degrees in lineal kinship. The degree of lineal kinship o two persons is computed by counting one degree for each person in the line of ascent or descent exclusive of the person from whom the computing begins. The child is, with regard to the parent in the first degree; the grandchild is, with regard to the grandparent, in the second degree and vice versa as to the parent and grandparent with regard to their respective children an grandchildren.

History: En. Secs. 536-557, pp. 366-370, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs 536-557, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1857, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4825, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7078 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1391; re-en. Sec. 7078, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-408; amd. Sec. 134, Ch. 370 L. 1987; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-11-104. Computation of degrees in collateral kinship. The degree of collatera kinship of two persons is computed by commencing with one of the persons, ascending from tha person to a common ancestor, descending from that ancestor to the other person, and countin one degree for each person in the line of ascent and in the line of descent, exclusive of the perso from whom the computation begins. Siblings are related to each other in the second degree uncle and niece are related to each other in the third degree, and first cousins are related to eac other in the fourth degree.

History: En. Secs. 536-557, pp. 366-370, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs 536-557, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1858, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4826, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7079 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1392; re-en. Sec. 7079, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-409; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 494 L. 1993.

72-11-105. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Secs. 536-557, pp. 366-370, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 536-557, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; en. Sec. 1859, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4827, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7080. R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1393; re-en. Sec. 7080, R.C.M. 1935; re-en. Sec. 7080, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-410.

Part 2
Wills — Execution and Revocation
(Repealed)

72-11-201. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 441, p. 349, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 441, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 441, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1726, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4729, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6983, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1279; Field Civ. C. Sec. 548; re-en. Sec. 6983, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-110.

72-11-202. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 443, p. 350, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 443, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 443, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1728, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4731, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6985, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1281; Field Civ. C. Sec. 549; re-en. Sec. 6985, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-112.

72-11-203. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 5, p. 556, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 442, p. 350, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 442, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 442, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1727, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4730, Rev. C. 907; re-en. Sec. 6984, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1280; re-en. Sec. 6984, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-111.

72-11-204. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 464, p. 354, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 464, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 464, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1749, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4752, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7006, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1304; Field Civ. C. Sec. 572; re-en. Sec. 7006, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-133.

72-11-205. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 455, p. 352, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 455, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 455, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1740, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4743, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6997, R.C.M. 1921; Field Civ. C. Sec. 564; re-en. Sec. 6997, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-124.

Part 3
Wills — Construction and Operation
(Repealed)

72-11-301. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 476, p. 356, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 476, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 476, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1772, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4765, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7018, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1319; Field Civ. C. Sec. 581; re-en. Sec. 7018, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-203.

72-11-302. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 481, p. 357, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 481, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 481, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1777, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4770, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7023, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1324; Field Civ. C. Sec. 586; re-en. Sec. 7023, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-208.

72-11-303. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 482, p. 357, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 482, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 482, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1778, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4771, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7024, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1325; Field Civ. C. Sec. 587; re-en. Sec. 7024, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-209.

72-11-304. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 610, p. 198, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 610, 1st Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 628, 1st Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3132, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7873, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10517, R.C.M. 921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1856; re-en. Sec. 10517, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-401-13.

72-11-305. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 480, p. 356, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 480, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 480, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1776, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4769, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7022, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1323; Field Civ. C. Sec. 585; re-en. Sec. 7022, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-207.

72-11-306. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 477, p. 356, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 477, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 477, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1773, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4766, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7019, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1320; Field Civ. C. Sec. 582; re-en. Sec. 7019, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-204.

72-11-307. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 478, p. 356, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 478, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 478, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1774, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4767, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7020, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1321; Field Civ. C. Sec. 583; re-en. Sec. 7020, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-205.

72-11-308. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 479, p. 356, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 479, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 479, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1775, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4768, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7021, R.C.M. 192 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1322; Field Civ. C. Sec. 584; re-en. Sec. 7021, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-206.

72-11-309. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 484, p. 357, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 484, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 484, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1780, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4773, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7026, R.C.M. 192 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1327; Field Civ. C. Sec. 589; re-en. Sec. 7026, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-211.

72-11-310. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 485, p. 357, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 485, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 485, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1781, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4774, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7027, R.C.M. 192 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1328; Field Civ. C. Sec. 590; re-en. Sec. 7027, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-212.

72-11-311. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 486, p. 357, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 486, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 486, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1782, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4775, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7028, R.C.M. 192 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1329; Field Civ. C. Sec. 591; re-en. Sec. 7028, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-213.

72-11-312. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 493, p. 358, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 493, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 493, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1789, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4782, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7035, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1336; Field Civ. C. Sec. 598; re-en. Sec. 7035, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-220.

72-11-313. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 497, p. 359, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 497, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 497, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1793, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4786, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7039, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1340; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 602; re-en. Sec. 7039, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-224.

72-11-314. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 502, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 502, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 502, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1798, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4791, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7044, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1345; Field Civ. C. Sec. 607; re-en. Sec. 7044, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-229.

72-11-315. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 503, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 503, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 503, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1799, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4792, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7045, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1346; Field Civ. C. Sec. 608; re-en. Sec. 7045, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-230.

72-11-316. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 504, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 504, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 504, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1800, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4793, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7046, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1347; Field Civ. C. Sec. 609; re-en. Sec. 7046, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-231.

72-11-317. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 505, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 505, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 505, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1801, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4794, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7047, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1348; Field Civ. C. Sec. 610; re-en. Sec. 7047, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-232.

72-11-318. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 506, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 506, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 506, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1802, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4795, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7048, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1349; Field Civ. C. Sec. 611; re-en. Sec. 7048, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-233.

72-11-319. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 507, p. 360, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 507, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 507, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1803, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4796, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7049, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1350; Field Civ. C. Sec. 612; re-en. Sec. 7049, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-234.

72-11-320. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 494, p. 358, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 494, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 494, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1790, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4783, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7036, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1337; Field Civ. C. Sec. 599; re-en. Sec. 7036, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-221.

72-11-321. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 496, p. 359, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 496, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 496, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1792, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4785, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7038, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1339; Field Civ. C. Sec. 601; re-en. Sec. 7038, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-223.

72-11-322. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 495, p. 359, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 495, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 495, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1791, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4784, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7037, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1338; Field Civ. C. Sec. 600; re-en. Sec. 7037, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-222.

72-11-323 through 72-11-330 reserved.

72-11-331. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 499, p. 359, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 499, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 499, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1795, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4788, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7041, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1342; Field Civ. C. Sec. 604; re-en. Sec. 7041, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-226.

72-11-332. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 501, p. 359, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 501, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 501, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1797, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4790, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7043, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1344; Field Civ. C. Sec. 606; re-en. Sec. 7043, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-228.

72-11-333. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 2, p. 555, Cod. Stat. 1871; re-en. Sec. 471, p. 355, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 471, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 471, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1756, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4759, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7013, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1311; re-en. Sec. 7013, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-140.

72-11-334. Repealed. Sec. 195, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 1, p. 69, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 1759, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4762, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7015, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1313; re-en. Sec. 7015, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 91-142.

CHAPTER 12

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Will Contest — Procedure

72-12-201. Repealed.
72-12-202. Repealed.
72-12-203. Repealed.
72-12-204. Repealed.
72-12-205. Repealed.
72-12-206. Fees and expenses — by whom paid.

Part 3 — Lost Wills — Procedure (Repealed)

Part 4 — Handwriting Analysis

72-12-401. Petition for handwriting analysis.
72-12-402. Court to determine necessity of procedure and qualifications of expert.
72-12-403. Clerk to mail will to expert — notice.
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Part 5 — Personal Representative (Repealed)

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Part 8 — Claims Against Estate (Repealed)

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Part 10 — Closing Estates — Accounting (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-12-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2900, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7698, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10352, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1699; re-en. Sec. 10352, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4201.

72-12-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2901, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7699, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10353, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1700; re-en. Sec. 10353, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4202.

72-12-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2902, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7700, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10354, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1701; re-en. Sec. 10354, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4203.

72-12-104. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Secs. 509-530, pp. 360-363, L. 1877; re-en. Secs. 509-530, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Secs. 509-530, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 1828, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4806, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7059, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1365; Field Civ. C. Sec. 622; re-en. Sec. 7059, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-309.

Part 2
Will Contest — Procedure

72-12-201. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 21, p. 245, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 21, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 21, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2341, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7398, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10033, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1313; re-en. Sec. 10033, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-902.

72-12-202. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 22, p. 245, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 22, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 22, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2342, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7399, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10034, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1314; re-en. Sec. 10034, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-903.

72-12-203. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: (1)En. Sec. 24, p. 246, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 24, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 24, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2344, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7401, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10036, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1316; re-en. Sec. 10036, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 91-905, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 26, p. 246, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 26, p. 197, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 26, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 26, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2346, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7403, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10038, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1318; re-en. Sec. 10038, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 91-907, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-905, 91-907(part).

72-12-204. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 25, p. 246, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 25, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 25, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2345, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7402, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10037, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1317; re-en. Sec. 10037, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-906.

72-12-205. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 26, p. 246, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 26, p. 197, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 26, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 26, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2346, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7403, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10038, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1318; re-en. Sec. 10038, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-907(part).

72-12-206. Fees and expenses — by whom paid. When the validity or probate of a will is contested through court action, the attorney fees and costs, as provided in 25-10-201, incurred in defending the validity or probate of the will must be paid by the party contesting the validity or probate of the will if the will in probate is confirmed. If the probate is revoked, costs, as provided in 25-10-201, but not attorney fees, must be paid by the party who resisted the revocation or out of the property of the decedent, as the court directs.

History: En. Sec. 35, p. 248, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 35, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 35, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2365, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7412, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10047, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1332; re-en. Sec. 10047, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-1106; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

Part 3
Lost Wills — Procedure
(Repealed)

72-12-301. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 39, p. 249, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 39, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 39, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2372, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7416, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10051, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1340; re-en. Sec. 10051, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-1203.

72-12-302. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 40, p. 249, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 40, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 40, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2373, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7417, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10052, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1341; re-en. Sec. 10052, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-1204.

Part 4
Handwriting Analysis

72-12-401. Petition for handwriting analysis. In a proceeding involving the probate, either contested or uncontested, of a will in which the signature of the testator or of any witness is an issue, any party to the proceeding may file with the court a verified petition requesting that the original be delivered to a handwriting expert residing and having a place of business outside the state or outside the county for an examination of any of the signatures on the will.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-813; amd. Sec. 2442, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-12-402. Court to determine necessity of procedure and qualifications of expert. The court, upon notice and hearing, shall determine whether the procedure is justified by the circumstances of the case and whether the handwriting expert specified in the petition is a qualified professional handwriting expert.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-814.

72-12-403. Clerk to mail will to expert — notice. If the court grants the petition for delivery of the original will to a qualified handwriting expert residing and having a place of business outside the county or state, the clerk of court shall make at least two photocopies of the original will, which photocopies must remain in the custody of the clerk of court. The clerk shall mail the original will by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the handwriting expert specified in the order and shall give notice of the mailing by mailing copies of the order to each of the parties to the proceeding and to the handwriting expert.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-815; amd. Sec. 2443, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-12-404. Expert to return will to clerk. Upon completion of the analysis, the handwriting expert shall return the original will to the clerk of court by certified mail, return receipt requested.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-816; amd. Sec. 2444, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-12-405. Expert to mail report to petitioner. Unless the court orders another disposition of the written report, the handwriting expert, upon completion of the analysis, shall mail the expert's written report to the party who requested it.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-817; amd. Sec. 2445, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-12-406. Petitioner to pay all fees. All fees and expenses arising from the procedure outlined in this part, including the cost of photocopying the will, the expense of all registered or certified mailings, and the handwriting expert's fee, shall be paid by the party requesting the handwriting analysis.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-818.

Cross-References

Witness fees — expert witnesses, 26-2-505.

72-12-407. Report property of petitioner unless interested party shares fees. Unless the court otherwise orders, the handwriting expert's written report must be the sole and exclusive property of the party requesting it. However, upon demand and the payment of a pro rata share of the fees and costs of the handwriting expert, as determined by the court, any interested party may obtain a certified copy of the written report.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 13, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-819; amd. Sec. 2446, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 5
Personal Representative
(Repealed)

72-12-501. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 57, p. 254, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 57, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 57, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2432, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7434, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10070, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1367; re-en. Sec. 10070, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-1403.

72-12-502. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 166, p. 282, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 166, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 166, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2619, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7541, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10190, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1509; re-en. Sec. 10190, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2721.

72-12-503. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 231, p. 301, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 231, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 231, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2736, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7609, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10263, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1587; re-en. Sec. 10263, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3207.

Part 6
Third Parties Handling Estate Property — Recovery — Account
(Repealed)

72-12-601. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 129, p. 270, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 129, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 129, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2570, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7504, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10140, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1458; re-en. Sec. 10140, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-2301.

72-12-602. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 130, p. 270, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 130, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 130, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2571, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7505, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10141, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1459; re-en. Sec. 10141, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-2302.

72-12-603. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 131, p. 271, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 131, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 131, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2572, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7506, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10142, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1460; re-en. Sec. 10142, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-2303(part).

72-12-604. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 131, p. 271, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 131, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 131, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2572, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7506, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10142, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1460; re-en. Sec. 10142, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-2303(part).

72-12-605. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 132, p. 271, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 132, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 132, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2573, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7507, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10143, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1461; re-en. Sec. 10143, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2304.

Part 7
Powers and Duties of Surviving Partner
(Repealed)

72-12-701. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 229, p. 301, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 146, L. 1889; amd. Sec. 2734, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7607, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1585; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3205(part).

72-12-702. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 229, p. 301, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 146, L. 1889; amd. Sec. 2734, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7607, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1585; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3205(part).

72-12-703. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 229, p. 301, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 146, L. 1889; amd. Sec. 2734, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7607, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1585; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3205(part).

72-12-704. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 229, p. 301, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 229, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 1, p. 146, L. 1889; amd. Sec. 2734, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7607, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1585; re-en. Sec. 10261, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3205(part).

Part 8
Claims Against Estate
(Repealed)

72-12-801. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 152, p. 277, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 152, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 152, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2605, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7527, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10175, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1495; re-en. Sec. 10175, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2706.

72-12-802. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 158, p. 279, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 158, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 158, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2611, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7533, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10182, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1501; re-en. Sec. 10182, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2713; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-12-803. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 170, p. 283, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 170, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 170, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 2623, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7545, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10194, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1513; re-en. Sec. 10194, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2725.

Part 9
Special Provisions Relating to Distribution
(Repealed)

72-12-901. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 123, p. 268, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 123, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 123, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2555, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7498, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10134, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1448; re-en. Sec. 10134, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-2206.

Part 10
Closing Estates — Accounting
(Repealed)

72-12-1001. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 248, p. 305, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 248, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 248, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2771, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7628, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10282, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1613; re-en. Sec. 10282, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3402.

72-12-1002. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 249, p. 305, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 249, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 249, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2772, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7629, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10283, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1614; re-en. Sec. 10283, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3403.

72-12-1003. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 250, p. 305, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 250, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 250, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2773, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7630, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10284, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1615; re-en. Sec. 10284, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3404.

72-12-1004. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 252, p. 305, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 252, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 252, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2775, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7632, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10286, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1617; re-en. Sec. 10286, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-3406.

CHAPTER 13
PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Actions on Guardian's Bond — Limitations (Repealed)

Part 2 — Joint Guardians (Repealed)

Part 3 — Nonresidents Under Disability (Repealed)

Part 1
Actions on Guardian's Bond — Limitations
(Repealed)

72-13-101. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 403, p. 344, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 403, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 403, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3054, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7811, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10459, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1804; re-en. Sec. 10459, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-5206.

72-13-102. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 404, p. 344, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 404, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 404, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3055, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7812, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10460, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1805; re-en. Sec. 10460, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-5207.

72-13-103. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 405, p. 344, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 405, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 405, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 3056, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7813, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10461, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1806; re-en. Sec. 10461, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-5208.

Part 2
Joint Guardians
(Repealed)

72-13-201. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 406, p. 344, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 406, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 406, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; amd. Sec. 3057, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7814, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10462, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1807; re-en. Sec. 10462, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-5209.

72-13-202. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 374, p. 337, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 374, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 374, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 2987, C. Civ. Proc. 1895; re-en. Sec. 7776, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10424, R.C.M 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1775; re-en. Sec. 10424, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4908.

72-13-203. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 425, p. 348, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 425, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 425, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 346, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3789, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5884, R.C.M. 1921; Cal Civ. C. Sec. 252; Field Civ. C. Sec. 133; re-en. Sec. 5884, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4521.

Part 3
Nonresidents Under Disability
(Repealed)

72-13-301. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 417, p. 346, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 417, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 417, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 338, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3781, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 5876, R.C.M. 1921 Field Civ. C. Sec. 125; re-en. Sec. 5876, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4509.

CHAPTER 14
ESCHEATED ESTATES

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Part 1
General Provisions

72-14-101. Short title. Parts 1 through 3 of this chapter are to be known as the "Escheated Estates Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 91-501; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 6, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1979.**

72-14-102. When title to escheated property vests in state. (1) Whenever the title o any property, either real or personal or mixed, fails for any reason, including want of heirs r next of kin, the title vests in the state of Montana immediately upon the death of the owner without an inquest or other similar proceeding and there is no presumption that the owner died leaving heirs or next of kin.

(2) This chapter does not apply to any rural electric or telephone cooperative organized nder Title 35, chapter 18, if the board of trustees of the cooperative has acted to retain patronage refunds that are made by the cooperative to a member or former member and that remain unclaimed for 5 years.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-502(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 6, L. 1979; md. Sec. 2, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 124, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Escheat to state when no taker, 72-2-115.

72-14-103. Duty of attorney general — employment of special assistant. (1) The ttorney general of the state of Montana shall be the legal adviser in connection with all scheated property matters, and it is the duty of the attorney general to institute investigations nd conduct inquiries for the discovery of all real and personal property which may have scheated or should escheat to the state and for that purpose has the power to cite any and ll persons before any of the district courts of this state to answer investigations and render ccounts concerning said property, real or personal, and to examine all books and papers of any nd all corporations. When any real or personal property is discovered which should escheat to he state, the attorney general must institute suit in the district court of the county where said property shall be situated for the recovery and to escheat the same to the state and shall tak all steps necessary to secure such escheat. The proceedings in all such actions shall be thos provided for in parts 1 through 3 of this chapter.

(2) For this purpose the attorney general is authorized and empowered to employ a specia assistant and incur necessary expenses subject to appropriation limitations.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 463, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 200, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 206, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Pol C. Sec. 474; re-en. Sec. 206, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 82-409, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 12, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1 Ch. 193, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 377, L. 1971; Sec. 91-512, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M 1947, 82-409, 91-512.**

Part 2

Procedure for State Acquisition of Escheatable Property

Part Cross-References

Presentation of claims against county, 7-6-2421.

72-14-201. Discovery to determine existence of escheatable property. In order t ascertain if any person has knowledge of or is in possession of any escheatable property, it i lawful for the attorney general or the attorney general's assistant to obtain discovery on motio in the district court requiring any person or persons to divulge any information they may hav concerning the possession or location of any property subject to escheat or any other informatio pertinent to the recovery of property by the state of Montana or information that may lead t the discovery of the escheatable property.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-502(part); amd. Sec. 2447, Ch. 56, L 2009.**

72-14-202. Public administrator to deposit money with county treasurer — disbursement for administration — accounts. (1) A public administrator shall, as soon a the public administrator receives the money, deposit with the county treasurer of the county i which probate proceedings are pending all money of the estate. The money may be drawn upo the order of the public administrator, countersigned by a district judge, when required for th purposes of administration.

(2) The county treasurer shall receive and safely keep all money and pay the money ou upon the order of the public administrator, when countersigned by a district judge and no otherwise, and keep an account with the estate of all money received and paid to the count treasurer. The treasurer and the treasurer's sureties are liable upon the treasurer's official bon for the safekeeping and payment of all money as provided in this section.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 91-503; amd. Sec. 2448, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Public Administrator, 7-3-441.
Office of Public Administrator, 7-4-3004.

72-14-203. Investment of deposited moneys pending proceedings. The money thus deposited may, upon order of the court or judge, be invested pending the proceedings i securities of the United States or of this state, when such investment is for the best interests o the estate.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd Sec. 68, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-504(part).**

72-14-204. Order directing sale of property upon final settlement of estate. At th final settlement of an estate, if there are no heirs or other claimants, the district judge shal order the public administrator to sell all property belonging to the estate and pay the proceeds to the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall keep an account of the money received fro each estate and paid to the county treasurer and shall remit the money to the departmen of revenue with a statement of the estate to which the money belongs. The department shal immediately deliver the money to the state treasurer for deposit in the private purpose trus fund.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd Sec. 68, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-504(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 34, L. 2001.**

72-14-205. Unsold intangible personal property — how disposed of — auction ale. (1) If the intangible personal property in an escheated estate was not sold by the personal epresentative at the final settlement of the estate, then the personal representative shall deliver ll of the property to the department of revenue with a statement setting forth the name of the state to which it belongs. The department shall, within 1 year of the receipt of the property, sell he property to the highest bidder at a public auction sale at the department's office in Helena, Montana.

(2) The department shall give notice of the sale by publication in a Helena newspaper nce a week for 2 successive weeks. The last publication must be at least 20 days prior to the ate of the sale. The notice must give the time and place of the sale and must contain a list and escription of the stocks, bonds, securities, or other intangible personal property to be sold.

(3) All of the expenses of the sale must be deducted from the proceeds of the sale by the epartment, and the balance of the proceeds must be delivered by the department to the state reasurer for deposit in the private purpose trust fund.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. ec. 69, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-505; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. ec. 23, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

72-14-206. Unsold real property — how disposed of — auction sale. (1) If the real roperty was not sold by the personal representative at the final settlement of the estate, then he personal representative shall make and execute to the state of Montana a deed and deliver he deed to the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the real property is situated. he county clerk and recorder shall file and record the deed without charge and shall mail the eed to the department of revenue. The department of revenue shall record the deed and deliver t to the board of land commissioners.

(2) Within 1 year after the receipt of the recorded deed, the board shall sell the property to he highest bidder at a public auction sale to be held at the courthouse in the county where the eal property or any part of the property is situated.

(3) The board shall give notice of the sale by publication once a week for 2 weeks in a ewspaper published in the county in which the real estate or any part of the real estate is ituated. The last publication must be at least 20 days prior to the date of the sale. The notice nust give the time and place of the sale and contain a description of the real property to be sold.

(4) All expenses of the sale must be deducted by the board from the proceeds of the sale, nd the balance of the proceeds must be turned over to the state treasurer for deposit in the rivate purpose trust fund. The board shall provide the department with a statement indicating he sale price, expenses, and net proceeds resulting from each sale.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. ec. 70, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-506; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. ec. 24, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

72-14-207. Unsold tangible personal property — how disposed of — auction ale. (1) If the tangible personal property in an escheated estate was not sold by the personal epresentative at the final settlement of the estate, the personal representative shall deliver the roperty to the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall, within 1 year of the receipt of the roperty, sell it to the highest bidder at a public auction sale at the county seat of the county of dministration of the estate.

(2) The county treasurer shall give notice of the sale by publication once a week for 2 uccessive weeks in a newspaper published in the county of administration. The last publication nust be at least 20 days prior to the date of the sale. The notice must give the time and place of he sale and must contain a description of the property to be sold.

(3) All expenses of the sale must be deducted from the proceeds of the sale by the county reasurer, and the balance of the proceeds must be delivered by the county treasurer to the lepartment of revenue for deposit in the private purpose trust fund.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. ec. 71, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-507; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. ec. 25, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

72-14-208. Sales by department of revenue and county treasurer — hov conducted. All hereinbefore mentioned sales by the department of revenue or county treasure must be for cash at public auction and shall be made to the highest bidder. However, the selle may reject all bids which are disproportionate to the value of the property being sold.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M 1947, 91-508; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 628, L. 1979.

72-14-209. Deposit of all sums escheated — private purpose trust fund. All sum escheated under the provisions of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter must be delivered by th department of revenue to the state treasurer and deposited by the treasurer in the privat purpose trust fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-502(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 628, L. 197 amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

72-14-210. Private purpose trust fund money to be held in trust — deposit i public school permanent fund. Money and property placed in the private purpose trust fun must be held in trust for a period of 5 years prior to deposit in the public school permanent fun by the state treasurer. The private purpose trust is for the benefit of persons who claim propert pursuant to part 3 of this chapter. A claim may be brought for an amount equal to the ful amount or value of the property escheated minus the costs and expenses incident to reducin the property to the possession of the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 170, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-502(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 628, L. 1979 amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Treasury fund structure, 17-2-102.

Part 3
Actions for Claim of Escheated Property

72-14-301. Filing of action — service — applicability of other procedura provisions. (1) Any persons claiming property in the hands of the state treasurer must brin an action in the district court of Lewis and Clark County, Montana, against the state treasurer

(2) In such action one copy of the complaint and summons must be served upon the stat treasurer, one must be served upon the attorney general, and one must be served upon th director of revenue.

(3) Such action shall be prosecuted subject to all of the provisions of the statutes of thi state in relation to civil actions generally, including the right of either party to appeal to th supreme court of the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M 1947, 91-509(part).

72-14-302. Statute of limitations. Such action must be brought within 5 years from th date on which the money or property is received by the state treasurer, saving, however, t minors and persons of unsound mind or citizens of the United States beyond the limits of th United States, the right to commence their action at any time within the time limited or 5 year after their respective disabilities cease.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-509(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 2, L. 1983.

72-14-303. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 184, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-509(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 1979.

Part 4
Fiduciary Deposit in Certain Cases
Claims — Escheat

72-14-401. Fiduciary deposit of money when interested person under disability or similar circumstances — receipt as voucher. When property in the hands of a personal representative, trustee, or other fiduciary is assigned or distributed to any heir, legatee, devisee, creditor, beneficiary, or person interested in an estate or trust who does not have an agent in this state or who cannot be found or who refuses to accept the property or to give a proper voucher for the property or to a minor or incompetent person who does not have a legal guardian to receive the property or person authorized to receipt for the property and the property or any part of the property consists of money, the personal representative, trustee, or other fiduciary may deposit the money in a special fund in the name of the heir, legatee, devisee, creditor, beneficiary, or person interested with the county treasurer of the county in which the proceedings are pending or in which the property is located. The county treasurer shall give a receipt for the money and is liable upon the treasurer"s official bond. The receipt must be considered and received by the court or judge as a voucher in favor of the personal representative, trustee, or other fiduciary with the same force and effect as if executed by the heir, legatee, devisee, creditor, beneficiary, or person interested.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-524; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2449, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-14-402. Claim for money deposited in county treasury. When any person appears and claims the money paid into the county treasury, the district court of the county shall inquire into the claim and, if satisfied of the person's right to the money, shall make an order to that effect. Upon presentation of the order, the treasurer shall draw a warrant on the special fund for the amount to which the claimant is entitled.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 128, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-525; amd. Sec. 2450, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-14-403. Deposit of unclaimed property in state treasury — escheat. (1) All money or other property distributed in the administration of an estate of a decedent or as the subject of a trust and deposited with the county treasurer to the credit of the distributee or beneficiary and any money remaining on deposit to the credit of an estate after final distribution must, within 1 year of receipt by the county treasurer, be delivered into the state treasury for deposit in the private purpose trust fund.

(2) If money or other property deposited in the state treasury is not claimed by the person or persons entitled to the property by bringing an action as provided in part 3 of this chapter, the money or property escheats to the state and must be placed in the public school permanent fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 128, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 147, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 91-526; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 628, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 5, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 34, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Treasury fund structure, 17-2-102.

CHAPTER 15
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Part 1 — Powers and Duties in Acquisition of Estates

72-15-101. Other provisions to supplement chapter.
72-15-102. When public administrator to take charge of estate.
72-15-103. Requirement to procure letters of administration — bond and oath.
72-15-104. Duty to commence actions for recovery of property.
72-15-105. Duty of persons in whose house stranger dies — notification to public administrator.
72-15-106. Civil officers to notify public administrator of property in danger of loss or waste.
72-15-107. Power to require persons controlling property to furnish statement describing property.
72-15-108. Refusal to furnish statement — misdemeanor.
72-15-109. Order to examine person in possession or charged with misappropriation of estate.
72-15-110. Refusal to be examined — civil contempt.

Part 2 — Powers and Duties in Administration

72-15-201. Duty to make out inventory, administer, and account.
72-15-202. Duty to deliver up estate when letters granted to another.
72-15-203. Power of court to order account and delivery of estate at any time.
72-15-204. Duty to keep register.
72-15-205. Deposit of money with county treasurer — withdrawals for administrative costs — investment.
72-15-206. Monthly settlement of accounts.
72-15-207. Annual account of condition of all estates.

72-15-208. Power of court to require additional report or bond.
72-15-209. Power of public administrator to administer oaths.
72-15-210. Fees — how paid.
72-15-211. Conflict of interest prohibited — affidavit.
72-15-212. Final settlement of estate — sale of property — escheat.
72-15-213. Wrongful failure of public administrator to deposit money — action on bond.

Part 3 — Compensation — Termination of Office

72-15-301. Compensation of public administrator.
72-15-302. Retiring public administrator may close pending estates.
72-15-303. Accounting and surrender of pending estates on retirement of public administrator.
72-15-304. Adjustment of compensation.

Chapter Cross-References

Public Administrator, 7-3-441.
Office of Public Administrator, 7-4-3004.

Part 1
Powers and Duties in Acquisition of Estates

72-15-101. Other provisions to supplement chapter. When no direction is given in this chapter for the government or guidance of a public administrator in the discharge of the administrator's duties or for the administration of an estate in the administrator's hands, the provisions of this title govern.

History: En. Sec. 350, p. 330, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 350, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 350, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4528, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3091, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10008, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1743; re-en. Sec. 10008, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-619; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 6, L. 1979 amd. Sec. 2451, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-102. When public administrator to take charge of estate. (1) A public administrator who is duly elected, commissioned, and qualified shall take charge of estates of persons dying within the administrator's county as follows:

(a) estates of decedents for which no administrators are appointed and that, in consequence of the lack of administration, are being wasted, uncared for, or lost;

(b) estates of decedents who have no known heirs;

(c) estates ordered into the administrator's hands by the court; and

(d) estates upon which letters of administration have been issued to the administrator by the court.

(2) However, it is unlawful for a public administrator of any county of the state of Montana to file a petition for the issuance to the public administrator as public administrator of letters of administration of the estate of any decedent until at least 30 days have elapsed from the day of the death of the decedent unless it is affirmatively shown and made to appear in and by the petition for letters of administration that there are no known heirs of the decedent or that all of the known heirs of the decedent reside outside of the state of Montana and that the estate of the decedent consists of property of a nature that it will be lost, wasted, or depreciated in value unless cared for and administered upon at once.

History: En. Sec. 333, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 333, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 333, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4510, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3073, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9990, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1726; re-en. Sec. 9990, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 91-601; amd. Sec. 2452, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Power of court to require additional report or bond, 72-15-208.

72-15-103. Requirement to procure letters of administration — bond and oath. (1) Whenever a public administrator takes charge of an estate under order of the court, the administrator shall with all convenient dispatch procure letters of administration on the estate in the same manner and under the same proceedings as letters of administration are issued to other persons.

(2) The public administrator's official bond and oath are in lieu of a personal representative's bond and oath, but when real estate is ordered to be sold, another bond may be required by the court.

History: En. Sec. 334, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 334, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 334, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4511, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3074, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9991, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1727; re-en. Sec. 9991, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-602; amd. Sec. 2453, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-15-104. Duty to commence actions for recovery of property. The public administrator must institute all actions and prosecutions necessary to recover the property, debts, papers, or other estate of the decedent.

History: En. Sec. 339, p. 327, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 339, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 339, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4516, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3079, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9996, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1732; re-en. Sec. 9996, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-607.

72-15-105. Duty of persons in whose house stranger dies — notification to public administrator. Whenever a stranger or person without known heirs dies intestate in the house or premises of another, the possessor of the premises or anyone knowing the facts shall give immediate notice to the public administrator of the county. If the possessor does not give the notice, the possessor is liable for any damage that may be sustained by the failure, which must be recovered by the public administrator or any person interested.

History: En. Sec. 335, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 335, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 335, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4512, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3075, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9992, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1728; re-en. Sec. 9992, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-603; amd. Sec. 2454, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-106. Civil officers to notify public administrator of property in danger of loss or waste. All civil officers must inform the public administrator of all property known to them belonging to a decedent which is liable to loss, injury, or waste and which, by reason thereof, ought to be in the possession of the public administrator.

History: En. Sec. 338, p. 327, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 338, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 338, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4515, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3078, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9995, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1731; re-en. Sec. 9995, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-606.

72-15-107. Power to require persons controlling property to furnish statement describing property. Whenever a person dies in any county of this state and an administrator has not been appointed to take charge of the person's estate, the public administrator of the county, prior to the issuance of letters of administration, has authority to make a written demand upon any person, firm, bank, or corporation that the public administrator believes holds or has in its possession or control any money, evidence of indebtedness, or other personal property or that owes to the deceased person any money requiring that entity to furnish to the public administrator a written statement, under oath, showing the amount of money or the evidence of indebtedness or personal property of the deceased person held by it fully describing the evidence or property and the total sums of money, if any, due from it to the deceased person. Upon receipt of the written demand, the person, firm, bank, or corporation receiving the demand shall immediately furnish the statement, under oath, to the public administrator.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 10010, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10010, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-621; amd. Sec. 2455, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-108. Refusal to furnish statement — misdemeanor. Any person, firm, bank, or corporation or officer, agent, or employee thereof refusing upon demand to furnish the statement as required by 72-15-107 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 134, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 10011, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10011, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-622.

Cross-References

Penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

72-15-109. Order to examine person in possession or charged with misappropriation of estate. When the public administrator complains to the district court or a judge of the district court, on oath, that any person has concealed, committed theft of, or disposed of or has in the person's possession any money, goods, property, or effects that the administrator is entitled to possess in the administrator's official capacity, the court or judge may cite the person to appear and may examine the person on oath concerning the matter of the complaint.

History: En. Sec. 340, p. 328, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 340, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 340, 2nd Di Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4517, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3080, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9997, R.C.M. 192 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1733; re-en. Sec. 9997, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-60 amd. Sec. 2456, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-110. Refusal to be examined — civil contempt. All interrogatories and answer must be reduced to writing and signed by the party examined and filed in the court. If th person cited refuses to appear and submit to the examination or to answer the interrogatorie as may be put to the party touching the matter of the complaint, the court or judge may commi the party to the county jail until the party submits to the order of the court or judge.

History: En. Sec. 341, p. 328, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 341, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 341, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4518, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3081, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9998, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1734; re-en. Sec. 9998, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-609; amd. Sec. 2457, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References

Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.

Part 2
Powers and Duties in Administration

72-15-201. Duty to make out inventory, administer, and account. The publi administrator shall make out and return an inventory of all estates taken into the administrator's possession and administer and account for the inventory according to the provisions of thi chapter, subject to the control and directions of the court.

History: En. Sec. 336, p. 326, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 336, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 336, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4513, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3076, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9993, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1729, re-en. Sec. 9993, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-604; amd. Sec. 2458, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-15-202. Duty to deliver up estate when letters granted to another. If at an time letters testamentary or of administration are regularly granted to any other person or the estate of which the public administrator has charge, the public administrator shall, unde order of the court, account for, pay, and deliver to the executor or administrator appointed al the money, property, papers, and estate of every kind in the public administrator's possession o under the public administrator's control.

History: En. Sec. 337, p. 327, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 337, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 337, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4514, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3077, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9994, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1730; re-en. Sec. 9994, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-605; amd. Sec. 2459, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-203. Power of court to order account and delivery of estate at any time. The court or judge may, at any time, order the public administrator to account for and delive all the money of an estate in the public administrator's hands to the heirs or to the executors o administrators regularly appointed.

History: En. Sec. 342, p. 328, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 342, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 342, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4519, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3082, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9999, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1735; re-en. Sec. 9999, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-610; amd. Sec. 2460, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-15-204. Duty to keep register. It is the duty of the public administrator to keep a book to be labeled "Register of Public Administrator" in which the public administrator shall enter:

(1) the name of every deceased person on whose estate the public administrato administers;

(2) the date of granting letters;

(3) money received;

(4) the property and its value;

(5) proceeds of all sales of property;

(6) the amount of the public administrator's fees;

(7) the expenses of administration;

(8) the amount of the estate after all charges and expenses have been paid;

(9) the disposition of the property on distribution;

(10) the date of discharge of administrator; and

(11) other matters that may be necessary to give a full and complete history of each estate administered by the public administrator.

History: En. Sec. 4529, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3092, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10009, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10009, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-620; amd. Sec. 2461, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

72-15-205. Deposit of money with county treasurer — withdrawals for administrative costs — investment. (1) It is the duty of a public administrator, as soon as he public administrator receives money, to deposit with the county treasurer of the county in which probate proceedings are pending all money of the estate, and the money may be drawn upon the order of the personal representative, countersigned by a district judge when required for the purposes of administration.

(2) It is the duty of the county treasurer to receive and safely keep all money and pay it out upon the order of the personal representative, when countersigned by a district judge and not otherwise, and to keep an account with the estate of all money received and paid to the county treasurer. The county treasurer and the sureties of the county treasurer are liable on the reasurer's official bond for the safekeeping and payment of all money.

(3) The money deposited with the county treasurer may, upon order of the court or judge, be invested pending the proceedings in securities of the United States or of this state when the investment is for the best interests of the estate.

History: En. Sec. 344, p. 329, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 344, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 344, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4521, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3084, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10001, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1737; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 10001, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-612(part); amd. Sec. 2462, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-206. Monthly settlement of accounts. The public administrator is required to account and to settle and adjust the public administrator's accounts relating to the care and disbursement of money or property belonging to estates in the public administrator's hands with he clerk of the district court on the first Monday of each month, and the public administrator shall pay to the county treasurer any money remaining in the public administrator's hands of an estate unclaimed.

History: En. Sec. 346, p. 329, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 346, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 346, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4523, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3086, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10003, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1739; re-en. Sec. 10003, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-614; amd. Sec. 2463, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-207. Annual account of condition of all estates. (1) The public administrator shall once each year make to the district court or a judge of the district court, under oath, a return of all estates of decedents that have come into the public administrator's hands stating:

(a) the value of the estates;

(b) the money that has come into the public administrator's hands from each estate;

(c) what the public administrator has done with it;

(d) the amount of fees and expenses incurred by the public administrator; and

(e) the balance, if any, remaining in the public administrator's hands.

(2) The public administrator shall post a copy of the return in the office of the clerk of the district court of the county.

History: En. Sec. 343, p. 329, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 343, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 343, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4520, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3083, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10000, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1736; re-en. Sec. 10000, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 91-611; amd. Sec. 2464, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-208. Power of court to require additional report or bond. The court or judge may, at any time, require the public administrator to report the amount of money and property of any estate in the public administrator's hands and may require the public administrator at any time to file an additional bond or bonds.

History: En. Sec. 4527, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3090, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10007, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10007, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-618; amd. Sec. 2465, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

72-15-209. Power of public administrator to administer oaths. Public administrators may administer oaths in regard to all matters touching the discharge of their duties or the administration of estates in their hands.

History: En. Sec. 349, p. 330, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 349, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 349, 2nd Div. Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4526, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3089, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10006, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1742; re-en. Sec. 10006, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-617.

Cross-References
Officers who may administer oaths, 1-6-101.

72-15-210. Fees — how paid. The fees of all officers chargeable to estates in the hands of public administrators must be paid out of the assets of the estates as soon as the assets come into the public administrator's hands.

History: En. Sec. 348, p. 330, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 348, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 348, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4525, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3088, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10005, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1741; re-en. Sec. 10005, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-616; amd. Sec. 2466, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References
Compensation of Public Administrator, 72-15-301.

72-15-211. Conflict of interest prohibited — affidavit. The public administrator may not be interested in the expenditures of any kind made on account of any estate that the public administrator administers. The public administrator may not be associated, in business or otherwise, with anyone who is interested in expenditures made on account of an estate that the public administrator administers, and the public administrator shall attach to the report and publication, made in accordance with 72-15-207, the public administrator's affidavit to that effect.

History: En. Sec. 345, p. 329, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 345, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 345, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4522, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3085, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10002, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1738; re-en. Sec. 10002, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-613; amd. Sec. 2467, Ch. 56, L. 2009

72-15-212. Final settlement of estate — sale of property — escheat. At the fina settlement of any estate, if there be no heirs or other claimants thereof, the district judge shal make an order directing the administrator to sell all property belonging to the estate and pay the proceeds to the county treasurer, who shall credit the same and all other moneys belonging to said estate to the escheated estates fund, and the county treasurer shall forthwith remit all of said money to the department of revenue with a statement as to the estates to which the money belongs, which remittance shall be treated as provided in chapter 14, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 344, p. 329, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 344, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 344, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4521, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3084, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10001, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1737; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 10001, R.C.M 1935; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-612(part).

72-15-213. Wrongful failure of public administrator to deposit money — action on bond. When it appears from the returns made in pursuance of this part that any money remains in the hands of the public administrator after final settlement of the estate unclaimed that should be paid over to the county treasurer, the court or judge shall order the money paid over to the county treasurer. On the failure of the public administrator to comply with the order within 10 days after the order is made, the county attorney shall immediately institute the requisite proceedings against the public administrator for a judgment against the public administrator and the sureties on the public administrator's official bond in the amount of the money withheld and costs.

History: En. Sec. 347, p. 330, L. 1877; re-en. Sec. 347, 2nd Div. Rev. Stat. 1879; re-en. Sec. 347, 2nd Div Comp. Stat. 1887; re-en. Sec. 4524, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3087, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 10004, R.C.M. 1921 Cal. C. Civ. Proc. Sec. 1740; re-en. Sec. 10004, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-615; amd. Sec. 2468, Ch. 56, L. 2009

Cross-References
Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

Part 3
Compensation — Termination of Office

72-15-301. Compensation of public administrator. (1) The public administrator must receive and shall collect for the administrator's own use as full compensation for services under this chapter, the amount provided for in 72-3-631.

(2) When the public administrator is appointed conservator of the estate of a protected person pursuant to chapter 5, part 4, of this title, the court may order that a reasonable sum be deducted from payments due to the protected person or from the protected person's estate to be paid to the public administrator as full compensation for the public administrator's services, excluding court costs and attorney fees. The total sum deducted as compensation for the public administrator may not be less than $100.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 8, Ch. 134, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 10017, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10017, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 263, L. 1975; Sec. 91-628, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 4641, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 3174, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 4923, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 4923, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 263, L. 1975; Sec. 25-237, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 25-237, 91-628; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 362, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 313, L. 2019.

72-15-302. Retiring public administrator may close pending estates. The public administrator, upon the expiration or termination of the term of office, may continue to administer estates not closed by filing and presenting to the court a full and complete account pertaining to each estate not closed and securing a court order granting the public administrator letters of administration and qualifying the public administrator as a personal representative.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-629; amd. Sec. 2469, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-303. Accounting and surrender of pending estates on retirement of public administrator. If the public administrator, upon the expiration or termination of the public administrator's office and within 60 days after that date, fails to qualify as general administrator of estates not yet closed, the public administrator shall, upon demand of the successor to the office or voluntarily if the former public administrator desires to be relieved from further performance of the trust, surrender to the successor all estates not closed and property belonging to the estates after filing and presenting to the court for approval a full and complete account pertaining to each estate not closed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 4, L. 1941; R.C.M. 1947, 91-630; amd. Sec. 2470, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-15-304. Adjustment of compensation. The court shall determine and allow the predecessor in office for services rendered in connection with estates not closed a compensation based upon the commission prescribed and allowed by law in proportion to the services necessarily rendered and those necessary to be rendered by the successor in closing up estates. The successor must be allowed and paid the balance of the commission allowed.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 4, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 263, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-631; amd. Sec. 2471, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 16
ESTATE AND GENERATION-SKIPPING TAXES

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Powers and Duties of State Officers and Agencies (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 3 — Application and Imposition of Tax — Exemptions and Rates — Property Valuation (Repealed)

Part 4 — Determination and Payment of Tax (Repealed)

Part 5 — Joint Tenancies and Life Estates Determination of Tax — Termination

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72-16-504. Repealed.
72-16-505. Repealed.

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72-16-610. Action to recover apportioned tax — limitations on duty to initiate — uncollectibility.
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72-16-612. Action by foreign representative to recover apportioned tax.

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72-16-904. Estate tax imposed.
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72-16-906. Required filing of United States estate tax return.
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72-16-908. Persons liable for tax.
72-16-909. When and where tax payable — interest.
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72-16-911. Tax lien.
72-16-912. Collection and deposit of tax.
72-16-913 through 72-16-919 reserved.
72-16-920. Repealed.

Part 10 — Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax

72-16-1001. Definitions.
72-16-1002. Imposition of tax.
72-16-1003. Returns — payment.
72-16-1004. Liability for tax — interest on delinquent tax.
72-16-1005. Tax lien.
72-16-1006. Duty to claim maximum credit.
72-16-1007. Rulemaking.

Chapter Cross-References

Disposition of money from certain designated license and other taxes, 17-2-124.

Part 1
General Provisions (Repealed)

72-16-101. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.43, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4453; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 1997.

72-16-102. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.13, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 79, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4423.

Part 2
Powers and Duties of State Officers and Agencies (Renumbered and Repealed)

72-16-201. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Secs. 10400.34, 10400.35, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Secs. 95, 96, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4444, 91-4445(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-202. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.35, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4445(part); amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

72-16-203. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.45, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4454.

72-16-204. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.46, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4455(part).

72-16-205. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.46, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4455(part).

72-16-206. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.46, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4455(part).

72-16-207. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4448.

72-16-208. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.36, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4446; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-209. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.41, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 391, L. 1973; Sec. 91-4451, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 0400.37, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 391, L. 1973; Sec. 91-4447, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4447(part), 91-4451.

72-16-210. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.37, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4447(part); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-211. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.43, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4443.

72-16-212. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.31, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4441(part).

72-16-213. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.32, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4442.

72-16-214. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.31, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4441(part).

72-16-215. Renumbered 72-16-920. Code Commissioner, 2000.

72-16-216. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.39, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4449.

72-16-217. Renumbered 50-15-409. Sec. 35, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

72-16-218. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.51, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4459.

Part 3
Application and Imposition of Tax — Exemptions and Rates — Property Valuation
(Repealed)

72-16-301. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec. , Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 91-4401, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 1955; Sec. 91-4402, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4401(part), 91-4402; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-16-302. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4404; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 582, L. 1989.

72-16-303. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 636, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 582, L. 1989.

72-16-304. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4406; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1997.

72-16-305. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4420.

72-16-306. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4408; amd. Sec. 22 Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-307. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4403(part).

72-16-308. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1959 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4407; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 573, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 592, L. 1995

72-16-309 and 72-16-310 reserved.

72-16-311. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1953; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-4414(1).

72-16-312. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1953; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 1973 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1977; Sec. 91-4414, R.C.M 1947; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch 186, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 91-4401, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4401(part), 91-4414(2) amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-313. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1953; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-4414(3), (4), (6); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 696, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 202, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1991 amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 1997.

72-16-314. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91A-2-405 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-2-405.

72-16-315. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4414.1.

72-16-316. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1953; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-4414(7).

72-16-317. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1943; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4412.

72-16-318. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1953; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 343, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 263, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947 91-4414(5).

72-16-319. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 673, L. 1979.

72-16-320 reserved.

72-16-321. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4409; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 696, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 202, L. 1981.

72-16-322. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4410.

72-16-323. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 1997.

72-16-324 through 72-16-330 reserved.

72-16-331. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 260, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

72-16-332. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-333. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-334. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-335. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-336. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-337. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-338. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-339. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-340. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-341. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-342. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-343. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-344. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-345. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-346. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-347. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-348. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-349. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

Part 4
Determination and Payment of Tax
(Repealed)

72-16-401. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91-4468 by Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4468(part).

72-16-402. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91-4468 by Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4468(part).

72-16-403. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91-4468 by Sec. 4, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4468(part).

72-16-404 through 72-16-410 reserved.

72-16-411. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.17, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4427.

72-16-412. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.18, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 391, L. 1973; Sec. 91-4428, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.19, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 391, L. 1973; Sec. 91-4429, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4428(part), 91-4429(part).

72-16-413. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.18, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4428(part).

72-16-414. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.22, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Secs. 1 and 2, Ch. 101, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4432(part).

72-16-415. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.19, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4429(part).

72-16-416. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4430.

72-16-417. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: (1)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.21, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 391, L. 1973; Sec. 91-4431, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.22, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Secs. 1 and 2, Ch. 101, L. 1947; Sec. 91-4432, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4431, 91-4432(part).

72-16-418. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.23, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4433.

72-16-419. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.25, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4435.

72-16-420. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.26, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4436(part).

72-16-421. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.26, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4436(part).

72-16-422. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.27, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4437(part).

72-16-423. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.27, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4437(part); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-424. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 10400.28, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4438.

72-16-425. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 0400.29, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4439.

72-16-426 through 72-16-430 reserved.

72-16-431. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4415(part).

72-16-432. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: (1)En. 91A-3-1010 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 516,L. 1975; Sec. 91A-3-1010, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1975; Sec. 91-4415, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4415(part), 91A-3-1010(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 1989.

72-16-433. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. 91A-3-1010 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 516, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-1010(part).

72-16-434. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4415(part).

72-16-435. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.42, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4452.

72-16-436. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 99, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4417.

72-16-437. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4415(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-438. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.9, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4419.

72-16-439. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 126, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 424, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4418(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1989.

72-16-440. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.6, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4416(1).

72-16-441. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.6, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 490, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4416(2).

72-16-442. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 10400.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 126, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 316, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 424, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4418(part).

72-16-443. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 65, L. 1923; re-en. Sec. 10400.30, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4440; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-444 reserved.

72-16-445. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 736, L. 1985.

72-16-446. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 736, L. 1985.

72-16-447. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 736, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

72-16-448. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 736, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

72-16-449. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 736, L. 1985.

72-16-450. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 736, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 19, L. 1999.

72-16-451. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-452. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-453. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 288, L. 1997.

72-16-454. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 135, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

72-16-455. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 288, L. 1997.

72-16-456. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-457. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-458. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-459. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-460. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-461. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-462. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-463. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-464. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-465. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-466 through 72-16-470 reserved.

72-16-471. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-472. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-473. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-474. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-475. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-476. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-477. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 131, L. 1989.

72-16-478. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 131, L. 1989.

72-16-479. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 261, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

72-16-480. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-481. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-482. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-483 through 72-16-490 reserved.

72-16-491. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 705, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 511, L. 1983.

72-16-492. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

72-16-493. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 705, L. 1979.

Part 5
Joint Tenancies and Life Estates Determination of Tax — Termination

72-16-501. Interest of decedent terminated upon death. The interest of the decedent in property held in joint tenancy terminates upon death.
History: En. 91-4471 by Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4471(2); amd. Sec. 2472, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References
Joint interest defined, 70-1-307.

72-16-502. Definition of decedent. For the purposes of this part, a decedent is one who dies leaving no property that requires the appointment of a personal representative and who:
(1) was the owner of a life estate that terminated at death; or
(2) was the owner of property with another or others as a joint tenant with right of survivorship and not as a tenant in common.
History: En. 91-4470 by Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4470; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

72-16-503. Filings required when holder of nonprobate interest in real property has died. A person with an interest in real property that was owned by a decedent, as defined under 72-16-502, shall record with the clerk and recorder of each county in which the real property or any part of the property is located a document containing those matters required by 7-4-2613(1)(c).

History: **En. 91-4471 by Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4471(1), (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 377, L. 1981 amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 391, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 2 Ch. 37, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 2001.**

72-16-504. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: **En. 91-4472 by Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4472.**

72-16-505. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.
History: **En. 91-4473 by Sec. 4, Ch. 409, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4473.**

Part 6
Apportionment of Taxes

72-16-601. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Estate" means the gross estate of a decedent as determined for the purpose of federa estate tax and the estate tax payable to this state.

(2) "Fiduciary" means personal representative or trustee.

(3) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company corporation, government, political subdivision, governmental agency, or local governmenta agency.

(4) "Person interested in the estate" means any person entitled to receive or who ha received from a decedent or by reason of the death of a decedent any property or interest therei included in the decedent's estate. It includes a personal representative, conservator, and trustee

(5) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District o Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(6) "Tax" means the federal estate tax and any additional inheritance, estate, or deat taxes imposed by the laws of any state and interest and penalties imposed in addition to the tax
History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(1).**

72-16-602. Authority of court of administration to determine apportionment. Th court in which venue lies for the administration of the estate of a decedent, on petition for th purpose, may determine the apportionment of the tax.
History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(3)(a).**

72-16-603. Tax — how apportioned. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) and unles the will or governing instrument otherwise provides, the tax must be apportioned amon all persons interested in the estate. The apportionment is to be made in the proportion tha the value of the interest of each person interested in the estate bears to the total value of th interests of all persons interested in the estate. The values used in determining the tax are to b used for that purpose.

(2) If the decedent's will or governing instrument directs a method of apportionment of ta different from the method described in this part, the method described in the will or governin instrument controls.

(3) If the liabilities of persons interested in the estate as described in this part differ fro those that result under the federal estate tax law, the liabilities imposed by the federal la control and the balance of this part applies as if the resulting liabilities had been prescribed i this part.
History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(2); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 511, L 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 279, L. 1997.**

72-16-604. Equitable power of court to vary manner of apportionment. If th court finds that it is inequitable to apportion interest and penalties in the manner provided i 72-16-603 because of special circumstances, it may direct apportionment thereof in the manne it finds equitable.
History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(3)(b).**

72-16-605. Distribution prior to apportionment — bond required. If propert held by the personal representative is distributed prior to final apportionment of the tax, th distributee shall provide a bond or other security for the apportionment liability in the form an amount prescribed by the personal representative.
History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(4)(b).**

72-16-606. No apportionment as between temporary interest and remainder. No nterest in income and no estate for years or for life or other temporary interest in any property r fund is subject to apportionment as between the temporary interest and the remainder. The ax on the temporary interest and the tax, if any, on the remainder is chargeable against the orpus of the property or funds subject to the temporary interest and remainder.

History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(6).**

72-16-607. Allowance for exemptions, deductions, and credits. (1) In making an pportionment, allowances must be made for any exemptions granted, for any classification nade of persons interested in the estate, and for any deductions and credits allowed by the law mposing the tax.

(2) Any exemption or deduction allowed by reason of the relationship of any person to the lecedent or by reason of the purposes of the gift inures to the benefit of the person bearing the elationship or receiving the gift, but if an interest is subject to a prior present interest that is ıot allowable as a deduction, the tax apportionable against the present interest must be paid rom principal.

(3) Any deduction for property previously taxed and any credit for gift taxes or death taxes f a foreign country paid by the decedent or the decedent's estate inures to the proportionate enefit of all persons liable to apportionment.

(4) Any credit for inheritance, succession, or estate taxes or taxes of that nature applicable o property or interests includable in the estate inures to the benefit of the persons or interests hargeable with the payment to the extent proportionately that the credit reduces the tax.

(5) To the extent that property passing to or in trust for a surviving spouse or any haritable, public, or similar gift or devise is not an allowable deduction for purposes of the tax olely by reason of an inheritance tax or other death tax imposed upon and deductible from the roperty, the property is not included in the computation provided for in 72-16-603 and to that xtent no apportionment is made against the property. The sentence immediately preceding loes not apply to any case if the result would be to deprive the estate of a deduction otherwise llowable under section 2053(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2053(d), as amended, elating to deduction for state death taxes on transfers for public, charitable, or religious uses.

History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(5); amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 114, L. 003.**

72-16-608. Powers of personal representative in relation to satisfaction of tax iability. (1) The personal representative or other person in possession of the property of the lecedent required to pay the tax may withhold from any property distributable to any person nterested in the estate, upon its distribution to the person, the amount of tax attributable to the erson's interest.

(2) If the property in possession of the personal representative or other person required o pay the tax and distributable to any person interested in the estate is insufficient to satisfy he proportionate amount of the tax determined to be due from the person, the personal epresentative or other person required to pay the tax may recover the deficiency from the erson interested in the estate.

(3) If the property is not in the possession of the personal representative or the other erson required to pay the tax, the personal representative or the other person required to pay he tax may recover from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned o the person in accordance with this part.

History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(4)(a); amd. Sec. 2473, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-16-609. Penalties and interest charged to fiduciary when caused by fiduciary's ıegligence. If the court finds that the assessment of penalties and interest assessed in relation o the tax is due to delay caused by the negligence of the fiduciary, the court may charge the iduciary with the amount of the assessed penalties and interest.

History: **En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(3)(c); amd. Sec. 2474, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Liability for negligence, 27-1-701.

72-16-610. Action to recover apportioned tax — limitations on duty to initiate – uncollectibility. Neither the personal representative nor other person required to pay the ta is under any duty to institute any action to recover from any person interested in the estate th amount of the tax apportioned to the person until the expiration of the 3 months next followin final determination of the tax. A personal representative or other person required to pay th tax who institutes the action within a reasonable time after the 3-month period is not subject t any liability or surcharge because any portion of the tax apportioned to any person intereste in the estate was collectible at a time following the death of the decedent but thereafter becam uncollectible. If the personal representative or other person required to pay the tax canno collect from any person interested in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person the amount not recoverable shall be equitably apportioned among the other persons intereste in the estate who are subject to apportionment.

History: En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(7).

72-16-611. Action to recover apportioned tax — determination of court prim facie correct. In any action to recover from any person interested in the estate the amount c the tax apportioned to the person in accordance with this part, the determination of the court i respect thereto made pursuant to 72-16-602 shall be prima facie correct.

History: En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(3)(d).

72-16-612. Action by foreign representative to recover apportioned tax. A persona representative acting in another state or a person required to pay the tax domiciled in anothe state may institute an action in the courts of this state and may recover a proportionate amoun of the federal estate tax, of an estate tax payable to another state, or of a death duty due by decedent's estate to another state from a person interested in the estate who is either domicile in this state or who owns property in this state subject to attachment or execution. For th purposes of the action, the determination of apportionment by the court having jurisdiction o the administration of the decedent's estate in the other state is prima facie correct.

History: En. 91A-3-916 by Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91A-3-916(8).

Part 7
Estates With Multistate Aspects — Securities Transfer (Repealed)

72-16-701. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(1).

72-16-702. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(2).

72-16-703. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(part).

72-16-704. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(3); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-705. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(part).

72-16-706. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 150, L. 1925; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1927; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 130, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 10400.11, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 391, L. 1973 R.C.M. 1947, 91-4421(5).

Part 8
Nonresident Decedents
(Repealed)

72-16-801. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 3, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4413; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-16-802. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. ec. 82, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4425(part).

72-16-803. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. ec. 82, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4425(part).

72-16-804. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. ec. 82, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4425(3).

72-16-805. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. ec. 83, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4426.

Part 9
Estate Tax

72-16-901. Purpose — liberal construction to effect. It is hereby declared to be the ntent and purpose of this part to obtain for this state the benefit of the credit allowed under he provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent that this state may be entitled by the rovisions of said act, by imposing additional taxes, and the same shall be liberally construed to ffect this purpose.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969; md. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(g).

72-16-902. Repealed. Sec. 36, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969; md. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(h).

72-16-903. Taxable situs of property. For the purpose of the estate tax, the following ave taxable situs in this state:

(1) real property located in this state;
(2) tangible personal property located in this state; and
(3) intangible personal property owned by a resident regardless of where it is located.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969; md. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 9, Sp. . May 2000.

72-16-904. Estate tax imposed. An estate tax is imposed upon the transfer of the estate f every decedent leaving an estate that is subject to the federal estate tax imposed by the Jnited States of America under the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and that as, in whole or in part, a taxable situs in this state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969; md. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 9, Sp. . May 2000.

72-16-905. Estate tax — how computed. The tax imposed upon the transfer of each state is equal to the maximum tax credit allowable for state death taxes against the federal state tax imposed with respect to the portion of the decedent's estate having a taxable situs in his state. It is the purpose and intent of this part to impose only those additional taxes that nay be necessary to give this state the full benefit of the maximum tax credit allowable against he federal estate tax imposed with respect to a decedent's estate that has a taxable situs in this tate. If only a portion of a decedent's estate has a taxable situs in this state, the maximum tax credit must be determined by multiplying the entire amount of the credit allowable against th federal estate tax for state death taxes by the percentage that the value of the portion of th decedent's estate that has a taxable situs in this state bears to the value of the entire estate.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 196 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 9, S L. May 2000.

72-16-906. Required filing of United States estate tax return. The persona representative or domiciliary foreign personal representative of the estate of any deceden who died prior to January 1, 2005, and whose estate is required to file a United States estat tax return shall file a duplicate of the United States estate tax return with the department o revenue.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 196 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 6, L 1979; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 582, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 68, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 513, L. 2005.

72-16-907. Department to determine tax — rehearing and appeal — rulemaking (1) (a) The department of revenue shall enter an order determining the state estate tax and th amount due and payable.

(b) Any person with an interest aggrieved by the department's determination may appea the determination to district court.

(2) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration and enforcement o this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 9, Sp L. May 2000.

72-16-908. Persons liable for tax. Administrators, executors, trustees, and grantee under a conveyance made during the grantor's life and taxable hereunder shall be liable fo such taxes with interest until the same have been paid.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(c).

72-16-909. When and where tax payable — interest. (1) The estate tax is payable t the department of revenue.

(2) If the tax is not paid within 18 months of the death of the decedent, interest mus be charged and collected at the rate of 10% a year from the time that the tax accrued, unles because of claims made upon the estate, necessary litigation, or other unavoidable cause o delay, the tax is not determined and paid on time. Interest at the rate of 6% must be charge upon the amount of tax due from the time of accrual until the cause of the delay is removed, an after that time, interest at the rate of 10% must be charged.

(3) Litigation to defeat the payment of the tax is not necessary litigation.

(4) When permission has been granted to defer payment of tax under 72-16-910, interes must be charged at the rate of 6% after 1 year from the date of death until the date of payment

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 166, L 1979; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

72-16-910. Extension of time for payment. The district court of the county in whic such estate is being probated may, for cause shown, extend the time of payment of said ta whenever the circumstances of the case require.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(e).

72-16-911. Tax lien. Said taxes and interest shall be and remain a lien on the property fo a period of 10 years from the date of death, unless sooner paid.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(d).

Cross-References

Federal tax liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 2.

72-16-912. Collection and deposit of tax. The tax imposed by this part must be collected by the department of revenue for deposit with the state treasurer.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 48, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 10400.3a, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 365, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4411(part); amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

72-16-913 through 72-16-919 reserved.

72-16-920. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 68, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 65, L. 1923; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 150, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 10400.40, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4450; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 361, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000; Sec. 72-16-215, MCA 2000; redes. 72-16-920 by Code Commissioner, 2000; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 257, L. 2001.

Part 10
Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax

72-16-1001. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of revenue provided for in 2-15-1301.

(2) "Direct skip" has the meaning given in section 2612(c), Internal Revenue Code.

(3) "Federal generation-skipping transfer tax" means the tax imposed by section 2601, Internal Revenue Code.

(4) "Generation-skipping transfer" means the generation-skipping transfer defined in section 2611, Internal Revenue Code, when the original transferor is a resident of Montana on the date of the original transfer or when the property is real or personal property located in Montana.

(5) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(6) "Original transferor" means any grantor, donor, settlor, or testator who by grant, gift, trust, or will makes a transfer of real or personal property that results in a federal generation-skipping transfer tax.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 152, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-16-1002. Imposition of tax. (1) A tax is imposed on each generation-skipping transfer, other than a direct skip, occurring at the same time and as a result of the death of an individual, n an amount equal to the maximum federal credit allowable under section 2604, Internal Revenue Code.

(2) If any of the property transferred is real property in another state or personal property ocated in another state that requires the payment of a tax for which credit is received against he federal generation-skipping transfer tax, the tax due under subsection (1) must be reduced by an amount that bears the same ratio to the total state tax credit allowable for federal generation-skipping transfer tax purposes as the value of the property taxable in the other state bears to the value of the gross generation-skipping transfer for federal generation-skipping transfer tax purposes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1991.

72-16-1003. Returns — payment. (1) A person required to file a return reporting a generation-skipping transfer under federal law shall file a duplicate of the federal return with he department and shall file any other information as the department may require. The return must be filed on or before the last day allowed for filing the federal return. A copy of amended or supplemental federal returns must be submitted to the department at the time it is filed with the internal revenue service.

(2) The tax imposed by 72-16-1002 must be paid on or before the deadline for filing the return. The tax must be paid to the department and deposited in the general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1991.

72-16-1004. Liability for tax — interest on delinquent tax. The person liable for payment of the federal generation-skipping transfer tax is liable for the tax imposed under 72-16-1002. If the tax imposed by 72-16-1002 is not paid within the time established in 72-16-1003, the tax is delinquent and draws interest at the rate of 10% a year.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 273, L. 1991.

72-16-1005. Tax lien. The tax imposed by 72-16-1002 is a lien on the property subject t the tax for a period of 10 years from the time of the generation-skipping transfer. The paymen of the tax and any interest due releases the lien and discharges the liability for payment o the tax. If the lien is not perfected by recording, a transfer for value to a bona fide purchase divests the property of the lien. If the lien is perfected by recording, the rights of the stat under the lien have priority over all subsequent mortgages, purchasers, or judgment creditors The department may release the lien prior to the payment of the tax if adequate security fo payment of the tax is given to the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 273, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Federal tax liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 2.

72-16-1006. Duty to claim maximum credit. A person liable for payment of the ta imposed under 72-16-1002 shall claim the maximum federal credit allowable for the portion o the state generation-skipping transfer tax paid with respect to property included in a taxabl generation-skipping transfer. A person claiming less than the maximum federal credit allowabl is liable for the full amount of the tax imposed under 72-16-1002.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 273, L. 1991.

72-16-1007. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules necessary for th administration and enforcement of this part.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 9, Sp. L. May 2000.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of administrative rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

CHAPTER 17
ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT

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Part 3 — Regulation — Qualifications

72-17-301. Rights and duties at death.
72-17-302. Sale or purchase of parts prohibited.
72-17-303. False acts concerning document of gift — penalty.

2-17-304 through 72-17-310 reserved.
2-17-311. Eye enucleations — enucleators — qualifications.
2-17-312. Approval of eye banks.

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hapter Cross-References

Organ procurement program required, 50-5-212.
HIV antibody testing — testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required — penalty, 50-16-1008.
Indication on driver's license of intent to make anatomical gift, 61-5-301.

Part 1
General Provisions

72-17-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Anatomical ift Act".

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2323; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult" means an individual who is at least 18 years of age.

(2) "Agent" means an individual:

(a) authorized to make health care decisions on the principal's behalf by a power of ttorney for health care; or

(b) expressly authorized to make an anatomical gift on the principal's behalf by any other ecord signed by the principal.

(3) "Anatomical gift" means a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect upon or fter death for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

(4) "Decedent" means a deceased individual whose body or part is or may be the source of n anatomical gift and includes a stillborn infant or fetus.

(5) "Department" means the department of public health and human services provided for n 2-15-2201.

(6) (a) "Disinterested witness" means a witness other than:

(i) the spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, or guardian of the individual vho makes, amends, revokes, or refuses to make an anatomical gift; or

(ii) another adult who exhibited special care and concern for the individual.

(b) The term does not include a person to which an anatomical gift could pass under 2-17-202.

(7) "Document of gift" means any of the following methods used to make an anatomical ift:

(a) a card;

(b) a statement attached to or imprinted on a driver's license, identification card, or donor egistry;

(c) a will or other writing; or

(d) a witnessed oral statement.

(8) "Donor" means an individual whose body or part is the subject of an anatomical gift.

(9) "Donor registry" means a database that contains records of anatomical gifts and mendments to or revocations of anatomical gifts.

(10) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued by any state or federal authority to perate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

(11) "Enucleator" means an individual who is certified pursuant to 72-17-311 to remove or rocess eyes or parts of eyes.

(12) "Eye bank" means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or tate law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of uman eyes or portions of human eyes.

(13) (a) "Guardian" means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding the upport, care, education, health, and welfare of an individual.

(b) The term does not include a guardian ad litem.

(14) "Hospital" means a facility licensed, accredited, or approved under the laws of any state r a facility operated as a hospital by the United States government, a state, or a subdivision of state.

(15) "Identification card" means an identification card issued by the department of justice.

(16) "Know" means to have actual knowledge.

(17) "Minor" means an individual who is under 18 years of age.

(18) "Ophthalmologist" means a licensed physician or surgeon who specializes in th treatment or correction of diseases of the eye.

(19) "Organ procurement organization" means a person designated by the secretary of th United States department of health and human services as an organ procurement organization

(20) "Parent" means a parent whose parental rights have not been terminated.

(21) (a) "Part" means an organ, tissue, eye, bone, artery, blood, fluid, or other portion of human body.

(b) The term does not include the whole body.

(22) "Person" means an individual, corporation, government, governmental subdivision o agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liabilit company, public corporation, instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(23) "Physician" or "surgeon" means an individual licensed or otherwise authorized t practice medicine and surgery or osteopathy and surgery under the laws of any state.

(24) "Procurement organization" means an eye bank, organ procurement organization, o tissue bank.

(25) (a) "Prospective donor" means an individual who is dead or near death and has bee determined by a procurement organization to have a part that could be medically suitable fo transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

(b) The term does not include an individual who has made a refusal of an anatomical gift

(26) "Reasonably available" means able to be contacted by a procurement organizatio without undue effort and willing and able to act in a timely manner consistent with existin medical criteria necessary for the making of an anatomical gift.

(27) "Recipient" means an individual into whose body a decedent's part has been or i intended to be transplanted.

(28) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored i an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(29) "Refusal" means a record created under 72-17-201 that expressly states an intent t bar other persons from making an anatomical gift of an individual's body or part.

(30) "Sign" means, with the present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

(a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, o process.

(31) "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District o Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possessio subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(32) "Technician" means an individual who is certified by the state board of medica examiners to remove or process a part.

(33) "Tissue" means a portion of the human body other than an organ, an eye, or bloo unless the blood is donated for the purpose of research or education.

(34) "Tissue bank" means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federa or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution o tissue.

(35) "Transplant hospital" means a hospital that furnishes organ transplants and other medical and surgical specialty services required for the care of transplant patients.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2315; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 176, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 522, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Ophthalmologist and physician licensure, Title 37, ch. 3.

72-17-103. Uniformity of interpretation. This chapter shall be so construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2322.

72-17-104. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2321(c).

72-17-105. Legislative findings. (1) The legislature finds that the use of anatomical gifts, ncluding the donation of organs or tissue, for the purpose of transplantation is of great interest o the citizens of Montana and may save or prolong the life or improve the health of extremely ll and dying persons. The creation of a statewide organ and tissue donation registry is crucial to acilitate timely and successful organ and tissue procurement.

(2) The legislature further finds that continuing education of the existence and naintenance of a statewide organ and tissue donation registry is in the best interest of the eople of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 2003.

72-17-106. Statewide organ and tissue donation registry. (1) The department of ustice shall electronically transfer to the federally designated organ procurement organization ll information that appears on the front of a driver's license, including the name, gender, date of irth, and most recent address of any person who obtains a driver's license and who volunteers o donate organs or tissue upon death, as provided in 61-5-301. The department of justice may harge actual costs for the first transfer of information, as provided in subsection (5). However, ll subsequent electronic transfers of donor information must be at no charge to the federally lesignated organ procurement organization.

(2) Information obtained by the federally designated organ procurement organization nust be used for the purpose of establishing a statewide organ and tissue donation registry ccessible to in-state, recognized cadaveric organ and cadaveric tissue agencies for the recovery r placement of organs and tissue and to procurement agencies in another state when a Montana esident is a donor of an anatomical gift and is not located in the state at the time of death or mmediately before the death of the donor.

(3) An organ or tissue donation organization may not obtain information from the organ nd tissue donation registry for the purpose of fundraising. Organ and tissue donation registry nformation may not be further disseminated unless authorized in this section or by federal law. issemination of organ and tissue donation registry information may be made by the organ rocurement organization to a recognized, in-state procurement agency for other tissue recovery r to an out-of-state, federally designated organ procurement organization.

(4) The federally designated organ procurement organization may acquire donor nformation from sources other than the department of justice.

(5) All reasonable costs associated with the creation and maintenance of the organ and issue donation registry, as determined by the department of justice, must be paid by the organ nd tissue procurement organizations. Any money collected by the department of justice must e deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund established by the department of ustice for the purpose of the payment of reasonable costs associated with the development and naintenance of the organ and tissue donation registry and necessary for the initial installation nd setup for electronic transfer of the donor information.

(6) An individual does not need to participate in the organ and tissue donation registry to e a donor of organs or tissue. The registry is intended to facilitate organ and tissue donation nd not inhibit persons from being donors upon death.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 230, L. 2003.

72-17-107 reserved.

72-17-108. Coordination of procurement and use. Each hospital in this state shall stablish agreements or affiliations with procurement organizations for coordination of rocurement and use of anatomical gifts.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

ross-References

Organ procurement program required, 50-5-212.

72-17-109. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce ct. This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and ational Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(a) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described n section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

Part 2
Execution and Operation of Anatomical Gift

72-17-201. Making, amending, revoking, and refusing to make anatomical gift by individual. (1) An anatomical gift of a donor's body or part may be made during the lif of the donor for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education in the manne provided in this section by:

(a) the donor if the donor is an adult or if the donor is a minor and is:

(i) emancipated; or

(ii) authorized under state law to apply for a driver's license because the donor is at leas 15 years of age;

(b) an agent of the donor unless the power of attorney for health care or other recor prohibits the agent from making an anatomical gift;

(c) a parent of the donor if the donor is an unemancipated minor; or

(d) the donor's guardian.

(2) A donor may make an anatomical gift:

(a) by authorizing a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomica gift to be imprinted on the donor's driver's license or identification card;

(b) by a statement contained in a will;

(c) during a terminal illness or injury of the donor, by any form of communicatio addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness; or

(d) as provided in subsection (3).

(3) A donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under subsection (1 may make a gift by a donor card or other record signed by the donor or other person makin the gift or by authorizing that a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made a anatomical gift be included on a donor registry. If the donor or other person is physically unabl to sign the record, the record may be signed by another individual at the direction of the dono or the other person and must:

(a) be witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness who have signed at the request of the donor or other person; and

(b) state that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in subsection (3)(a).

(4) Revocation, suspension, expiration, or cancellation of a driver's license or identificatio card issued to a donor does not invalidate the anatomical gift.

(5) A document of gift may designate a particular physician or surgeon to carry out th appropriate procedures. In the absence of a designation or if the designee is not available, th donee or other person authorized to accept the anatomical gift may employ or authorize an physician, surgeon, technician, or enucleator to carry out the appropriate procedures.

(6) An anatomical gift by will takes effect upon the donor's death, whether or not the wil is probated. If, after the donor's death, the will is declared invalid for testamentary purposes the validity of the anatomical gift is unaffected. An anatomical gift made in accordance with thi section is sufficient legal authority for procurement without additional authority from the dono or the donor's family or estate.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (17) and subject to subsection (14), a donor or othe person authorized to make an anatomical gift under subsection (1) may amend or revoke a anatomical gift only by:

(a) a record signed by:

(i) the donor or the other person; or

(ii) subject to subsection (8), another individual acting at the direction of the donor or th other person if the donor or other person is physically unable to sign;

(b) any form of communication during a terminal illness or injury addressed to at least two adults, one of whom is a disinterested witness;

(c) the delivery of a signed statement to a specified donee to whom a document of gift had been delivered;

(d) a later-executed document of gift that amends or revokes a previous anatomical gift o portion of an anatomical gift, either expressly or by inconsistency; or

(e) destroying or canceling the document of gift or portion of the document of gift used to make the anatomical gift with the intent to revoke the anatomical gift.

(8) A record signed pursuant to subsection (7)(a)(ii) must:

(a) be witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the donor or the other person; and

(b) state that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in subsection (8)(a).

(9) A donor shall notify the federally designated organ procurement organization of the destruction, cancellation, or mutilation of the document for the purpose of removing the person's name from the organ and tissue donation registry created in 72-17-105 and 72-17-106.

(10) The donor of an anatomical gift made by will may amend or revoke the anatomical gift in the manner provided for amendment or revocation of wills or as provided in subsection (7).

(11) (a) An individual may refuse to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part by:

(i) a writing signed in the same manner as a document of gift;

(ii) a statement attached to or imprinted on a donor's driver's license or identification card;

(iii) the individual's will, whether or not the will is admitted to probate or invalidated after the individual's death; or

(iv) any other writing used to identify the individual as refusing to make an anatomical gift.

(b) During a terminal illness or injury, the refusal may be an oral statement or other form of communication addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness.

(12) An individual who has made a refusal may amend or revoke a refusal:

(a) in the manner provided in subsection (11) for making a refusal;

(b) by subsequently making an anatomical gift pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) that is inconsistent with the refusal; or

(c) by destroying or canceling the record evidencing the refusal or the portion of the record used to make the refusal with the intent to revoke the refusal.

(13) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (17) and subject to subsection (15), in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor, a person other than the donor is barred from making, amending, or revoking an anatomical gift of a donor's body or part if the donor made an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under subsection (2) or (3) or an amendment to an anatomical gift under subsection (7). The donor's family or health care provider may not refuse to honor the anatomical gift or thwart the procurement of the donation.

(14) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (18), in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the individual set forth in the refusal, an individual's unrevoked refusal to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or a part bars all other persons from making an anatomical gift of the individual's body or a part.

(15) In the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor or other person authorized under this section to make an anatomical gift, an anatomical gift of a part for one or more of the purposes set forth in subsection (1) is neither a refusal to give other parts nor a limitation on an anatomical gift under 72-17-214 or on a removal or release of other parts under 72-17-215.

(16) In the absence of contrary indications by the donor, a donor's revocation or amendment of an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part is not a refusal to make another anatomical gift and does not bar another person specified in 72-17-214 or this section from making an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part. If the donor intends a revocation to be a refusal to make an anatomical gift, the donor shall make the refusal pursuant to subsection (11).

(17) If a donor who is an unemancipated minor dies, a parent of the donor who is reasonably available may revoke or amend an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part.

(18) If an unemancipated minor who signed a refusal dies, a parent of the minor who is reasonably available may revoke the minor's refusal.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2316(a) thru (c); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 230, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 345, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Indication on driver's license of intent to make anatomical gift, 61-5-301.

72-17-202. Persons who may become donees — purposes for which anatomica gifts may be made. (1) The following persons may become donees of anatomical gifts for th purposes stated if named in the document of gift:

(a) a hospital, surgeon, physician, or procurement organization, an accredited medica school, dental school, college, or university, another appropriate person for education or research a search and rescue unit established or recognized by a county as provided in 7-32-235, o persons certified by a state or local law enforcement agency to train search and rescue canines.

(b) subject to subsection (2), an individual designated by the person making the anatomica gift if the individual is the recipient of the part; or

(c) an eye bank or tissue bank.

(2) If an anatomical gift to an individual under subsection (1)(b) cannot be transplante into the individual, the part passes in accordance with subsection (7) in the absence of a express, contrary indication by the person making the anatomical gift.

(3) If an anatomical gift of one or more specific parts or of all parts is made in a documen of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (1) but identifies the purpose fo which an anatomical gift may be used, the following rules apply:

(a) If the part is an eye and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, th gift passes to the appropriate eye bank.

(b) If the part is tissue and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gif passes to the appropriate tissue bank.

(c) If the part is an organ and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, th gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.

(d) If the part is an organ, an eye, or tissue and the gift is for the purpose of research o education, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization.

(e) If the part is for the purpose of training a search and rescue canine as allowed i 7-32-235(4), the gift passes to the search and rescue unit established or recognized by the count in which the gift was made. A county coroner or sheriff may transfer the gift to an established o recognized canine search and rescue unit in another county or to a person certified by a state o local law enforcement agency to train search and rescue canines if the county in which the gift was made has not established or recognized a search and rescue unit.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), if there is more than one purpose of an anatomical gift set forth in the document of gift but the purposes are not set forth in any priority, the anatomical gift must be used for transplantation or therapy, if suitable. If the anatomical gift cannot be used for transplantation or therapy, the gift may be used for:

(a) research or education; or

(b) the training of search and rescue canines.

(5) If an anatomical gift of one or more specific parts is made in a document of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (1) and does not identify the purpose of the gift the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (7).

(6) If a document of gift specifies only a general intent to make an anatomical gift by words such as "donor", "organ donor", or "body donor" or by a symbol or statement of similar import the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (7).

(7) For purposes of subsections (2), (5), and (6), the following rules apply:

(a) If the part is an eye, the gift passes to the appropriate eye bank.

(b) If the part is tissue, the gift passes to the appropriate tissue bank.

(c) If the part is an organ, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.

(8) An anatomical gift of an organ for transplantation or therapy, other than an anatomical gift under subsection (1)(b), passes to the organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.

(9) If an anatomical gift does not pass pursuant to subsections (1) through (8) or the decedent's body or part is not used for transplantation, therapy, research, education, or training search and rescue canines, custody of the body or part passes to the person under obligation to dispose of the body or part.

(10) If the donee knows of the decedent's refusal or contrary indications to make an anatomical gift or that an anatomical gift by a member of a class having priority to act is opposed by a member of the same class or a prior class under 72-17-214, the donee may not accept the anatomical gift. For the purposes of this subsection, if a person knows that an anatomical gift was made on a document of gift, the person is considered to know of any amendment or revocation of he anatomical gift or any refusal to make an anatomical gift on the same document of gift.

(11) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1)(b), nothing in this section affects the allocation of organs for transplantation or therapy.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2317; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 345, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 415, L. 2021.

72-17-203. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2316(e).

72-17-204. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2318(a), (b), (e); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 459, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 443, L. 1987.

72-17-205. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2318(c).

72-17-206. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2318(d); amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 370, L. 1987.

72-17-207. Examination — autopsy — liability. (1) An anatomical gift authorizes any reasonable examination necessary to ensure medical acceptability of the gift for the purposes ntended. Unless prohibited by law other than this chapter, an examination may include an examination of all medical and dental records of the donor or prospective donor.

(2) Except as provided in 72-17-217 and 72-17-218, the provisions of this chapter are subject to the laws of this state governing autopsies.

(3) A hospital, physician, surgeon, coroner, enucleator, technician, nurse, or other person who acts in accordance with this chapter or with the applicable anatomical gift act of another state or attempts in good faith to do so is not liable for that act in a civil action, criminal proceeding, or administrative proceeding.

(4) In determining whether an anatomical gift has been made, amended, or revoked under this chapter, a person may rely upon representations of an individual listed in 72-17-214(1)(b), 1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(f), (1)(g), or (1)(h) relating to the individual's relationship to the donor or prospective donor unless the person knows that the representation is untrue.

(5) An individual who makes an anatomical gift pursuant to 72-17-201 or 72-17-214 and he individual's estate are not liable for any injury or damage that may result from the making or use of the anatomical gift.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2316(d); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-208. Document of gift — delivery — validity. (1) Delivery of a document of gift during the donor's lifetime is not required for the validity of an anatomical gift.

(2) If an anatomical gift is made to a designated donee, the document of gift, or a copy, may be delivered to the donee to expedite the appropriate procedures after death. A document of gift or a refusal to make an anatomical gift or a copy may be deposited in any hospital, procurement organization, or registry office that accepts it for safekeeping or for facilitation of procedures after death. On request of an interested person, upon or after the donor's death, the person in possession shall allow the interested person to examine or copy the document of gift or the refusal to make an anatomical gift.

(3) A document of gift is valid if executed in accordance with:

(a) this chapter;

(b) the laws of the state or country where it was executed; or

(c) the laws of the state or country where the person making the anatomical gift was domiciled, has a place of residence, or was a national at the time the document of gift was executed.

(4) If a document of gift is valid under this section, the laws of this state govern the interpretation of the document of gift.

(5) A person may presume that a document of gift or amendment of an anatomical gift i valid unless that person knows that it was not validly executed or was revoked.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2319; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Cl 345, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Indication on driver's license of intent to make anatomical gift, 61-5-301.

72-17-209. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2320.**

72-17-210. Renumbered 72-17-301. Code Commissioner, 1983.

72-17-211. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1987.**

72-17-212. Repealed. Sec. 19, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 219, L. 1987.**

72-17-213. Routine inquiry and required request — search and notification. (1) A or near the time of death of a hospitalized patient, the hospital administrator or a representativ designated by the administrator shall notify the appropriate procurement organization and, i the reason for death falls under 46-4-122, the coroner with jurisdiction of the imminent or actua death of the patient and, in collaboration with the procurement organization, shall ensure tha a trained designated requester is readily available to discuss donation opportunities with a person authorized under 72-17-214 to make an anatomical gift. The person designated must b a representative of a procurement organization or a person who has had training provided by o approved by a procurement organization.

(2) When a hospital refers an individual at or near death to a procurement organization the organization:

(a) shall make a reasonable search of the records of the department of justice and an donor registry that it knows exists for the geographical area in which the individual resides t ascertain whether the individual has made an anatomical gift;

(b) must be allowed reasonable access to information in the records of the department o justice to ascertain whether an individual at or near death is a donor; and

(c) may conduct any reasonable examination necessary to ensure the medical suitabilit of a part that is or could be the subject of an anatomical gift for transplantation, therapy research, or education from a donor or a prospective donor. During the examination period measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of the part may not be withdrawn unles the hospital or procurement organization knows that the individual expressed a contrary intent

(3) A hospital, as soon as practical after the arrival of an individual reasonably believed t be dead or near death, shall make a reasonable search of the individual for a document of gift o other information identifying the bearer as a donor or as an individual who has refused to mak an anatomical gift if there is not immediately available any other source of that information.

(4) If a document of gift or evidence of refusal to make an anatomical gift is located by th search required by subsection (3) and the individual or body to whom it relates is taken to a hospital, the hospital must be notified of the contents and the document or other evidence mus be sent to the hospital.

(5) If, at or near the time of death of a patient, a hospital knows that an anatomical gif has been made pursuant to 72-17-214(1) or a release and removal of a part has been permitted pursuant to 72-17-215 or that a patient or an individual identified as in transit to the hospital is a donor, the hospital shall notify the donee if one is named and known to the hospital; if not it shall notify an appropriate procurement organization. The hospital shall cooperate in the implementation of the anatomical gift or release and removal of a part.

(6) A person who fails to discharge the duties imposed by this section is not subject t criminal or civil liability but may be subject to appropriate administrative sanctions.

(7) Upon the death of a minor who was a donor or had signed a refusal, unless a procurement organization knows the minor is emancipated, the procurement organization shall conduct a reasonable search for the parents of the minor and provide the parents with an opportunity to revoke or amend the anatomical gift or revoke the refusal.

(8) Upon referral by a hospital under subsection (2), a procurement organization shall make a reasonable search for any person listed in 72-17-214 having priority to make an anatomical gift on behalf of a prospective donor. If a procurement organization receives information that an anatomical gift to any other person was made, amended, or revoked, it shall promptly advise the other person of all relevant information.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 262, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Organ procurement program required, 50-5-212.

Indication on driver's license of intent to make anatomical gift, 61-5-301.

72-17-214. Making, revoking, and objecting to anatomical gifts by others. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), any member of the following classes of persons who is reasonably available, in the order of priority listed, may make an anatomical gift of all or a part of the decedent's body for a purpose authorized in 72-17-201(1) unless the decedent, at the time of death, had made an unrevoked refusal to make that anatomical gift as provided for in 72-17-201:

(a) an agent of the decedent at the time of death who could have made an anatomical gift under 72-17-201 immediately before the decedent's death;

(b) the spouse of the decedent;

(c) an adult son or daughter of the decedent;

(d) either parent of the decedent;

(e) an adult brother or sister of the decedent;

(f) adult grandchildren of the decedent;

(g) a grandparent of the decedent;

(h) a guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of death; and

(i) any other person having the authority to dispose of the decedent's body.

(2) If there is more than one member of a class listed in subsection (1)(a), (1)(c), (1)(d), (1)(e), (1)(f), (1)(g), or (1)(i) entitled to make an anatomical gift, an anatomical gift may be made by a member of the class unless that member or a person to which the gift can pass under 72-17-202 knows of an objection by another member of the class. If an objection is known, the anatomical gift may be made only by a majority of the members of the class who are reasonably available.

(3) An anatomical gift may not be made by a person listed in subsection (1) if:

(a) a person in a prior class is reasonably available at the time of death to make or to object to the making of an anatomical gift; or

(b) the person proposing to make an anatomical gift knows of a refusal by the decedent.

(4) An anatomical gift by a person authorized under subsection (1) must be made by:

(a) a document of gift signed by the person; or

(b) the person's telegraphic, recorded telephonic, other recorded message, or other form of communication from the person that is contemporaneously reduced to writing and signed by the recipient.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), an anatomical gift by a person authorized under subsection (1) may be amended or revoked orally or in a record by any member of a prior class who is reasonably available. If more than one member of the prior class is reasonably available, the gift may be:

(a) amended only if a majority of the reasonably available members agree to the amending of the gift; or

(b) revoked only if a majority of the reasonably available members agree to the revoking of the gift or if they are equally divided as to whether to revoke the gift.

(6) A revocation made under subsection (5) is effective only if, before an incision has been made for the removal of a part from the body of the decedent or before invasive procedures have begun to prepare the recipient, the procurement organization, transplant hospital, physician, surgeon, technician, or enucleator removing the part knows of the revocation.

(7) A failure to make an anatomical gift under subsection (1) is not an objection to the making of an anatomical gift.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-215. Authorization by coroner or local public health official. (1) The corone may release and permit the removal of a part from a body within that official's custody, fo transplantation or therapy, if:

(a) the official has received a request for the part from a hospital, physician, surgeon, o procurement organization;

(b) the official has made a reasonable effort, taking into account the useful life of the part to locate and examine the decedent's medical records and inform persons listed in 72-17-214(1 of their option to make, or object to making, an anatomical gift;

(c) the official does not know of a refusal or contrary indication by the decedent or objectio by a person having priority to act as listed in 72-17-214(1);

(d) the removal will be by a physician, surgeon, or technician; but in the case of eyes, b one of them or by an enucleator;

(e) the removal will not interfere with any autopsy or investigation;

(f) the removal will be in accordance with accepted standards; and

(g) cosmetic restoration will be done, if appropriate.

(2) If the body is not within the custody of the coroner, the local public health officer may release and permit the removal of any part from a body in the local public health officer's custody for transplantation or therapy if the requirements of subsection (1) are met.

(3) An official releasing and permitting the removal of a part shall maintain a permanent record of the name of the decedent, the person making the request, the date and purpose of the request, the part requested, and the person to whom it was released.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

Cross-References

HIV antibody testing — testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required — penalty, 50-16-1008.

72-17-216. Anatomical gifts — advance health care directive. (1) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Advance health care directive" means a power of attorney for health care or a record signed by a prospective donor containing the prospective donor's direction concerning a health care decision for the prospective donor.

(b) "Declaration" means a record signed by a prospective donor specifying the circumstances under which a life support system may be withheld or withdrawn from the prospective donor.

(c) "Health care decision" means any decision made regarding the health care of the prospective donor.

(2) If a prospective donor who is in a health care facility has a declaration or advance health care directive, measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of an organ for transplantation or therapy may not be withheld or withdrawn from the prospective donor unless the declaration expressly provides to the contrary.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-217. Cooperation between coroner, medical examiner, county attorney, and procurement organization. (1) A county coroner, medical examiner, or associate medical examiner shall cooperate with procurement organizations to maximize the opportunity to recover anatomical gifts for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

(2) A part may not be removed from the body of a decedent under the jurisdiction of a coroner or medical examiner for transplantation, therapy, research, or education unless the part is the subject of an anatomical gift. The body of a decedent under the jurisdiction of a coroner or medical examiner may not be delivered to a person for research or education unless the body is the subject of an anatomical gift. This subsection does not preclude a coroner or medical examiner from performing the medicolegal investigation upon the body or parts of a decedent under the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-218. Facilitation of anatomical gift from decedent whose body is under jurisdiction of coroner, medical examiner, or county attorney. (1) Upon request of a procurement organization, a county coroner, medical examiner, or associate medical examiner shall release to the procurement organization the name, contact information, and available medical history of a decedent whose body is under the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical xaminer. If the decedent's body or part is medically suitable for transplantation, therapy, esearch, or education, the coroner or medical examiner shall release postmortem examination esults to the procurement organization. The procurement organization may make a subsequent lisclosure of the postmortem examination results or other information received from the coroner r medical examiner only if relevant to transplantation or therapy.

(2) For the purpose of expediting an anatomical gift, the coroner or medical examiner may onduct a medicolegal examination by reviewing all medical records, laboratory test results, -rays, other diagnostic results, and other information that any person possesses about a donor r prospective donor whose body is under the coroner's or medical examiner's jurisdiction and hat the coroner or medical examiner determines may be relevant to the investigation.

(3) A person that has any information requested by a coroner or medical examiner pursuant o subsection (2) shall provide that information as expeditiously as possible to allow the coroner r medical examiner to conduct the medicolegal investigation within a period compatible with he preservation of parts for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

(4) If an anatomical gift has been or might be made of a part of a decedent whose body is nder the jurisdiction of a coroner or medical examiner and a postmortem examination is not equired or if the coroner or medical examiner determines that a postmortem examination is equired but that the recovery of the part that is the subject of an anatomical gift will not interfere vith the examination, the coroner or medical examiner and procurement organization shall ooperate in the timely removal of the part from the decedent for the purpose of transplantation, herapy, research, or education.

(5) If an anatomical gift of a part from the decedent under the jurisdiction of a coroner, nedical examiner, or county attorney has been or might be made but the coroner, medical xaminer, or county attorney initially believes that the recovery of the part could interfere vith the postmortem investigation into the decedent's cause or manner of death, the collection f evidence, or the description, documentation, or interpretation of injuries on the body, the oroner, medical examiner, or county attorney may consult with the procurement organization r physician or technician designated by the procurement organization about the proposed ecovery. After consultation, the coroner, medical examiner, or county attorney may allow the ecovery.

(6) If the coroner, medical examiner, county attorney, or designee denies recovery, the erson denying recovery shall:

(a) explain in a record the specific reasons for not allowing recovery of the part;
(b) include the specific reasons in the records of the coroner or medical examiner; and
(c) provide a record with the specific reasons to the procurement organization.

(7) If a coroner, medical examiner, county attorney, or designee allows recovery of a art under subsection (4) or (5), the procurement organization, upon request, shall cause the hysician or technician who removes the part to provide the requester with a record describing he condition of the part, a biopsy, a photograph, and any other information and observations hat would assist in the postmortem examination.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

Part 3
Regulation — Qualifications

72-17-301. Rights and duties at death. (1) Subject to 72-17-202 and 72-17-218, the rights f a donee created by an anatomical gift are superior to rights of others under 72-17-214(1), xcept with respect to autopsies. A donee may accept or reject an anatomical gift. If the donee ccepts an anatomical gift of the entire body, the donee, subject to the terms of the gift and this hapter, may allow embalming, burial, or cremation and the use of the body in funeral services. f the anatomical gift is of a part of the body, the donee, upon the death of the donor and before mbalming, burial, or cremation shall cause the part to be removed without unnecessary nutilation. After removal of the part, custody of the remainder of the body vests in the person nder obligation to dispose of the body.

(2) The time of death must be determined by a physician or surgeon who attends the lonor at death or, if none, the physician, surgeon, or coroner who certifies the death. Neither the hysician or surgeon who attends the donor at death nor the physician, surgeon, or coroner who

determines the time of death may participate in the procedures for removing or transplantin a part unless the document of gift designates a particular physician or surgeon pursuant t 72-17-201(5).

(3) Unless prohibited by law other than this chapter, at any time after a donor's death the person to which a part passes under 72-17-202 may conduct any reasonable examinatio necessary to ensure the medical suitability of the body or part for its intended purpose.

(4) Unless prohibited by law other than this chapter, an examination under 72-17-213(2)(or subsection (3) of this section may include an examination of all medical and dental records o the donor or prospective donor.

(5) Upon the death of a minor who was a donor or had signed a refusal, unless procurement organization knows the minor is emancipated, the procurement organizatio shall conduct a reasonable search for the parents of the minor and provide the parents with a opportunity to revoke or amend the anatomical gift or revoke the refusal.

(6) Upon referral by a hospital under 72-17-213(2), a procurement organization shall mak a reasonable search for any person listed in 72-17-214 having priority to make an anatomica gift on behalf of a prospective donor. If a procurement organization receives information that a anatomical gift to any other person was made, amended, or revoked, it shall promptly advise th other person of all relevant information.

(7) If there has been an anatomical gift, a technician may remove any donated parts an an enucleator may remove any donated eyes or parts of eyes after determination of death by physician or surgeon.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 340, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 69-2321(a), (b); MCA 1981, 72-17-210; redes. 72-17-30 by Code Commissioner, 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 540, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

Cross-References

HIV antibody testing — testing of donors of organs, tissues, and semen required — penalty, 50-16-1008.

72-17-302. Sale or purchase of parts prohibited. (1) A person may not knowingly, fo valuable consideration, purchase or sell a part for transplantation or therapy, if removal of th part is intended to occur after the death of the decedent.

(2) Valuable consideration does not include reasonable payment for the removal processing, disposal, preservation, quality control, storage, transportation, or implantation of a part.

(3) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and upon conviction is subject t a fine not exceeding $50,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

72-17-303. False acts concerning document of gift — penalty. Any person tha knowingly falsifies, forges, conceals, defaces, or obliterates a document of gift, an amendment o revocation of a document of gift, or a refusal in order to obtain a financial gain commits a felon and upon conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 345, L. 2007.

72-17-304 through 72-17-310 reserved.

72-17-311. Eye enucleations — enucleators — qualifications. (1) Eye enucleations fo purposes of anatomical gifts may be performed:

(a) by a licensed physician or surgeon; or

(b) by an enucleator trained in eye enucleation.

(2) An acceptable course in eye enucleation must include the anatomy and physiology o the eye, instruction in maintaining a sterile field during the enucleation procedure, and use o appropriate instruments and sterile procedures for removal and preservation of corneal tissue.

(3) Certification of satisfactory completion of a course in eye enucleation must be provided by the ophthalmologist who teaches the course. This certification qualifies an enucleator to perform eye enucleations for a period of 3 years from the date of completion of the course.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 403, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

72-17-312. Approval of eye banks. Any bank or storage facility that furnishes to the department written evidence of its membership and certification and reports and recommendations for future compliance, granted by the eyebank association of America, is approved for receipt and storage of eye tissue for the term of such membership and certification and is eligible during such term to be a donee of eye tissue pursuant to 72-17-202.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 403, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 540, L. 1989.

CHAPTERS 18 AND 19
RESERVED

CHAPTER 20
TRUSTS IN GENERAL
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Nature and Creation (Repealed)

Part 2 — Obligations of Trustee (Repealed)

Part 3 — Rights and Duties of Third Persons (Repealed)

Part 4 — Trustee Accounts (Repealed)

Part 5 — Transfer of Interest in Trust (Repealed)

Part 1
Nature and Creation
(Repealed)

72-20-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2950, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5364, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7878, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2215; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1167; re-en. Sec. 7878, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-201.

72-20-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2951, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5365, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7879, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2216; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1168; re-en. Sec. 7879, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-202.

72-20-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2952, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5366, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7880, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2217; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1169; re-en. Sec. 7880, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-203.

72-20-104. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2953, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5367, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7881, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2218; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1170; re-en. Sec. 7881, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-204.

72-20-105. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2954, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5368, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7882, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2219; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1171; re-en. Sec. 7882, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-205.

72-20-106. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2955, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5369, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7883, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2220; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1172; re-en. Sec. 7883, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-206.

72-20-107. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2956, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5370, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7884, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2221; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1173; re-en. Sec. 7884, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-207.

72-20-108. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2957, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5371, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7885, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2222; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1174; re-en. Sec. 7885, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-208.

72-20-109. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7907, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 7907, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 947, 86-406.

72-20-110. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2958, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5372, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7886, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2223; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1175; re-en. Sec. 7886, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-209.

72-20-111. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2959, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5373, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7887, R.C.M 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2224; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1176; re-en. Sec. 7887, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-210.

Part 2
Obligations of Trustee
(Repealed)

72-20-201. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2970, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5374, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7888, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2228; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1177; re-en. Sec. 7888, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-301.

72-20-202. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2973, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5377, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7891, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2231; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1180; re-en. Sec. 7891, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-304.

72-20-203. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Secs. 2971, 2979, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Secs. 5375, 5383, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Secs. 7889, 7897 R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Secs. 2229, 2237; Field Civ. C. Secs. 1178, 1186; re-en. Secs. 7889, 7897, R.C.M. 1935 R.C.M. 1947, 86-302, 86-310.

72-20-204. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2972, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5376, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7890, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2230; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1179; re-en. Sec. 7890, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-303.

72-20-205. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2974, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5378, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7892, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2232; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1181; re-en. Sec. 7892, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-305.

72-20-206. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2975, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5379, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7893, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2233; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1182; re-en. Sec. 7893, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-306.

72-20-207. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2976, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5380, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7894, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2234; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1183; re-en. Sec. 7894, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-307.

72-20-208. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2977, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5381, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7895, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2235; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1184; re-en. Sec. 7895, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-308.

72-20-209. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2978, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5382, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7896, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2236; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1185; re-en. Sec. 7896, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-309.

72-20-210. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2980, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5384, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7898, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2238; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1187; re-en. Sec. 7898, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-311.

72-20-211. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2981, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5385, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7899, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2239; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1188; re-en. Sec. 7899, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-312.

Part 3
Rights and Duties of Third Persons
(Repealed)

72-20-301. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2990, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5386, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7900, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2243; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1189; re-en. Sec. 7900, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-313.

72-20-302. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 2991, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5387, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7901, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 2244; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1190; re-en. Sec. 7901, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-314.

Part 4
Trustee Accounts
(Repealed)

72-20-401. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-402. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-403. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-404. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-405. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-406. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-407. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 2, L. 1983.

72-20-408. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part).

72-20-409. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 86-513(part); amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

Part 5
Transfer of Interest in Trust
(Repealed)

72-20-501. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1530, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4630, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6877, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 1135; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 495; re-en. Sec. 6877, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1701.

CHAPTER 21
TRUSTEES' POWERS ACT
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Trustees' Powers — Limitations (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-21-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-910 by Sec. 9, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-910.

72-21-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-908 by Sec. 7, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-908.

72-21-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-909 by Sec. 8, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-909.

72-21-104. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-902 by Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-902.

Part 2
Trustees' Powers — Limitations (Repealed)

72-21-201. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-903 by Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-903.

72-21-202. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-904 by Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-904(1), (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1981 amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 145, L. 1989.

72-21-203. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-904 by Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-904(2).

72-21-204. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-906 by Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-906.

72-21-205. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-905 by Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 401, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 86-905.

72-21-206. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. 86-907 by Sec. 6, Ch. 297, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-907.

CHAPTER 22
CONVEYANCE OF TRUST PROPERTY BY COURT ORDER (Repealed)

Part 1 — Rights, Powers, and Duties (Repealed)

Part 2 — Procedure (Repealed)

Part 1
Rights, Powers, and Duties (Repealed)

72-22-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-315(part).

72-22-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-315(part).

72-22-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-316.

72-22-104. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-317.

72-22-105. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-326.

Part 2
Procedure (Repealed)

72-22-201. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-319.

72-22-202. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-318(part).

72-22-203. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-318(part).

72-22-204. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-320.

72-22-205. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-321.

72-22-206. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-322.

72-22-207. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-323(part).

72-22-208. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-323(part).

72-22-209. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-325.

72-22-210. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 265, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 86-324.

CHAPTER 23
TRUSTS FOR BENEFIT OF THIRD PERSONS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Nature and Creation (Repealed)

Part 3 — Obligations and Powers of Trustee (Repealed)

Part 4 — Rights of Trustee (Repealed)

Part 5 — Termination of Trust and Office of Trustee — Succession (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-23-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3000, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5388, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7902, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2250; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1191; re-en. Sec. 7902, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-401.

Part 2
Nature and Creation
(Repealed)

72-23-201. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3001, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5389, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7903, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2251; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1192; re-en. Sec. 7903, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-402.

72-23-202. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3002, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5390, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7904, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2252; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1193; re-en. Sec. 7904, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-403.

72-23-203. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3003, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5391, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7905, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2253; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1194; re-en. Sec. 7905, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-404.

72-23-204. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 3004, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5392, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7906, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2254; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1195; re-en. Sec. 7906, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-405.

Part 3
Obligations and Powers of Trustee
(Repealed)

72-23-301. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3010, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5393, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7908, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2258; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1196; re-en. Sec. 7908, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-501.

72-23-302. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3011, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5394, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7909, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2259; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1197; re-en. Sec. 7909, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-502.

72-23-303. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3013, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5396, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7911, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2261; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1199; re-en. Sec. 7911, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-504.

72-23-304. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3014, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5397, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7912, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2262; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1200; re-en. Sec. 7912, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-505.

72-23-305. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3015, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5398, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7913, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2263; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1201; re-en. Sec. 7913, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-506.

72-23-306. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3022, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5401, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7916, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2269; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1204; re-en. Sec. 7916, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-509.

72-23-307. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3020, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5399, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7914, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2267; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1202; re-en. Sec. 7914, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-507.

72-23-308. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3021, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5400, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7915, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2268; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1203; re-en. Sec. 7915, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-508.

Part 4
Rights of Trustee
(Repealed)

72-23-401. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3030, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5402, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7917, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2273; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1205; re-en. Sec. 7917, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-510.

72-23-402. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3031, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5403, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 7918, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2274; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1206; re-en. Sec. 7918, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947 86-511.

72-23-403. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3032, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5404, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7919, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2275; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1207; re-en. Sec. 7919, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-512.

Part 5
Termination of Trust and Office of Trustee — Succession
(Repealed)

72-23-501. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3040, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5405, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7920, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2279; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1208; re-en. Sec. 7920, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-601.

72-23-502. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3041, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5406, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7921, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2280; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1209; re-en. Sec. 7921, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-602.

72-23-503. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3042, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5407, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7922, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2281; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1210; re-en. Sec. 7922, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-603.

72-23-504. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3043, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5408, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7923, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2282; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1211; re-en. Sec. 7923, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-604.

72-23-505. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3012, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5395, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7910, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2260; Field Civ. C. Sec. 1198; re-en. Sec. 7910, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-503.

72-23-506. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3044, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5409, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7924, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2283; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1212; re-en. Sec. 7924, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-605.

72-23-507. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3050, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5410, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7925, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2287; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1213; re-en. Sec. 7925, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-606.

72-23-508. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 3052, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 5412, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 7927, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 2289; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 1215; re-en. Sec. 7927, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-608.

CHAPTER 24
TRUSTS IN RELATION TO REAL PROPERTY
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Nature and Creation (Repealed)

Part 2 — Powers, Rights, and Duties (Repealed)

Part 1
Nature and Creation
(Repealed)

72-24-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1310, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4536, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6783, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 847; re-en. Sec. 6783, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-101.

72-24-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1311, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4537, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6784, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 852; Field Civ. C. Sec. 280; re-en. Sec. 6784, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-102.

72-24-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1314, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4540, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6787, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 857; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 285; re-en. Sec. 6787, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-105; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-24-104. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1312, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4538, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6785, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 853; Field Civ. C. Sec. 281; re-en. Sec. 6785, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-103.

Part 2
Powers, Rights, and Duties
(Repealed)

72-24-201. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1317, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4543, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6790, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 863; Field Civ. C. Sec. 291; re-en. Sec. 6790, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-108.

72-24-202. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 1318, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4544, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6791, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 864; Field Civ. C. Sec. 292; re-en. Sec. 6791, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-109.

72-24-203. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1319, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4545, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6792, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Ci C. Sec. 865; Field Civ. C. Sec. 293; re-en. Sec. 6792, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-110.

72-24-204. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1320, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4546, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6793, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Ci C. Sec. 866; Field Civ. C. Sec. 294; re-en. Sec. 6793, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-111.

72-24-205. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1321, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4547, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6794, R.C.M. 1921; Ca Civ. C. Sec. 867; Based on Field Civ. C. Secs. 295 and 296; re-en. Sec. 6794, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-112.

72-24-206. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1323, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4549, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6796, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 870; Field Civ. C. Sec. 298; re-en. Sec. 6796, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-114.

72-24-207. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1316, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4542, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6789, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 860; Field Civ. C. Sec. 323; re-en. Sec. 6789, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-107.

72-24-208. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1313, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4539, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6786, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 856; Field Civ. C. Sec. 284; re-en. Sec. 6786, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-104.

72-24-209. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1322, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4548, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6795, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 869; Based on Field Civ. C. Sec. 297; re-en. Sec. 6795, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-113.

72-24-210. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1315, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4541, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6788, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 859; Field Civ. C. Sec. 287; re-en. Sec. 6788, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-106.

72-24-211. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1324, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4550, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6797, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ C. Sec. 871; Field Civ. C. Sec. 299; re-en. Sec. 6797, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 86-115.

CHAPTER 25
REVISED UNIFORM PRINCIPAL AND INCOME ACT
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Ascertainment of Principal and Income Allocation of Receipts (Repealed)

Part 3 — Allocation of Expenses (Repealed)

Part 4 — Principal and Income Receipts and Expenditures (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-25-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1901; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-103. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1916(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-104. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1902.

72-25-105. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1914; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

Part 2

Ascertainment of Principal and Income Allocation of Receipts

(Repealed)

72-25-201. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1903.

72-25-202. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1904.

72-25-203. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1905.

72-25-204. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1906.

72-25-205. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1907.

72-25-206. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1908.

72-25-207. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1909.

72-25-208. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1910.

72-25-209. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1911.

Part 3

Allocation of Expenses

(Repealed)

72-25-301. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 277, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1912.

72-25-302. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 371, L. 1983.
History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 277, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1913.

Part 4

Principal and Income Receipts and Expenditures

(Repealed)

72-25-401. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-402. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-403. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-404. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-405. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-406. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-407. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 371, L. 1983.

72-25-408. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 371, L. 1983.**

72-25-409. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 371, L. 1983.**

72-25-410. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 371, L. 1983.**

72-25-411. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 371, L. 1983.**

CHAPTER 26
UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT

Part 1 — Uniform Gifts to Minors Act General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Making and Effect of Gift (Repealed)

Part 3 — Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Gift Administration — Custodian (Repealed)

Part 4 — Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Resignation, Death, or Removal of Custodian — Bonding — Successor (Repealed)

Part 5 — General Provisions

72-26-501. Short title.
72-26-502. Definitions.
72-26-503. Scope and jurisdiction.
72-26-504. Applicability.
72-26-505. Effect on existing custodianships.
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72-26-701. Powers of custodian.
72-26-702. Care of custodial property.
72-26-703. Use of custodial property.
72-26-704. Custodian's expenses, compensation, and bond.
72-26-705. Exemption of third person from liability.
72-26-706. Liability to third persons.

Part 8 — Renunciation, Resignation, Death, or Removal of Custodian — Accounting — Termination — Successor

72-26-801. Renunciation, resignation, death, or removal of custodian — designation of successor custodian.
72-26-802. Accounting by and determination of liability of custodian.
72-26-803. Termination of custodianship.

Part 1
Uniform Gifts to Minors Act General Provisions (Repealed)

72-26-101. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 234, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1810.**

72-26-102. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1801.

72-26-103. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 245, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1809.

72-26-104. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 234, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1811.

Part 2
Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Making and Effect of Gift
(Repealed)

72-26-201. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 234, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1802; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. , L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1981.

72-26-202. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 234, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1803.

Part 3
Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Gift Administration — Custodian
(Repealed)

72-26-301. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1805(d).

72-26-302. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1804.

72-26-303. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 234, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1806.

72-26-304. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1805(a) thru (c).

72-26-305. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1805(e).

72-26-306. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 245, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 67-1808.

Part 4
Uniform Gifts to Minors Act Resignation, Death, or Removal of Custodian — Bonding — Successor
(Repealed)

72-26-401. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1807(part).

72-26-402. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1807(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-26-403. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1807(part).

72-26-404. Repealed. Sec. 25, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 245, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 234, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 423, L. 1971; R.C.M. 947, 67-1807(e), (f).

Part 5
General Provisions

72-26-501. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Uniform Transfers t Minors Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-502. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, th following definitions apply:

(1) "Adult" means an individual who has attained the age of 21 years.

(2) "Benefit plan" means an employer's plan for the benefit of an employee or partner.

(3) "Broker" means a person lawfully engaged in the business of effecting transactions i securities or commodities for the person's own account or for the account of others.

(4) "Conservator" means a person appointed or qualified by a court to act as general limited, or temporary guardian of a minor's property or a person legally authorized to perform substantially the same functions.

(5) "Court" means district court.

(6) "Custodial property" means:

(a) any interest in property transferred to a custodian under this chapter; and

(b) the income from and proceeds of that interest in property.

(7) "Custodian" means a person so designated under 72-26-603 or a successor or substitut custodian designated under 72-26-801.

(8) "Financial institution" means a bank, trust company, savings institution, or credi union chartered and supervised under state or federal law.

(9) "Legal representative" means an individual's personal representative or conservator.

(10) "Member of the minor's family" means the minor's parent, stepparent, spouse grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

(11) "Minor" means an individual who has not attained the age of 21 years.

(12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, organization, or other legal entity.

(13) "Personal representative" means an executor, administrator, successor persona representative, or special administrator of a decedent's estate or a person legally authorized t perform substantially the same functions.

(14) "State" includes any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession subject to the legislative authority of the United States.

(15) "Transfer" means a transaction that creates custodial property under 72-26-603.

(16) "Transferor" means a person who makes a transfer under this chapter.

(17) "Trust company" means a financial institution, corporation, or other legal entity authorized to exercise general trust powers.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 102, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 582, L. 1989.**

72-26-503. Scope and jurisdiction. (1) This chapter applies to a transfer that refers t this chapter in the designation under 72-26-603(1) by which the transfer is made if at the time of the transfer, the transferor, the minor, or the custodian is a resident of this state or the custodial property is located in this state. The custodianship so created remains subject to this chapter despite a subsequent change in residence of a transferor, the minor, or the custodian or the removal of custodial property from this state.

(2) A person designated as custodian under this chapter is subject to personal jurisdiction in this state with respect to any matter relating to the custodianship.

(3) A transfer that purports to be made and which is valid under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act, or a substantially similar act of another state is governed by the law of the designated state and may be executed and is enforceable in this state if at the time of the transfer, the transferor, the minor, or the custodian is a resident of the designated state or the custodial property is located in the designated state.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-504. Applicability. This chapter applies to a transfer within the scope of 72-26-503 nade after October 1, 1985, if:

(1) the transfer purports to have been made under the provisions of Title 72, chapter 26, arts 1 through 4 (repealed by section 25, Chapter 102, Laws of 1985);

(2) the instrument by which the transfer purports to have been made uses in substance he designation "as custodian under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act" or "as custodian under he Uniform Transfers to Minors Act" of any other state, and the application of this chapter is ecessary to validate the transfer.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-505. Effect on existing custodianships. (1) Any transfer of custodial property s now defined in this chapter made before October 1, 1985, is validated notwithstanding that here was no specific authority in Title 72, chapter 26, parts 1 through 4 (repealed by section 25, hapter 102, Laws of 1985), for the coverage of custodial property of that kind or for a transfer rom that source at the time the transfer was made.

(2) This chapter applies to all transfers made before October 1, 1985, in a manner and orm prescribed in Title 72, chapter 26, parts 1 through 4 (repealed by section 25, Chapter 102, aws of 1985), except insofar as the application impairs constitutionally vested rights or extends he duration of custodianships in existence on October 1, 1985.

(3) Sections 72-26-502 and 72-26-803, with respect to the age of a minor for whom custodial roperty is held under this chapter, do not apply to custodial property held in a custodianship hat terminated because of the minor's attainment of the age of 18 before October 1, 1985.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-506. Uniformity of application and construction. This chapter must be applied nd construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the ubject of this chapter among states enacting it.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

Part 6
Manner of Creating Custodial Property and Effecting Transfer

72-26-601. Nomination of custodian. (1) A person having the right to designate the ecipient of property transferable upon the occurrence of a future event may revocably nominate custodian to receive the property for a minor beneficiary upon the occurrence of the event y naming the custodian, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (name of ninor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act". The nomination may name one r more persons as substitute custodians to whom the property must be transferred, in the rder named, if the first nominated custodian dies before the transfer or is unable, declines, r is ineligible to serve. The nomination may be made in a will, a trust, a deed, an instrument xercising a power of appointment, or in a writing designating a beneficiary of contractual rights hat is registered with or delivered to the payor, issuer, or other obligor of the contractual rights.

(2) A custodian nominated under this section must be a person to whom a transfer of roperty of that kind may be made under 72-26-603(1).

(3) The nomination of a custodian under this section does not create custodial property ntil the nominating instrument becomes irrevocable or a transfer to the nominated custodian s completed under 72-26-603. Unless the nomination of a custodian has been revoked, upon he occurrence of the future event the custodianship becomes effective and the custodian shall nforce a transfer of the custodial property pursuant to 72-26-603.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-602. Single custodianship. A transfer may be made only for one minor, and only ne person may be the custodian. All custodial property held under this chapter by the same ustodian for the benefit of the same minor constitutes a single custodianship.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-603. Manner of creating custodial property and effecting transfer — designation of initial custodian — control. (1) Custodial property is created and a transfe is made whenever:

(a) an uncertificated security or a certificated security in registered form is either:

(i) registered in the name of the transferor, an adult other than the transferor, or a trus company, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (name of minor) under th Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act"; or

(ii) delivered if in certificated form, or any document necessary for the transfer of a uncertificated security is delivered, together with any necessary endorsement to an adult othe than the transferor or to a trust company as custodian, accompanied by an instrument i substantially the form set forth in subsection (2);

(b) money is paid or delivered or a security held in the name of a broker, financia institution, or its nominee is transferred to a broker or financial institution for credit to a account in the name of the transferor, an adult other than the transferor, or a trust company followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (name of minor) under the Montan Uniform Transfers to Minors Act";

(c) the ownership of a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract is either:

(i) registered with the issuer in the name of the transferor, an adult other than th transferor, or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (nam of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act"; or

(ii) assigned in a writing delivered to an adult other than the transferor or to a trus company whose name in the assignment is followed in substance by the words: "as custodian fo .... (name of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act";

(d) an irrevocable exercise of a power of appointment or an irrevocable present right t future payment under a contract is the subject of a written notification delivered to the payor issuer, or other obligor that the right is transferred to the transferor, an adult other than th transferor, or a trust company, whose name in the notification is followed in substance by th words: "as custodian for .... (name of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minor Act";

(e) an interest in real property is recorded in the name of the transferor, an adult othe than the transferor, or a trust company, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian fo .... (name of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act";

(f) a certificate of title issued by a department or agency of a state or of the United State which evidences title to tangible personal property is either:

(i) issued in the name of the transferor, an adult other than the transferor, or a trus company, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (name of minor) under th Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act"; or

(ii) delivered to an adult other than the transferor or to a trust company, endorsed to tha person, followed in substance by the words: "as custodian for .... (name of minor) under th Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act"; or

(g) an interest in any property not described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(f) i transferred to an adult other than the transferor or to a trust company by a written instrumen in substantially the form set forth in subsection (2).

(2) An instrument in the following form satisfies the requirements of subsections (1)(a)(ii and (1)(g):

"TRANSFER UNDER THE MONTANA
UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT

I, ... (name of transferor or name and representative capacity if a fiduciary), hereby transfer to .... (name of custodian), as custodian for .... (name of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, the following: (insert a description of the custodial property sufficient to identify it).

Dated: ....

....
(Signature)

...... (name of custodian) acknowledges receipt of the property described above as custodian for he minor named above under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.

Dated: ....

....

(Signature of Custodian)"

(3) A transferor shall place the custodian in control of the custodial property as soon as practicable.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 102, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1987.**

72-26-604. Transfer by gift or exercise of power of appointment. A person may make a transfer by irrevocable gift to or the irrevocable exercise of a power of appointment in avor of a custodian for the benefit of a minor pursuant to 72-26-603.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-605. Transfer authorized by will or trust. (1) A personal representative or rustee may make an irrevocable transfer pursuant to 72-26-603 to a custodian for the benefit of a minor as authorized in the governing will or trust.

(2) If the testator or settlor has nominated a custodian under 72-26-601 to receive the custodial property, the transfer must be made to that person.

(3) If the testator or settlor has not nominated a custodian under 72-26-601 or all persons o nominated as custodian die before the transfer or are unable, decline, or are ineligible to serve, he personal representative or the trustee, as the case may be, shall designate the custodian rom among those eligible to serve as custodian for property of that kind under 72-26-603(1).

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-606. Other transfer by fiduciary. (1) Subject to subsection (3), a personal representative or trustee may make an irrevocable transfer to another adult or trust company as custodian for the benefit of a minor pursuant to 72-26-603, in the absence of a will or under a will or trust that does not contain an authorization to do so.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a conservator may make an irrevocable transfer to another adult or trust company as custodian for the benefit of the minor pursuant to 72-26-603.

(3) A transfer under subsection (1) or (2) may be made only if:

(a) the personal representative, trustee, or conservator considers the transfer to be in the best interest of the minor;

(b) the transfer is not prohibited by or inconsistent with provisions of the applicable will, rust agreement, or other governing instrument; and

(c) the transfer is authorized by the court if it exceeds $10,000 in value.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

Cross-References

Subsidiary trust companies, Title 32, ch. 1, part 8.

72-26-607. Transfer by obligor. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a person not subject o 72-26-605 or 72-26-606 who holds property of or owes a liquidated debt to a minor not having a conservator may make an irrevocable transfer to a custodian for the benefit of the minor pursuant to 72-26-603.

(2) If a person having the right to do so under 72-26-601 has nominated a custodian under hat section to receive the custodial property, the transfer must be made to that person.

(3) If no custodian has been nominated under 72-26-601 or all persons so nominated as custodian die before the transfer or are unable, decline, or are ineligible to serve, a transfer under this section may be made to an adult member of the minor's family or to a trust company unless the property exceeds $10,000 in value.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-608. Receipt for custodial property. A written acknowledgment of delivery by a custodian constitutes a sufficient receipt and discharge for custodial property transferred to the custodian pursuant to this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-609. Validity and effect of transfer. (1) The validity of a transfer made in manner prescribed in this chapter is not affected by:

(a) failure of the transferor to comply with 72-26-603(3) concerning possession and contro

(b) designation of an ineligible custodian, except designation of the transferor in the cas of property for which the transferor is ineligible to serve as custodian under 72-26-603(1); or

(c) death or incapacity of a person nominated under 72-26-601 or designated unde 72-26-603 as custodian or the disclaimer of the office by that person.

(2) A transfer made pursuant to 72-26-603 is irrevocable, and the custodial propert is indefeasibly vested in the minor, but the custodian has all the rights, powers, duties, an authority provided in this chapter, and neither the minor nor the minor's legal representativ has any right, power, duty, or authority with respect to the custodial property except as provide in this chapter.

(3) By making a transfer, the transferor incorporates in the disposition all the provision of this chapter and grants to the custodian, and to any third person dealing with a perso designated as custodian, the respective powers, rights, and immunities provided in this chapte

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

Part 7
Administration by Custodian — Liability

72-26-701. Powers of custodian. (1) A custodian, acting in a custodial capacity, has al the rights, powers, and authority over custodial property that unmarried adult owners hav over their own property, but a custodian may exercise those rights, powers, and authority i that capacity only.

(2) This section does not relieve a custodian from liability for breach of 72-26-702.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-702. Care of custodial property. (1) A custodian shall:

(a) take control of custodial property;

(b) register or record title to custodial property if appropriate; and

(c) collect, hold, manage, invest, and reinvest custodial property.

(2) In dealing with custodial property, a custodian shall observe the standard of care tha would be observed by a prudent person dealing with property of another and is not limited b any other statute restricting investments by fiduciaries. If a custodian has a special skill o expertise or is named custodian on the basis of representations of a special skill or expertise, th custodian shall use that skill or expertise. However, a custodian, in the custodian's discretio and without liability to the minor or the minor's estate, may retain any custodial propert received from a transferor.

(3) A custodian may invest in or pay premiums on life insurance or endowment policies on

(a) the life of the minor only if the minor or the minor's estate is the sole beneficiary; or

(b) the life of another person in whom the minor has an insurable interest only to th extent that the minor, the minor's estate, or the custodian, in the capacity of custodian, is th irrevocable beneficiary.

(4) A custodian at all times shall keep custodial property separate and distinct from al other property in a manner sufficient to identify it clearly as custodial property of the minor Custodial property consisting of an undivided interest is so identified if the minor's interes is held as a tenant in common and is fixed. Custodial property subject to recordation is s identified if it is recorded, and custodial property subject to registration is so identified if i is either registered or held in an account designated in the name of the custodian, followed i substance by the words: "as a custodian for .... (name of minor) under the Montana Uniform Transfers to Minors Act".

(5) A custodian shall keep records of all transactions with respect to custodial property including information necessary for the preparation of the minor's tax returns, and shall make them available for inspection at reasonable intervals by a parent or legal representative of the minor or by the minor if the minor has attained the age of 14 years.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-703. Use of custodial property. (1) A custodian may deliver or pay to the minor or expend for the minor's benefit so much of the custodial property as the custodian considers advisable for the use and benefit of the minor, without court order and without regard to:

(a) the duty or ability of the custodian personally or of any other person to support the minor; or

(b) any other income or property of the minor which may be applicable or available for that purpose.

(2) On petition of an interested person or the minor if the minor has attained the age of 14 years, the court may order the custodian to deliver or pay to the minor or expend for the minor's benefit so much of the custodial property as the court considers advisable for the use and benefit of the minor.

(3) A delivery, payment, or expenditure under this section is in addition to, not in substitution for, and does not affect any obligation of a person to support the minor.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-704. Custodian's expenses, compensation, and bond. (1) A custodian is entitled to reimbursement from custodial property for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of the custodian's duties.

(2) Except for one who is a transferor under 72-26-604, a custodian has a noncumulative election during each calendar year to charge reasonable compensation for services performed during that year.

(3) Except as provided in 72-26-801(6), a custodian need not give a bond.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-705. Exemption of third person from liability. A third person in good faith and without court order may act on the instructions of or otherwise deal with any person purporting to make a transfer or purporting to act in the capacity of a custodian and, in the absence of knowledge, is not responsible for determining:

(1) the validity of the purported custodian's designation;

(2) the propriety of or the authority under this chapter for any act of the purported custodian;

(3) the validity or propriety under this chapter of any instrument or instructions executed or given either by the person purporting to make a transfer or by the purported custodian; or

(4) the propriety of the application of any property of the minor delivered to the purported custodian.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

72-26-706. Liability to third persons. (1) A claim may be asserted against the custodial property by proceeding against the custodian in the custodial capacity, whether or not the custodian or the minor is personally liable therefor when it is based on:

(a) a contract entered into by a custodian acting in a custodial capacity;

(b) an obligation arising from the ownership or control of custodial property; or

(c) a tort committed during the custodianship.

(2) A custodian is not personally liable:

(a) on a contract properly entered into in the custodial capacity unless the custodian fails to reveal that capacity and to identify the custodianship in the contract; or

(b) for an obligation arising from control of custodial property or for a tort committed during the custodianship unless the custodian is personally at fault.

(3) A minor is not personally liable for an obligation arising from ownership of custodial property or for a tort committed during the custodianship unless the minor is personally at fault.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 102, L. 1985.

Part 8

Renunciation, Resignation, Death, or Removal of Custodian — Accounting — Termination — Successor

72-26-801. Renunciation, resignation, death, or removal of custodian — designation of successor custodian. (1) A person nominated under 72-26-601 or designated under 72-26-603 as custodian may decline to serve by delivering a valid disclaimer to the person who made the nomination or to the transferor or the transferor's legal representative. If the event giving rise to a transfer has not occurred and no substitute custodian able, willing, and eligible to serve was nominated under 72-26-601, the person who made the nomination may nominate a substitute custodian under 72-26-601; otherwise the transferor or the transferor's legal representative shall designate a substitute custodian at the time of the transfer, in either case from among the persons eligible to serve as custodian for that kind of property under 72-26-603(1). The custodian so designated has the rights of a successor custodian.

(2) A custodian at any time may designate a trust company or an adult other than a transferor under 72-26-604 as successor custodian by executing and dating an instrument of designation before a subscribing witness other than the successor. If the instrument of designation does not contain or is not accompanied by the resignation of the custodian, the designation of the successor does not take effect until the custodian resigns, dies, becomes incapacitated, or is removed.

(3) A custodian may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the minor if the minor has attained the age of 14 years and to the successor custodian and by delivering the custodial property to the successor custodian.

(4) If a custodian is ineligible, dies, or becomes incapacitated without having effectively designated a successor and the minor has attained the age of 14 years, the minor may designate as successor custodian, in the manner prescribed in subsection (2), an adult member of the minor's family, a conservator of the minor, or a trust company. If the minor has not attained the age of 14 years or fails to act within 60 days after the ineligibility, death, or incapacity, the conservator of the minor becomes successor custodian. If the minor has no conservator or the conservator declines to act, the transferor, the legal representative of the transferor or of the custodian, an adult member of the minor's family, or any other interested person may petition the court to designate a successor custodian.

(5) A custodian who declines to serve under subsection (1) or resigns under subsection (3) or the legal representative of a deceased or incapacitated custodian, as soon as practicable, shall put the custodial property and records in the possession and control of the successor custodian. The successor custodian by action may enforce the obligation to deliver custodial property and records and becomes responsible for each item as received.

(6) A transferor, the legal representative of a transferor, an adult member of the minor's family, a guardian of the person of the minor, the conservator of the minor, or the minor if the minor has attained the age of 14 years may petition the court to remove the custodian for cause and to designate a successor custodian other than a transferor under 72-26-604 or to require the custodian to give appropriate bond.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-802. Accounting by and determination of liability of custodian. (1) A minor who has attained the age of 14 years, the minor's guardian of the person or legal representative, an adult member of the minor's family, a transferor, or a transferor's legal representative may petition the court:

(a) for an accounting by the custodian or the custodian's legal representative; or

(b) for a determination of responsibility, as between the custodial property and the custodian personally, for claims against the custodial property unless the responsibility has been adjudicated in an action under 72-26-706 to which the minor or the minor's legal representative was a party.

(2) A successor custodian may petition the court for an accounting by the predecessor custodian.

(3) The court, in a proceeding under this chapter or in any other proceeding, may require or permit the custodian or the custodian's legal representative to account.

(4) If a custodian is removed under 72-26-801(6), the court shall require an accounting and rder delivery of the custodial property and records to the successor custodian and the execution f all instruments required for transfer of the custodial property.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

72-26-803. Termination of custodianship. The custodian shall transfer in an ppropriate manner the custodial property to the minor or to the minor's estate upon the earlier f:

(1) the minor's attainment of 21 years of age with respect to custodial property transferred nder 72-26-604 or 72-26-605;

(2) the minor's attainment of 18 years of age with respect to custodial property transferred nder 72-26-606 or 72-26-607; or

(3) the minor's death.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 102, L. 1985.**

CHAPTER 27
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO TRUSTS
(Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 1 — Charitable Trusts in Relation to Federal Tax Laws (Repealed)

Part 2 — Prearranged Funeral Plans and Related Services — Mandatory Trust (Renumbered)

Part 1
Charitable Trusts in Relation to Federal Tax Laws
(Repealed)

72-27-101. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: **En. 86-707 by Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-707(1).**

72-27-102. Repealed. Sec. 220, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

History: **En. 86-707 by Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 86-707(2).**

Part 2
Prearranged Funeral Plans and Related Services — Mandatory Trust
(Renumbered)

72-27-201. Renumbered 72-37-101. Code Commissioner, 1989.

72-27-202. Renumbered 72-37-102. Code Commissioner, 1989.

72-27-203. Renumbered 72-37-103. Code Commissioner, 1989.

72-27-204. Renumbered 72-37-104. Code Commissioner, 1989.

CHAPTERS 28 AND 29
RESERVED

CHAPTER 30
MANAGEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS

Part 1 — General Provisions

72-30-101. Short title.
72-30-102. Definitions.
72-30-103. Uniformity of application and construction.

Part 2 — Management of Funds

72-30-201. Repealed.
72-30-202. Repealed.
72-30-203. Repealed.
72-30-204. Repealed.
72-30-205. Repealed.
72-30-206. Repealed.
72-30-207. Release or modification of restrictions on management, investment, or purpose.
72-30-208. Standard of conduct in managing and investing institutional fund.
72-30-209. Appropriation for expenditure or accumulation of endowment fund — rules of construction.
72-30-210. Delegation of management and investment functions.
72-30-211. Reviewing compliance.
72-30-212. Application to existing institutional funds.
72-30-213. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

Chapter Cross-References

Uniform Common Trust Act, Title 32, ch. 1, part 7.
Subsidiary trust companies, Title 32, ch. 1, part 8.
Trust Code — general provisions, Title 72, ch. 38.

Part 1
General Provisions

72-30-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Uniform Prudent Managemen of Institutional Funds Act".

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-809; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

72-30-102. Definitions. In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Charitable purpose" means the relief of poverty, the advancement of education o religion, the promotion of health, the promotion of a governmental purpose, or any other purpose the achievement of which is beneficial to the community.

(2) (a) "Endowment fund" means an institutional fund or any part of the fund that under the terms of a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent is not wholly expendable by the institution on a current basis.

(b) The term does not include assets that an institution designates as an endowment fund for its own use.

(3) "Gift instrument" means a record or records, including an institutional solicitation under which property is granted to, transferred to, or held by an institution as an institutiona fund.

(4) "Institution" means:

(a) a person, other than an individual, organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes;

(b) a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality to the extent that it holds funds exclusively for a charitable purpose; and

(c) a trust that had both charitable and noncharitable interests, after all noncharitable interests have terminated.

(5) (a) "Institutional fund" means a fund held by an institution exclusively for charitable purposes.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) program-related assets;

(ii) a fund held for an institution by a trustee that is not an institution; or

(iii) a fund in which a beneficiary that is not an institution has an interest, other than an interest that could arise upon violation or failure of the purposes of the fund.

(6) "Instrument of donor intent" means a record by a person that contributed property, ursuant to the provisions of this chapter that were in effect prior to October 1, 2007, setting orth the person's intention regarding investment or retention of the contributed property.

(7) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, imited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or overnmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(8) "Program-related asset" means an asset held by an institution primarily to accomplish charitable purpose of the institution and not primarily for investment.

(9) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in n electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-801(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. , Ch. 328, L. 2009.

72-30-103. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing his chapter, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with espect to its subject matter among those states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-808; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

Part 2
Management of Funds

72-30-201. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-802.

72-30-202. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-801(part).

72-30-203. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-803.

72-30-204. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-804; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 6, L. 1979.

72-30-205. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-805.

72-30-206. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 421, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-806.

72-30-207. Release or modification of restrictions on management, investment, or urpose. (1) If the donor consents in a record, an institution may release or modify, in whole r in part, a restriction contained in a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent on the anagement, investment, or purpose of an institutional fund. A release or modification may not llow a fund to be used for a purpose other than a charitable purpose of the institution.

(2) The court, upon application of an institution, may modify a restriction contained in gift instrument or instrument of donor intent regarding the management or investment f an institutional fund if the restriction has become impracticable or wasteful, if it impairs he management or investment of the fund, or if, because of circumstances not anticipated by he donor, a modification of a restriction will further the purposes of the fund. The institution hall notify the attorney general of the application, and the attorney general must be given an pportunity to be heard. To the extent practicable, any modification must be made in accordance vith the donor's probable intention.

(3) If a particular charitable purpose or a restriction contained in a gift instrument or nstrument of donor intent on the use of an institutional fund becomes unlawful, impracticable, mpossible to achieve, or wasteful, the court, upon application of an institution, may modify he purpose of the fund or the restriction on the use of the fund in a manner consistent with he charitable purposes expressed in the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent. The nstitution shall notify the attorney general of the application, and the attorney general must be iven an opportunity to be heard.

(4) If an institution determines that a restriction contained in a gift instrument or nstrument of donor intent on the management, investment, or purpose of an institutional fund s unlawful, impracticable, impossible to achieve, or wasteful, the institution, 60 days after

notification to the attorney general, may release or modify the restriction, in whole or part, if th institution uses the property in a manner consistent with the charitable purposes expressed i the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent and:

(a) the institutional fund subject to the restriction has a total value of less than $25,000; o

(b) more than 12 years have elapsed since the fund was established.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 389, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 86-807; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch 328, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 2021.

72-30-208. Standard of conduct in managing and investing institutional fund (1) Subject to the intent of a donor expressed in a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent an institution, in managing and investing an institutional fund, shall consider the charitabl purposes of the institution and the purposes of the institutional fund.

(2) In addition to complying with the duty of loyalty imposed by law other than this chapter each person responsible for managing and investing an institutional fund shall manage an invest the fund in good faith and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like positio would exercise under similar circumstances.

(3) In managing and investing an institutional fund, an institution:

(a) may incur only costs that are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the assets, th purposes of the institution, and the skills available to the institution; and

(b) shall make a reasonable effort to verify facts relevant to the management an investment of the fund.

(4) An institution may pool two or more institutional funds for purposes of managemen and investment.

(5) Except as otherwise provided by a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent, th following rules apply:

(a) In managing and investing an institutional fund, the following factors, if relevant must be considered:

(i) general economic conditions;

(ii) the possible effect of inflation or deflation;

(iii) the expected tax consequences, if any, of investment decisions or strategies;

(iv) the role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall investmen portfolio of the fund;

(v) the expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;

(vi) other resources of the institution;

(vii) the needs of the institution and the fund to make distributions and to preserve capital and

(viii) an asset's special relationship or special value, if any, to the charitable purposes of th institution.

(b) Management and investment decisions about an individual asset must be made not i isolation but rather in the context of the institutional fund's portfolio of investments as a whol and as a part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return objectives reasonabl suited to the fund and to the institution.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law other than this chapter, an institution may invest in any kind of property or type of investment consistent with this section.

(d) An institution shall diversify the investments of an institutional fund unless the institution reasonably determines that, because of special circumstances, the purposes of the fund are better served without diversification or unless the gift instrument or instrument o donor intent provides otherwise.

(e) Within a reasonable time after receiving property, an institution shall make and carry out decisions concerning the retention or disposition of the property or to rebalance a portfolio, in order to bring the institutional fund into compliance with the purposes, terms, and distribution requirements of the institution as necessary to meet other circumstances of the institution and the requirements of this chapter.

(f) A person that has special skills or expertise or is selected in reliance upon the person's representation that the person has special skills or expertise has a duty to use those skills or that expertise in managing and investing institutional funds.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 328, L. 2009.

72-30-209. Appropriation for expenditure or accumulation of endowment fund — ules of construction. (1) Subject to the intent of a donor expressed in the gift instrument or nstrument of donor intent and to subsection (4), an institution may appropriate for expenditure r accumulate so much of an endowment fund as the institution determines is prudent for the ses, benefits, purposes, and duration for which the endowment fund is established. Unless stated therwise in the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent, the assets in an endowment fund re donor-restricted assets until appropriated for expenditure by the institution. In making a etermination to appropriate or accumulate, the institution shall act in good faith, with the care hat an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, nd shall, in addition to considering the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent, consider, f relevant, the following factors:

(a) the duration and preservation of the endowment fund;

(b) the purposes of the institution and the endowment fund;

(c) general economic conditions;

(d) the possible effect of inflation or deflation;

(e) the expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;

(f) other resources of the institution; and

(g) the investment policy of the institution.

(2) To limit the authority to appropriate for expenditure or accumulate under subsection 1), a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent must specifically state the limitation.

(3) Terms in a gift instrument or instrument of donor intent designating a gift as an ndowment or a direction or authorization in the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent o use only "income", "interest", "dividends", or "rents, issues, or profits" or "to preserve the rincipal intact" or words of similar import:

(a) create an endowment fund of permanent duration unless other language in the gift nstrument or instrument of donor intent limits the duration or purpose of the fund; and

(b) do not otherwise limit the authority to appropriate for expenditure or accumulate nder subsection (1).

(4) The appropriation for expenditure in any year of an amount greater than 7% of the air market value of an endowment fund, calculated on the basis of market values determined t least quarterly and averaged over a period of not less than 3 years immediately preceding the ear in which the appropriation for expenditure was made, creates a rebuttable presumption f imprudence. For an endowment fund in existence for fewer than 3 years, the fair market alue of the endowment fund must be calculated for the period the endowment fund has been in xistence. This subsection does not:

(a) apply to an appropriation for expenditure permitted under law other than this chapter r by the gift instrument or instrument of donor intent; or

(b) create a presumption of prudence for an appropriation for expenditure of an amount ss than or equal to 7% of the fair market value of the endowment fund.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 328, L. 2009.

72-30-210. Delegation of management and investment functions. (1) Subject to any pecific limitation set forth in a gift instrument, in an instrument of donor intent, or in law ther than this chapter, an institution may delegate to an external agent the management and nvestment of an institutional fund to the extent that an institution could prudently delegate nder the circumstances. An institution shall act in good faith, with the care that an ordinarily rudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, in:

(a) selecting an agent;

(b) establishing the scope and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes of the nstitution and the institutional fund; and

(c) periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's performance nd compliance with the scope and terms of the delegation.

(2) In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the institution to exercise easonable care to comply with the scope and terms of the delegation.

(3) An institution that complies with subsection (1) is not liable for the decisions or actions f an agent to which the function was delegated.

(4) By accepting delegation of a management or investment function from an institutio that is subject to the laws of this state, an agent submits to the jurisdiction of the courts o this state in all proceedings arising from or related to the delegation or the performance of th delegated function.

(5) An institution may delegate management and investment functions to its committees officers, or employees as authorized by law of this state other than this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 328, L. 2009.**

72-30-211. Reviewing compliance. Compliance with this chapter is determined in ligh of the facts and circumstances existing at the time a decision is made or action is taken and no by hindsight.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 421, L. 2007.**

72-30-212. Application to existing institutional funds. This chapter applies t institutional funds existing on or established after October 1, 2007. As applied to institutiona funds existing on October 1, 2007, this chapter governs only decisions made or actions taken o or after that date.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 421, L. 2007.**

72-30-213. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerc Act. This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global an National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersed section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notice described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 421, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 3, L. 2019.**

CHAPTER 31
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO FIDUCIARIES

Part 1 — General

72-31-101. Oath in behalf of corporation acting as fiduciary.
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2-31-338. Construction of authority generally.
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2-31-348. Personal and family maintenance.
2-31-349. Benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service.
2-31-350. Retirement plans.
2-31-351. Taxes.
2-31-352. Gifts.
2-31-353. Statutory form power of attorney.
2-31-354. Agent's certification.
2-31-355 through 72-31-364 reserved.
2-31-365. Uniformity of application and construction.
2-31-366. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.
2-31-367. Effect on existing powers of attorney.

Part 4 — Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act

2-31-401. Short title.
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2-31-410. Disclosure of digital assets held in trust when trustee is original user.
2-31-411. Disclosure of contents of electronic communications held in trust when trustee not original user.
2-31-412. Disclosure of other digital assets held in trust when trustee not original user.
2-31-413. Disclosure of digital assets to conservator of protected person.
2-31-414. Fiduciary duty and authority.
2-31-415. Custodian compliance and immunity.
2-31-416. Uniformity of application and construction.
2-31-417. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

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hapter Cross-References

Resulting and constructive trusts, Title 72, ch. 38, part 1.

Part 1
General

72-31-101. Oath in behalf of corporation acting as fiduciary. In all matters in which corporation is authorized to act as trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, or in any iduciary capacity and an oath of office is required, it is proper for an officer of the corporation to ake the required oath for and on behalf of the officer's corporation and the corporation becomes ubject to the laws relating to individuals in similar matters so far as those laws may be applied o a corporation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1905; re-en. Sec. 7194, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 9828, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. ec. 9828, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 93-8713; amd. Sec. 2475, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

ross-References

Uniform Common Trust Act, Title 32, ch. 1, part 7.

72-31-102. Investment by fiduciaries in home owners' loan corporation bonds uthorized. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is lawful for any executor, dministrator, guardian or conservator, trustee, or other fiduciary to invest the funds or money n the person's custody or possession, eligible for investment, in bonds of the home owners' oan corporation or debentures issued by the federal housing administrator, guaranteed as to rincipal and interest by the United States government.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, Ex. L. 1933; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 37, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 5309.35, R.C.M. 1935; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 35-142(part); amd. Sec. 2476, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-31-103. Validation of fiduciary sales. All sales, provided no action is pending o July 1, 1973, to set aside such deed or conveyance, by trustees, executors, administrator and guardians which previous to January 1, 1973, were made to purchasers for a valuabl consideration, which consideration has been paid by such purchasers in good faith, and suc sales shall not have been set aside by the district or probate court having jurisdiction thereo shall be sufficient to sustain a trustee's, executor's, administrator's, or guardian's deed o conveyance to such purchaser and, in case such deed or conveyance shall not have been give shall entitle such purchaser to such deed or conveyance; and such deed or conveyance, i executed on July 1, 1973, or when executed, shall be sufficient to convey to such purchaser a the title that such beneficiary, decedent, or ward had in said real or personal property; and a irregularities in obtaining the order of the court for such sale and all irregularities or defects i making or conducting such sale by said trustee, executor, administrator, or guardian shall b disregarded, and such sale shall not be invalidated by reason of any such defect or irregularity

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 91-4328.

Part 2
Statutory Form Power of Attorney Act
(Renumbered and Repealed)

72-31-201. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2005.

72-31-202. Renumbered 72-31-224. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-203. Renumbered 72-31-225. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-204. Renumbered 72-31-226. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-205. Renumbered 72-31-228. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-206. Renumbered 72-31-229. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-207. Renumbered 72-31-230. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-208. Renumbered 72-31-231. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-209. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-210. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-211. Renumbered 72-31-232. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-212. Renumbered 72-31-233. Code Commissioner, 1993.

72-31-213. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-214. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-215. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-216. Repealed. Sec. 134, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 580, L. 1991.

72-31-217 through 72-31-221 reserved.

72-31-222. Renumbered 72-31-304. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-223. Renumbered 72-31-338. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-224. Renumbered 72-31-339. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-225. Renumbered 72-31-340. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-226. Renumbered 72-31-341. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-227. Renumbered 72-31-342. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-228. Renumbered 72-31-343. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-229. Renumbered 72-31-344. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-230. Renumbered 72-31-345. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-231. Renumbered 72-31-346. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-232. Renumbered 72-31-347. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-233. Renumbered 72-31-348. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-234. Renumbered 72-31-349. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-235. Renumbered 72-31-350. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-236. Renumbered 72-31-351. Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-237. Repealed. Sec. 49, Ch. 109, L. 2011.
History: En. Sec. 129, Ch. 494, L. 1993.

72-31-238. Renumbered 72-31-365. Code Commissioner, 2011.

Part 3
Uniform Power of Attorney Act

72-31-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Power of Attorney Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-302. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agent" means a person granted authority to act for a principal under a power of ttorney, whether denominated an agent, attorney-in-fact, or otherwise. The term includes an riginal agent, coagent, successor agent, and a person to which an agent's authority is delegated.

(2) "Durable", with respect to a power of attorney, means not terminated by the principal's ncapacity.

(3) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, ptical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(4) "Good faith" means honesty in fact.

(5) "Incapacity" means inability of an individual to manage property or business affairs ecause the individual:

(a) has an impairment in the ability to receive and evaluate information or make or ommunicate decisions even with the use of technological assistance; or

(b) is:

(i) missing; or

(ii) outside the United States and unable to return.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, imited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or overnmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "Power of attorney" means a writing or other record that grants authority to an agent o act in the place of the principal, whether or not the term power of attorney is used.

(8) (a) "Presently exercisable general power of appointment", with respect to property or property interest subject to a power of appointment, means power exercisable at the time n question to vest absolute ownership in the principal individually, the principal's estate, he principal's creditors, or the creditors of the principal's estate. The term includes a power f appointment not exercisable until the occurrence of a specified event, the satisfaction of an scertainable standard, or the passage of a specified period only after the occurrence of the pecified event, the satisfaction of the ascertainable standard, or the passage of the specified eriod.

(b) The term does not include a power exercisable in a fiduciary capacity or only by will.

(9) "Principal" means an individual who grants authority to an agent in a power of ttorney.

(10) "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real o personal, or legal or equitable, or any interest or right therein.

(11) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored i an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(12) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

(a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic sound, symbol, o process.

(13) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, th United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction o the United States.

(14) "Stocks and bonds" means stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and all other types of securitie and financial instruments, whether held directly, indirectly, or in any other manner. The ter does not include commodity futures contracts and call or put options on stocks or stock indexes

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-303. Applicability. This part applies to all powers of attorney except:

(1) a power to the extent it is coupled with an interest in the subject of the power, includin a power given to or for the benefit of a creditor in connection with a credit transaction;

(2) a power to make health care decisions;

(3) a proxy or other delegation to exercise voting rights or management rights with respec to an entity; and

(4) a power created on a form prescribed by a government or governmental subdivision agency, or instrumentality for a governmental purpose.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-304. Power of attorney is durable. A power of attorney created under this par is durable unless it expressly provides that it is terminated by the incapacity of the principal.

History: En. Sec. 114, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-222, MCA 2009; redes 72-31-304 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

Cross-References

Bases for civil actions, 27-1-104.

72-31-305. Execution of power of attorney. A power of attorney must be signed by th principal or in the principal's conscious presence by another individual directed by the principa to sign the principal's name on the power of attorney. A signature on a power of attorney i presumed to be genuine if the principal acknowledges the signature before a notary public o other individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-306. Validity of power of attorney. (1) A power of attorney executed in this stat on or after October 1, 2011, is valid if its execution complies with 72-31-305.

(2) A power of attorney executed in this state before October 1, 2011, is valid if its executio complied with the law of this state as it existed at the time of execution.

(3) A power of attorney executed other than in this state is valid in this state if, when th power of attorney was executed, the execution complied with:

(a) the law of the jurisdiction that determines the meaning and effect of the power o attorney pursuant to 72-31-307; or

(b) the requirements for a military power of attorney pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1044b.

(4) Except as otherwise provided by statute other than this part, a photocopy o electronically transmitted copy of an original power of attorney has the same effect as th original.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-307. Meaning and effect of power of attorney. The meaning and effect of a power of attorney is determined by the law of the jurisdiction indicated in the power of attorney and, in the absence of an indication of jurisdiction, by the law of the jurisdiction in which th power of attorney was executed.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-308. Nomination of conservator or guardian — relation of agent to ourt-appointed fiduciary. (1) In a power of attorney, a principal may nominate a conservator r guardian of the principal's estate or guardian of the principal's person for consideration by the ourt if protective proceedings for the principal's estate or person are begun after the principal xecutes the power of attorney. Except for good cause shown or disqualification, the court shall ake its appointment in accordance with the principal's most recent nomination.

(2) If, after a principal executes a power of attorney, a court appoints a conservator or uardian of the principal's estate or other fiduciary charged with the management of some or all f the principal's property, the agent is accountable to the fiduciary as well as to the principal. he power of attorney is not terminated and the agent's authority continues unless limited, uspended, or terminated by the court.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-309. When power of attorney effective. (1) A power of attorney is effective when xecuted unless the principal provides in the power of attorney that it becomes effective at a uture date or upon the occurrence of a future event or contingency.

(2) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the occurrence of a future event or ontingency, the principal, in the power of attorney, may authorize one or more persons to etermine in a writing or other record that the event or contingency has occurred.

(3) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the principal's incapacity and the rincipal has not authorized a person to determine whether the principal is incapacitated or he person authorized is unable or unwilling to make the determination, the power of attorney ecomes effective upon a determination in a writing or other record by:

(a) a physician that the principal is incapacitated within the meaning of 72-31-302(5)(a); r

(b) an attorney at law, a judge, or an appropriate governmental official that the principal s incapacitated within the meaning of 72-31-302(5)(b).

(4) A person authorized by the principal in the power of attorney to determine that the rincipal is incapacitated may act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to the ealth Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, sections 1171 through 1179 of the ocial Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and applicable regulations to obtain access to the rincipal's health care information and communicate with the principal's health care provider.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-310. Termination of power of attorney or agent's authority. (1) A power of ttorney terminates when:

(a) the principal dies;

(b) the principal becomes incapacitated if the power of attorney is not durable;

(c) the principal revokes the power of attorney;

(d) the power of attorney provides that it terminates;

(e) the purpose of the power of attorney is accomplished; or

(f) the principal revokes the agent's authority or the agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or esigns and the power of attorney does not provide for another agent to act under the power of ttorney.

(2) An agent's authority terminates when:

(a) the principal revokes the authority;

(b) the agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or resigns;

(c) an action is filed for the dissolution or annulment of the agent's marriage to the rincipal or their legal separation unless the power of attorney otherwise provides; or

(d) the power of attorney terminates.

(3) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent's authority is exercisable ntil the authority terminates under subsection (2), notwithstanding a lapse of time since the xecution of the power of attorney.

(4) Termination of an agent's authority or of a power of attorney is not effective as to the gent or another person that, without actual knowledge of the termination, acts in good faith nder the power of attorney. An act so performed, unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, inds the principal and the principal's successors in interest.

(5) Incapacity of the principal of a power of attorney that is not durable does not revoke o terminate the power of attorney as to an agent or other person that, without actual knowledg of the incapacity, acts in good faith under the power of attorney. An act so performed, unles otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal and the principal's successors in interest

(6) The execution of a power of attorney does not revoke a power of attorney previousl executed by the principal unless the subsequent power of attorney provides that the previou power of attorney is revoked or that all other powers of attorney are revoked.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-311 through 72-31-315 reserved.

72-31-316. Coagents or successor agents. (1) A principal may designate two or mor persons to act as coagents. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, each coagent ma exercise its authority independently.

(2) A principal may designate one or more successor agents to act if an agent resigns dies, becomes incapacitated, is not qualified to serve, or declines to serve. A principal may gran authority to designate one or more successor agents to an agent or other person designated b name, office, or function. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, a successor agent:

(a) has the same authority as that granted to the original agent; and

(b) may not act until all predecessor agents have resigned, died, become incapacitated, ar no longer qualified to serve, or have declined to serve.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney and subsection (4), an agen that does not participate in or conceal a breach of fiduciary duty committed by another agent including a predecessor agent, is not liable for the actions of the other agent.

(4) An agent that has actual knowledge of a breach or imminent breach of fiduciary dut by another agent shall notify the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated, take any actio reasonably appropriate in the circumstances to safeguard the principal's best interest. An agen that fails to notify the principal or take action as required by this subsection is liable for th reasonably foreseeable damages that could have been avoided if the agent had notified th principal or taken the action.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-317. Reimbursement and compensation of agent. Unless the power of attorne otherwise provides, an agent is entitled to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred o behalf of the principal and to compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-318. Agent's acceptance. Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney a person accepts appointment as an agent under a power of attorney by exercising authority o performing duties as an agent or by any other assertion or conduct indicating acceptance.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-319. Agent's duties. (1) Notwithstanding provisions in the power of attorney, a agent that has accepted appointment shall:

(a) act in accordance with the principal's reasonable expectations to the extent actuall known by the agent and, otherwise, in the principal's best interest;

(b) act in good faith; and

(c) act only within the scope of authority granted in the power of attorney.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent that has accepte appointment shall:

(a) act loyally for the principal's benefit;

(b) act so as not to create a conflict of interest that impairs the agent's ability to ac impartially in the principal's best interest;

(c) act with the care, competence, and diligence ordinarily exercised by agents in simila circumstances;

(d) keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf of th principal;

(e) cooperate with a person that has authority to make health care decisions for the rincipal to carry out the principal's reasonable expectations to the extent actually known by he agent and, otherwise, act in the principal's best interest; and

(f) attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan, to the extent actually known by the gent, if preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest based on all relevant actors, including:

(i) the value and nature of the principal's property;

(ii) the principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;

(iii) minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance, generation-skipping ransfer, and gift taxes; and

(iv) eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or regulation.

(3) An agent that acts in good faith is not liable to any beneficiary of the principal's estate lan for failure to preserve the plan.

(4) An agent that acts with care, competence, and diligence for the best interest of the rincipal is not liable solely because the agent also benefits from the act or has an individual or onflicting interest in relation to the property or affairs of the principal.

(5) If an agent is selected by the principal because of special skills or expertise possessed y the agent or in reliance on the agent's representation that the agent has special skills or xpertise, the special skills or expertise must be considered in determining whether the agent as acted with care, competence, and diligence under the circumstances.

(6) Absent a breach of duty to the principal, an agent is not liable if the value of the rincipal's property declines.

(7) An agent that exercises authority to delegate to another person the authority granted y the principal or that engages another person on behalf of the principal is not liable for an ct, error of judgment, or default of that person if the agent exercises care, competence, and iligence in selecting and monitoring the person.

(8) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent is not required to isclose receipts, disbursements, or transactions conducted on behalf of the principal unless rdered by a court or requested by the principal, a guardian, a conservator, another fiduciary cting for the principal, a governmental agency having authority to protect the welfare of the rincipal, or, upon the death of the principal, by the personal representative or successor in nterest of the principal's estate. If so requested, within 30 days the agent shall comply with the equest or provide a writing or other record substantiating why additional time is needed and hall comply with the request within an additional 30 days.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-320. Exoneration of agent. A provision in a power of attorney relieving an agent of ability for breach of duty is binding on the principal and the principal's successors in interest xcept to the extent the provision:

(1) relieves the agent of liability for breach of duty committed dishonestly, with an mproper motive, or with reckless indifference to the purposes of the power of attorney or the est interest of the principal; or

(2) was inserted as a result of an abuse of a confidential or fiduciary relationship with the rincipal.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-321. Judicial relief. (1) The following persons may petition a court to construe a ower of attorney or review the agent's conduct and grant appropriate relief:

(a) the principal or the agent;

(b) a guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary acting for the principal;

(c) a person authorized to make health care decisions for the principal;

(d) the principal's spouse, parent, or descendant;

(e) an individual who would qualify as a presumptive heir of the principal;

(f) a person named as a beneficiary to receive any property, benefit, or contractual right n the principal's death or as a beneficiary of a trust created by or for the principal that has a inancial interest in the principal's estate;

(g) a governmental agency having regulatory authority to protect the welfare of th principal;

(h) the principal's caregiver or another person that demonstrates sufficient interest in th principal's welfare; and

(i) a person asked to accept the power of attorney.

(2) Upon motion by the principal, the court shall dismiss a petition filed under this sectio unless the court finds that the principal lacks capacity to revoke the agent's authority or th power of attorney.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-322. Agent's liability. An agent that violates this part is liable to the principal o the principal's successors in interest for the amount required to:

(1) restore the value of the principal's property to what it would have been had the violatio not occurred; and

(2) reimburse the principal or the principal's successors in interest for the attorney fee and costs paid on the agent's behalf.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-323. Agent's resignation — notice. Unless the power of attorney provides different method for an agent's resignation, an agent may resign by giving notice to the principa and, if the principal is incapacitated:

(1) to the conservator or guardian, if one has been appointed for the principal, and coagent or successor agent; or

(2) if there is no person described in subsection (1), to:

(a) the principal's caregiver;

(b) another person reasonably believed by the agent to have sufficient interest in th principal's welfare; or

(c) a governmental agency having authority to protect the welfare of the principal.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-324. Acceptance of and reliance upon acknowledged power of attorney (1) For purposes of 72-31-325 and this section, "acknowledged" means purportedly verifie before a notary public or other individual authorized to take acknowledgments.

(2) A person that in good faith accepts an acknowledged power of attorney without actua knowledge that the signature is not genuine may rely upon the presumption under 72-31-305 that the signature is genuine.

(3) A person that in good faith accepts an acknowledged power of attorney without actua knowledge that the power of attorney is void, invalid, or terminated, that the purported agent' authority is void, invalid, or terminated, or that the agent is exceeding or improperly exercisin the agent's authority may rely upon the power of attorney as if the power of attorney wer genuine, valid, and still in effect, the agent's authority were genuine, valid, and still in effect and the agent had not exceeded and had properly exercised the authority.

(4) A person that is asked to accept an acknowledged power of attorney may request, an rely upon, without further investigation:

(a) an agent's certification under penalty of perjury of any factual matter concerning th principal, agent, or power of attorney;

(b) an English translation of the power of attorney if the power of attorney contains, i whole or in part, language other than English; and

(c) an opinion of counsel as to any matter of law concerning the power of attorney if th person making the request provides in a writing or other record the reason for the request.

(5) An English translation or an opinion of counsel requested under this section must b provided at the principal's expense unless the request is made more than 7 business days afte the power of attorney is presented for acceptance.

(6) For purposes of 72-31-325 and this section, a person that conducts activities through employees is without actual knowledge of a fact relating to a power of attorney, a principal, o an agent if the employee conducting the transaction involving the power of attorney is without actual knowledge of the fact.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-325. Liability for refusal to accept acknowledged power of attorney. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2):

(a) a person shall either accept an acknowledged power of attorney or request a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under 72-31-324(4) no later than 7 business days after presentation of the power of attorney for acceptance;

(b) if a person requests a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under 72-31-324(4), the person shall accept the power of attorney no later than 5 business days after receipt of the certification, translation, or opinion of counsel; and

(c) a person may not require an additional or different form of power of attorney for authority granted in the power of attorney presented.

(2) A person is not required to accept an acknowledged power of attorney if:

(a) the person is not otherwise required to engage in a transaction with the principal in the same circumstances;

(b) engaging in a transaction with the agent or the principal in the same circumstances would be inconsistent with federal law;

(c) the person has actual knowledge of the termination of the agent's authority or of the power of attorney before exercise of the power;

(d) a request for a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under 72-31-324(4) is refused;

(e) the person in good faith believes that the power is not valid or that the agent does not have the authority to perform the act requested, whether or not a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under 72-31-324(4) has been requested or provided; or

(f) the person makes or has actual knowledge that another person has made a report o the local office of the department of public health and human services stating a good faith belief that the principal may be subject to physical or financial abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment by the agent or a person acting for or with the agent.

(3) A person that refuses in violation of this section to accept an acknowledged power of attorney is subject to:

(a) a court order mandating acceptance of the power of attorney; and

(b) liability for reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in any action or proceeding that confirms the validity of the power of attorney or mandates acceptance of the power of attorney.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-326. Principles of law and equity. Unless displaced by a provision of this part, the principles of law and equity supplement this part.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-327. Laws applicable to financial institutions and entities. This part does not supersede any other law applicable to financial institutions or other entities, and the other law controls if inconsistent with this part.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-328. Remedies under other law. The remedies under this part are not exclusive and do not abrogate any right or remedy under the law of this state other than this part.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-329 through 72-31-335 reserved.

72-31-336. Authority that requires specific grant — grant of general authority. (1) An agent under a power of attorney may do the following on behalf of the principal or with the principal's property only if the power of attorney expressly grants the agent the authority and exercise of the authority is not otherwise prohibited by another agreement or instrument to which the authority or property is subject:

(a) create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos trust;

(b) make a gift;

(c) create or change rights of survivorship;

(d) create or change a beneficiary designation;

(e) delegate authority granted under the power of attorney;

(f) waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, includin a survivor benefit under a retirement plan;

(g) exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate; or

(h) disclaim property, including a power of appointment.

(2) Notwithstanding a grant of authority to do an act described in subsection (1), unles the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent that is not an ancestor, spouse, or descendan of the principal may not exercise authority under a power of attorney to create in the agen or in an individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of support an interest in th principal's property, whether by gift, right of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer or otherwise.

(3) Subject to subsections (1), (2), (4), and (5), if a power of attorney grants to an agen authority to do all acts that a principal could do, the agent has the general authority describe in 72-31-339 through 72-31-351.

(4) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, a grant of authority to make a gift i subject to 72-31-352.

(5) Subject to subsections (1), (2), and (4), if the subjects over which authority is granted i a power of attorney are similar or overlap, the broadest authority controls.

(6) Authority granted in a power of attorney is exercisable with respect to property tha the principal has when the power of attorney is executed or acquires later, whether or not th property is located in this state and whether or not the authority is exercised or the power o attorney is executed in this state.

(7) An act performed by an agent pursuant to a power of attorney has the same effect an inures to the benefit of and binds the principal and the principal's successors in interest as if th principal had performed the act.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-337. Incorporation of authority. (1) An agent has authority described i 72-31-336, 72-31-339 through 72-31-352, and this section if the power of attorney refers t general authority with respect to the descriptive term for the subjects stated in 72-31-33 through 72-31-352 or cites the section in which the authority is described.

(2) A reference in a power of attorney to general authority with respect to the descriptive term for a subject in 72-31-339 through 72-31-352 or a citation to a section of 72-31-339 through 72-31-352 incorporates the entire section as if it were set out in full in the power of attorney.

(3) A principal may modify authority incorporated by reference.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-338. Construction of authority generally. Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, by executing a power of attorney that incorporates a subject described i 72-31-339 through 72-31-352 or that grants to an agent authority to do all acts that a principa could do pursuant to 72-31-336(3), a principal authorizes the agent, with respect to that subject to:

(1) demand, receive, and obtain, by litigation or otherwise, money or another thing of valu to which the principal is, may become, or claims to be entitled and conserve, invest, disburse, o use anything so received for the purposes intended;

(2) contract in any manner with any person, on terms agreeable to the agent, to accomplish a purpose of a transaction and perform, rescind, cancel, terminate, reform, restate, release, o modify the contract or another contract made by or on behalf of the principal;

(3) execute, acknowledge, seal, file, and record any instrument or communication the agent considers desirable to accomplish a purpose of a transaction, including creating at any time a schedule listing some or all of the principal's property and attaching it to the power o attorney;

(4) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to a claim existing in favor of or against the principal or intervene in litigation relating to the claim;

(5) seek on the principal's behalf the assistance of a court or other governmental agency t carry out an act authorized by the power of attorney;

(6) engage, compensate, and discharge an attorney, accountant, discretionary investment anager, expert witness, or other advisor;

(7) prepare, execute, and file a record, report, or other document to safeguard or promote he principal's interest under a statute or regulation;

(8) communicate with any representative or employee of a government or governmental ubdivision, agency, or instrumentality on behalf of the principal;

(9) access communications intended for and communicate on behalf of the principal, hether by mail, electronic transmission, telephone, or other means; and

(10) do any other lawful act with respect to the subject and all property related to the ubject.

History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-223, MCA 2009; redes. 2-31-338 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-339. Real property. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in power of attorney granting general authority with respect to real property authorizes the gent to:

(1) demand, buy, lease, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of credit, or therwise acquire or reject an interest in real property or a right incident to real property;

(2) sell, exchange, convey, with or without covenants, representations, or warranties; uitclaim; release; surrender; retain title for security; encumber; partition; consent to partitioning; ubject to an easement or covenant; subdivide; apply for zoning or other governmental permits; lat or consent to platting; develop; grant an option concerning; lease; sublease; contribute to an ntity in exchange for an interest in that entity; or otherwise grant or dispose of an interest in eal property or a right incident to real property;

(3) pledge or mortgage an interest in real property or right incident to real property as ecurity to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt of the principal r a debt guaranteed by the principal;

(4) release, assign, satisfy, or enforce, by litigation or otherwise, a mortgage, deed of trust, onditional sale contract, encumbrance, lien, or other claim to real property that exists or is sserted;

(5) manage or conserve an interest in real property or a right incident to real property, wned or claimed to be owned by the principal, including:

(a) insuring against a liability or casualty or other loss;

(b) obtaining or regaining possession or protecting the interest or right, by litigation or therwise;

(c) paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments, or applying for nd receiving refunds in connection with them; and

(d) purchasing supplies, hiring assistance or labor, and making repairs or alterations in he real property;

(6) use, develop, alter, replace, remove, erect, or install structures or other improvements pon real property in or incident to which the principal has or claims to have an interest or ight;

(7) participate in a reorganization with respect to real property or an entity that owns an nterest in or right incident to real property and receive, hold, and act with respect to stocks and onds or other property received in a plan of reorganization, including:

(a) selling or otherwise disposing of them;

(b) exercising or selling an option, right of conversion, or similar right with respect to hem; and

(c) exercising any voting rights in person or by proxy;

(8) change the form of title of an interest in or right incident to real property; and

(9) dedicate to public use, with or without consideration, easements or other real property n which the principal has or claims to have an interest.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 116, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-202, MCA 1991; redes. 2-31-224 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-224, MCA 2009; redes. 2-31-339 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

ross-References

Transfers of real property, Title 70, ch. 20.

72-31-340. Tangible personal property. Unless the power of attorney otherwis provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to tangibl personal property authorizes the agent to:

(1) demand, buy, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of credit, o otherwise acquire or reject ownership or possession of tangible personal property or an interes in tangible personal property;

(2) sell, exchange, convey with or without covenants, representations, or warranties quitclaim, release, surrender, create a security interest in, grant options concerning, lease sublease, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property or an interest in tangible persona property;

(3) grant a security interest in tangible personal property or an interest in tangibl personal property as security to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment o a debt of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

(4) release, assign, satisfy, or enforce, by litigation or otherwise, a security interest, lien, o other claim on behalf of the principal with respect to tangible personal property or an interest i tangible personal property;

(5) manage or conserve tangible personal property or an interest in tangible persona property on behalf of the principal, including:

(a) insuring against liability or casualty or other loss;

(b) obtaining or regaining possession or protecting the property or interest, by litigation o otherwise;

(c) paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments or applying fo and receiving refunds in connection with taxes or assessments;

(d) moving the property from place to place;

(e) storing the property for hire or on a gratuitous bailment; and

(f) using and making repairs, alterations, or improvements to the property; and

(6) change the form of title of an interest in tangible personal property.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 117, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-203, MCA 1991; redes 72-31-225 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-225, MCA 2009; redes 72-31-340 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

Cross-References

Transfers of personal property — gifts, Title 70, ch. 3.

72-31-341. Stocks and bonds. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, languag in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to stocks and bonds authorize the agent to:

(1) buy, sell, and exchange stocks and bonds;

(2) establish, continue, modify, or terminate an account with respect to stocks and bonds;

(3) pledge stocks and bonds as security to borrow, pay, renew, or extend the time o payment of a debt of the principal;

(4) receive certificates and other evidences of ownership with respect to stocks and bonds and

(5) exercise voting rights with respect to stocks and bonds in person or by proxy, enter int voting trusts, and consent to limitations on the right to vote.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 118, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-204, MCA 1991; redes 72-31-226 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-226, MCA 2009; redes. 72-31-341 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

72-31-342. Commodities and options. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to commodities an options authorizes the agent to:

(1) buy, sell, exchange, assign, settle, and exercise commodity futures contracts and call o put options on stocks or stock indexes traded on a regulated option exchange; and

(2) establish, continue, modify, and terminate option accounts.

History: **En. Sec. 119, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-227, MCA 2009; redes 72-31-342 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

72-31-343. Banks and other financial institutions. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to banks and other financial institutions authorizes the agent to:

(1) continue, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement made by or on behalf of the principal;

(2) establish, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement with a bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, thrift company, brokerage firm, or other financial institution selected by the agent;

(3) contract for services available from a financial institution, including renting a safe deposit box or space in a vault;

(4) withdraw, by check, order, electronic funds transfer, or otherwise, money or property of the principal deposited with or left in the custody of a financial institution;

(5) receive statements of account, vouchers, notices, and similar documents from a financial institution and to act with respect to them;

(6) enter a safe deposit box or vault and withdraw or add to the contents;

(7) borrow money and pledge as security personal property of the principal necessary to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

(8) make, assign, draw, endorse, discount, guarantee, and negotiate promissory notes, checks, drafts, and other negotiable or nonnegotiable paper of the principal or payable to the principal or the principal's order, transfer money, receive the cash or other proceeds of those transactions, and accept a draft drawn by a person upon the principal and pay it when due;

(9) receive for the principal and act upon a sight draft, warehouse receipt, other document of title whether tangible or electronic, or other negotiable or nonnegotiable instrument;

(10) apply for, receive, and use letters of credit, credit and debit cards, electronic transaction authorizations, and traveler's checks from a financial institution and give an indemnity or other agreement in connection with letters of credit; and

(11) consent to an extension of the time of payment with respect to commercial paper or a financial transaction with a financial institution.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 120, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-205, MCA 1991; redes. 72-31-228 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-228, MCA 2009; redes. 72-31-343 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

Cross-References

Deposit in name of minor, 32-1-444.

72-31-344. Operation of entity or business. Subject to the terms of a document or an agreement governing an entity or an entity ownership interest and unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to operation of an entity or business authorizes the agent to:

(1) operate, buy, sell, enlarge, reduce, and terminate an ownership interest;

(2) perform a duty or discharge a liability and exercise in person or by proxy a right, power, privilege, or option that the principal has, may have, or claims to have;

(3) enforce the terms of an ownership agreement;

(4) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is a party because of an ownership interest;

(5) exercise in person or by proxy or enforce, by litigation or otherwise, a right, power, privilege, or option the principal has or claims to have as the holder of stocks and bonds;

(6) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is a party concerning stocks and bonds;

(7) with respect to an entity or business owned solely by the principal:

(a) continue, modify, renegotiate, extend, and terminate a contract made by or with respect to the entity or business before execution of the power of attorney;

(b) determine:

(i) the location of its operation;

(ii) the nature and extent of its business;

(iii) the methods of manufacturing, selling, merchandising, financing, accounting, and advertising employed in its operation;

(iv) the amount and types of insurance carried; and

(v) the mode of engaging, compensating, and dealing with its employees, accountants attorneys, or other advisors;

(c) change the name or form of organization under which the entity or business is operated and enter into an ownership agreement with other persons to take over all or part o the operation of the entity or business; and

(d) demand and receive money due or claimed by the principal or on the principal's behal in the operation of the entity or business and control and disburse the money in the operation o the entity or business;

(8) put additional capital into an entity or business in which the principal has an interest

(9) join in a plan of reorganization, consolidation, conversion, domestication, or merger o the entity or business;

(10) sell or liquidate all or part of an entity or business;

(11) establish the value of an entity or business under a buyout agreement to which the principal is a party;

(12) prepare, sign, file, and deliver reports, compilations of information, returns, or other papers with respect to an entity or business and make related payments; and

(13) pay, compromise, or contest taxes, assessments, fines, or penalties and perform any other act to protect the principal from illegal or unnecessary taxation, assessments, fines, or penalties with respect to an entity or business, including attempts to recover, in any manner permitted by law, money paid before or after the execution of the power of attorney.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-206, MCA 1991; redes. 72-31-229 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-229, MCA 2009; redes. 72-31-344 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

72-31-345. Insurance and annuities. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to insurance and annuities authorizes the agent to:

(1) continue, pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind, release, or terminate a contract procured by or on behalf of the principal that insures or provides an annuity to either the principal or another person, whether or not the principal is a beneficiary under the contract;

(2) procure new, different, and additional contracts of insurance and annuities for the principal and the principal's spouse, children, and other dependents and select the amount, type of insurance or annuity, and mode of payment;

(3) pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind, release, or terminate a contract of insurance or annuity procured by the agent;

(4) apply for and receive a loan secured by a contract of insurance or annuity;

(5) surrender and receive the cash surrender value on a contract of insurance or annuity;

(6) exercise an election;

(7) exercise investment power available under a contract of insurance or annuity;

(8) change the manner of paying premiums on a contract of insurance or annuity;

(9) change or convert the type of insurance or annuity with respect to which the principal has or claims to have a power described in this section;

(10) apply for and procure a benefit or assistance under a statute or regulation to guarantee or pay premiums of a contract of insurance on the life of the principal;

(11) collect, sell, assign, hypothecate, borrow against, or pledge the interest of the principal in a contract of insurance or annuity; and

(12) pay from proceeds or otherwise, compromise or contest, and apply for refunds in connection with a tax or assessment levied by a taxing authority with respect to a contract of insurance or annuity or its proceeds or liability accruing by reason of the tax or assessment.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-207, MCA 1991; redes. 72-31-230 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-230, MCA 2009; redes. 72-31-345 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

Cross-References

Insurance, Title 33.

72-31-346. Estates, trusts, and other beneficial interests. (1) In this section, "estate, rust, or other beneficial interest" means a trust, probate estate, guardianship, conservatorship, escrow, or custodianship or a fund from which the principal is, may become, or claims to be entitled to a share or payment.

(2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to an estate, trust, or other beneficial interest authorizes he agent to:

(a) accept, receive, receipt for, sell, assign, pledge, or exchange a share in or payment from the fund;

(b) demand or obtain money or another thing of value to which the principal is, may become, or claims to be entitled by reason of the fund, by litigation or otherwise;

(c) exercise for the benefit of the principal a presently exercisable general power of appointment held by the principal;

(d) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to ascertain the meaning, validity, or effect of a deed, will, declaration of trust, or other instrument or transaction affecting the nterest of the principal;

(e) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to remove, substitute, or surcharge a fiduciary;

(f) conserve, invest, disburse, or use anything received for an authorized purpose; and

(g) transfer an interest of the principal in real property, stocks and bonds, accounts with inancial institutions or securities intermediaries, insurance, annuities, and other property to the trustee of a revocable trust created by the principal as settlor.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-208, MCA 1991; redes. 72-31-231 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-231, MCA 2009; redes. 72-31-346 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-347. Claims and litigation. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, anguage in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to claims and litigation authorizes the agent to:

(1) assert and maintain before a court or administrative agency a claim, claim for relief, cause of action, counterclaim, offset, recoupment, or defense, including an action to recover property or other thing of value, recover damages sustained by the principal, eliminate or modify tax liability, or seek an injunction, specific performance, or other relief;

(2) bring an action to determine adverse claims or intervene or otherwise participate in litigation;

(3) seek an attachment, garnishment, order of arrest, or other preliminary, provisional, or intermediate relief and use an available procedure to effect or satisfy a judgment, order, or decree;

(4) make or accept a tender, offer of judgment, or admission of facts, submit a controversy on an agreed statement of facts, consent to examination, and bind the principal in litigation;

(5) submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, and propose or accept a compromise;

(6) waive the issuance and service of process upon the principal, accept service of process, appear for the principal, designate persons upon which process directed to the principal may be served, execute and file or deliver stipulations on the principal's behalf, verify pleadings, seek appellate review, procure and give surety and indemnity bonds, contract and pay for the preparation and printing of records and briefs, and receive, execute, and file or deliver a consent, waiver, release, confession of judgment, satisfaction of judgment, notice, agreement, or other nstrument in connection with the prosecution, settlement, or defense of a claim or litigation;

(7) act for the principal with respect to bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or involuntary, concerning the principal or some other person, or with respect to a reorganization, receivership, or application for the appointment of a receiver or trustee that affects an interest of the principal in property or other thing of value;

(8) pay a judgment, award, or order against the principal or a settlement made in connection with a claim or litigation; and

(9) receive money or other thing of value paid in settlement of or as proceeds of a claim o litigation.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-211, MCA 1991; redes 72-31-232 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-232, MCA 2009; redes 72-31-347 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-348. Personal and family maintenance. (1) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect t personal and family maintenance authorizes the agent to:

(a) perform the acts necessary to maintain the customary standard of living of the principa and the following individuals, whether living when the power of attorney is executed or late born:

(i) the principal's children;

(ii) other individuals legally entitled to be supported by the principal; and

(iii) the individuals whom the principal has customarily supported or indicated the inten to support;

(b) make periodic payments of child support and other family maintenance required by a court or governmental agency or an agreement to which the principal is a party;

(c) provide living quarters for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a) by:

(i) purchase, lease, or other contract; or

(ii) paying the operating costs, including interest, amortization payments, repairs, and taxes, on premises owned by the principal or occupied by those individuals;

(d) provide for normal domestic help, usual vacations and travel expenses, and funds for shelter, clothing, food, appropriate education, including postsecondary and vocational education and other current living costs for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);

(e) pay expenses for necessary health care and custodial care for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);

(f) act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, sections 1171 through 1179 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq., and applicable regulations, in making decisions related to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care consented to by the principa or anyone authorized under the law of this state to consent to health care on behalf of the principal;

(g) continue any provision made by the principal for automobiles or other means of transportation, including registering, licensing, insuring, and replacing them, for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);

(h) maintain credit and debit accounts for the convenience of the individuals described in subsection (1)(a) and open new accounts; and

(i) continue payments incidental to the membership or affiliation of the principal in a religious institution, club, society, order, or other organization or continue contributions to those organizations.

(2) Authority with respect to personal and family maintenance is neither dependent upon nor limited by authority that an agent may or may not have with respect to gifts under this part

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 580, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 125, Ch. 494, L. 1993; Sec. 72-31-212, MCA 1991; redes 72-31-233 by Code Commissioner, 1993; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-233, MCA 2009; redes 72-31-348 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-349. Benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service. (1) In this section, "benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service" means any benefit, program, or assistance provided under a statute or regulation, including social security medicare, and medicaid.

(2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service authorizes the agent to:

(a) execute vouchers in the name of the principal for allowances and reimbursements payable by the United States or a foreign government or by a state or subdivision of a state to the principal, including allowances and reimbursements for transportation of the individuals described in 72-31-348(1)(a), and for shipment of their household effects;

(b) take possession and order the removal and shipment of property of the principal from post, warehouse, depot, dock, or other place of storage or safekeeping, either governmental r private, and execute and deliver a release, voucher, receipt, bill of lading, shipping ticket, ertificate, or other instrument for that purpose;

(c) enroll in, apply for, select, reject, change, amend, or discontinue, on the principal's ehalf, a benefit or program;

(d) prepare, file, and maintain a claim of the principal for a benefit or assistance, financial r otherwise, to which the principal may be entitled to receive under a statute or regulation;

(e) initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or ropose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation concerning any benefit or assistance he principal may be entitled to receive under a statute or regulation; and

(f) receive the financial proceeds of a claim described in subsection (2)(d) and conserve, nvest, disburse, or use for a lawful purpose anything so received.

History: En. Sec. 126, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-234, MCA 2009; redes. 2-31-349 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-350. Retirement plans. (1) In this section, "retirement plan" means a plan or ccount created by an employer, the principal, or another individual to provide retirement enefits or deferred compensation of which the principal is a participant, beneficiary, or owner, ncluding a plan or account under the following sections of the Internal Revenue Code:

(a) an individual retirement account under section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 .S.C. 408;

(b) a Roth individual retirement account under section 408A of the Internal Revenue ode, 26 U.S.C. 408A;

(c) a deemed individual retirement account under section 408(q) of the Internal Revenue ode, 26 U.S.C. 408(q);

(d) an annuity or mutual fund custodial account under section 403(b) of the Internal evenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 403(b);

(e) a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other retirement plan qualified under section 01(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 401(a);

(f) a deferred compensation plan under section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 .S.C. 457(b); and

(g) a nonqualified deferred compensation plan under section 409A of the Internal Revenue ode, 26 U.S.C. 409A.

(2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney ranting general authority with respect to retirement plans authorizes the agent to:

(a) select the form and timing of payments under a retirement plan and withdraw benefits rom a plan;

(b) make a rollover, including a direct trustee-to-trustee rollover, of benefits from one etirement plan to another;

(c) establish a retirement plan in the principal's name;

(d) make contributions to a retirement plan;

(e) exercise investment powers available under a retirement plan; and

(f) borrow from, sell assets to, and purchase assets from a retirement plan.

History: En. Sec. 127, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-235, MCA 2009; redes. 2-31-350 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

72-31-351. Taxes. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of ttorney granting general authority with respect to taxes authorizes the agent to:

(1) prepare, sign, and file federal, state, local, and foreign income, gift, payroll, property, ederal Insurance Contributions Act, and other tax returns, claims for refunds, requests for xtension of time, petitions regarding tax matters, and other tax-related documents, including eceipts, offers, waivers, consents, including consents and agreements under section 2032A of he Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2032A, closing agreements, and any power of attorney equired by the internal revenue service or other taxing authority with respect to a tax year pon which the statute of limitations has not run and the following 25 tax years;

(2) pay taxes due, collect refunds, post bonds, receive confidential information, and contest eficiencies determined by the internal revenue service or other taxing authority;

(3) exercise any election available to the principal under federal, state, local, or foreign ta law; and

(4) act for the principal in all tax matters for all periods before the internal revenue servic or other taxing authority.

History: En. Sec. 128, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-236, MCA 2009; rede 72-31-351 by Code Commissioner, 2011.

Cross-References

Taxation, Title 15.

72-31-352. Gifts. (1) In this section, a gift "for the benefit of" a person includes a gift to trust, an account under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, Title 72, chapter 26, and a tuitio savings account or prepaid tuition plan under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, 2 U.S.C. 529.

(2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorne granting general authority with respect to gifts authorizes the agent only to:

(a) make outright to or for the benefit of a person, a gift of any of the principal's property including by the exercise of a presently exercisable general power of appointment held by th principal, in an amount per donee not to exceed the annual dollar limits of the federal gift ta exclusion under section 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2503(b), without regar to whether the federal gift tax exclusion applies to the gift, or if the principal's spouse agrees t consent to a split gift pursuant to section 2513 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2513, i an amount per donee not to exceed twice the annual federal gift tax exclusion limit; and

(b) consent, pursuant to section 2513 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2513, t the splitting of a gift made by the principal's spouse in an amount per donee not to exceed th aggregate annual gift tax exclusions for both spouses.

(3) An agent may make a gift of the principal's property only as the agent determines i consistent with the principal's objectives if actually known by the agent and, if unknown, as th agent determines is consistent with the principal's best interest based on all relevant factors including:

(a) the value and nature of the principal's property;

(b) the principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;

(c) minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance, generation-skippin transfer, and gift taxes;

(d) eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or regulation; and

(e) the principal's personal history of making or joining in making gifts.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 109, L. 2011.

72-31-353. Statutory form power of attorney. A document substantially in th following form may be used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the meanin and effect prescribed by this part.

MONTANA STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This power of attorney authorizes another person (your agent) to make decisions concernin your property for you (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions and act wit respect to your property (including your money) whether or not you are able to act for yourself The meaning of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained in the Uniform Power o Attorney Act, Title 72, chapter 31, part 3.

This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to make health care decisions for you.

You should select someone you trust to serve as your agent. Unless you specify otherwise generally the agent's authority will continue until you die or revoke the power of attorney or th agent resigns or is unable to act for you.

Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless you state otherwise in the Specia Instructions.

This form provides for designation of one agent. If you wish to name more than one agent you may name a coagent in the Special Instructions. Coagents are not required to act togethe unless you include that requirement in the Special Instructions.

If your agent is unable or unwilling to act for you, your power of attorney will end unless you have named a successor agent. You may also name a second successor agent.

This power of attorney becomes effective immediately unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

If you have questions about the power of attorney or the authority you are granting to your agent, you should seek legal advice before signing this form.

DESIGNATION OF AGENT

....

(Name of Principal)
name the following person as my agent:
Name of Agent: ....
Agent's Address:..
Agent's Telephone Number:...............................

DESIGNATION OF SUCCESSOR AGENT(S) (OPTIONAL)

If my agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my successor agent:
Name of Successor Agent:...............................
Successor Agent's Address:.............................
Successor Agent's Telephone Number:....................

If my successor agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my second successor agent:
Name of Second Successor Agent:.........................
Second Successor Agent's Address:.......................
Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number:................

GRANT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY

I grant my agent and any successor agent general authority to act for me with respect to the following subjects as defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, Title 72, chapter 31, part 3:

(INITIAL each subject you want to include in the agent's general authority. If you wish to grant general authority over all of the subjects you may initial "All Preceding Subjects" instead of initialing each subject.)

...) Real Property
...) Tangible Personal Property
...) Stocks and Bonds
...) Commodities and Options
...) Banks and Other Financial Institutions
...) Operation of Entity or Business
...) Insurance and Annuities
...) Estates, Trusts, and Other Beneficial Interests
...) Claims and Litigation
...) Personal and Family Maintenance
...) Benefits from Governmental Programs or Civil or Military Service
...) Retirement Plans
...) Taxes
...) All Preceding Subjects

LIMITATION ON AGENT'S AUTHORITY

An agent that is not my ancestor, spouse, or descendant MAY NOT use my property to benefit the agent or a person to whom the agent owes an obligation of support unless I have included that authority in the Special Instructions.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)

You may give special instructions on the following lines:

....
....
....

EFFECTIVE DATE

This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I have stated otherwise in the Specia Instructions.

NOMINATION OF CONSERVATOR OR GUARDIAN (OPTIONAL)

If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a conservator or guardian of my estate o guardian of my person, I nominate the following person(s) for appointment:
Name of Nominee for conservator or guardian of my estate: ....
Nominee's Address:...
Nominee's Telephone Number:.....................................
Name of Nominee for guardian of my person: ....
Nominee's Address: ....
Nominee's Telephone Number: ....

RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY

Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the validity of this power of attorney or copy of it unless that person knows it has terminated or is invalid.

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

....
Your Signature Date
....
Your Name Printed
....
Your Address
....
Your Telephone Number
State of ....
County of...............................
This document was acknowledged before me on
.......................,
(Date)
by....................................
(Name of Principal)
.... (Seal, if any)
Signature of Notary
My commission expires:.......................
This document prepared by:
....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AGENT

Agent's Duties

When you accept the authority granted under this power of attorney, a special lega relationship is created between you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you lega duties that continue until you resign or the power of attorney is terminated or revoked. You must:

(1) do what you know the principal reasonably expects you to do with the principal' property or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, act in the principal's best interest;
(2) act in good faith;
(3) do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power of attorney; and
(4) disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act for the principal by writing o printing the name of the principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the followin manner: (Principal's Name) by (Your Signature) as Agent

Unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise, you must also:
(1) act loyally for the principal's benefit;
(2) avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act in the principal's best interest;

(3) act with care, competence, and diligence;

(4) keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf of the rincipal;

(5) cooperate with any person that has authority to make health care decisions for the rincipal to do what you know the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not know the rincipal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest; and

(6) attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you know the plan and preserving the lan is consistent with the principal's best interest.

Termination of Agent's Authority

You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you learn of any event that terminates this ower of attorney or your authority under this power of attorney. Events that terminate a power f attorney or your authority to act under a power of attorney include:

(1) death of the principal;

(2) the principal's revocation of the power of attorney or your authority;

(3) the occurrence of a termination event stated in the power of attorney;

(4) the purpose of the power of attorney is fully accomplished; or

(5) if you are married to the principal, a legal action is filed with a court to end your arriage, or for your legal separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney tate that such an action will not terminate your authority.

Liability of Agent

The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney ct, Title 72, chapter 31, part 3. If you violate the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, Title 72, hapter 31, part 3, or act outside the authority granted, you may be liable for any damages aused by your violation.

If there is anything about this document or your duties that you do not understand, you hould seek legal advice.

History: **En. Sec. 44, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-354. Agent's certification. The following optional form may be used by an agent to ertify facts concerning a power of attorney.

AGENT'S CERTIFICATION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND AGENT'S AUTHORITY

tate of ....

ounty of....................................

I, ... (Name of Agent), certify under penalty of perjury that ....(Name of Principal) granted me authority as an agent or successor agent in a power f attorney dated ....

I further certify that to my knowledge:

(1) the principal is alive and has not revoked the power of attorney or my authority to act nder the power of attorney and the power of attorney and my authority to act under the power f attorney have not terminated;

(2) if the power of attorney was drafted to become effective upon the happening of an event r contingency, the event or contingency has occurred;

(3) if I was named as a successor agent, the prior agent is no longer able or willing to serve; nd

(4) ....

(Insert other relevant statements)

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

....

gent's Signature Date

....

gent's Name Printed

....

gent's Address

....

Agent's Telephone Number
This document was acknowledged before me on............,
(Date)
by................................
(Name of Agent) .... (Seal, if any)
Signature of Notary
My commission expires: ....
This document prepared by:
....

History: **En. Sec. 45, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-355 through 72-31-364 reserved.

72-31-365. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construin this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law wit respect to its subject matter among the states that enact it.

History: **En. Sec. 130, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 109, L. 2011; Sec. 72-31-238, MCA 2009; rede 72-31-365 by Code Commissioner, 2011.**

72-31-366. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerc Act. This part modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal Electronic Signatures in Globa and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersed section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notice described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: **En. Sec. 47, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

72-31-367. Effect on existing powers of attorney. Except as otherwise provided in thi part, on October 1, 2011:

(1) this part applies to a power of attorney created before, on, or after October 1, 2011 unless it is a health care power of attorney;

(2) this part applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney commenced o or after October 1, 2011, unless it is a health care power of attorney;

(3) this part applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney commence before October 1, 2011, unless the court finds that application of a provision of this part woul substantially interfere with the effective conduct of the judicial proceeding or prejudice th rights of a party, in which case that provision does not apply and the superseded law applies and

(4) an act done before October 1, 2011, is not affected by this part.

History: **En. Sec. 48, Ch. 109, L. 2011.**

Part 4
Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act

72-31-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Acces to Digital Assets Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-402. Definitions. As used in this part:

(1) "Account" means an arrangement under a terms-of-service agreement in which custodian carries, maintains, processes, receives, or stores a digital asset of the user or provide goods or services to the user.

(2) "Agent" means an attorney-in-fact granted authority under a durable or nondurabl power of attorney.

(3) "Carries" means engages in the transmission of an electronic communication.

(4) "Catalogue of electronic communications" means information that identifies eac person with which a user has had an electronic communication, the time and date of th communication, and the electronic address of the person.

(5) "Conservator" means a person appointed by a court to manage the estate of a livin individual.

(6) "Content of an electronic communication" means information concerning the substance r meaning of the communication which:

(a) has been sent or received by a user;

(b) is in electronic storage by a custodian providing an electronic-communication service o the public or is carried or maintained by a custodian providing a remote-computing service to he public; and

(c) is not readily accessible to the public.

(7) "Court" means the district court having jurisdiction in matters relating to the content f this part.

(8) "Custodian" means a person that carries, maintains, processes, receives, or stores a ligital asset of a user.

(9) "Designated recipient" means a person chosen by a user using an online tool to dminister digital assets of the user.

(10) "Digital asset" means an electronic record in which an individual has a right or interest. he term does not include an underlying asset or liability unless the asset or liability is itself an lectronic record.

(11) "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, ptical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

(12) "Electronic communication" has the meaning set forth in 18 U.S.C. 2510(12), as mended.

(13) "Electronic-communication service" means a custodian that provides to a user the bility to send or receive an electronic communication.

(14) "Fiduciary" means an original, additional, or successor personal representative, onservator, agent, or trustee.

(15) "Information" means data, text, images, videos, sounds, codes, computer programs, oftware, databases, or the like.

(16) "Online tool" means an electronic service provided by a custodian that allows the user, n an agreement distinct from the terms-of-service agreement between the custodian and user, o provide directions for disclosure or nondisclosure of digital assets to a third person.

(17) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public corporation, overnment or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal entity.

(18) "Personal representative" means an executor, administrator, special administrator, or erson that performs substantially the same function under law of this state other than this art.

(19) "Power of attorney" means a record that grants an agent authority to act in the place of principal.

(20) "Principal" means an individual who grants authority to an agent in a power of ttorney.

(21) "Protected person" means an individual for whom a conservator has been appointed. he term includes an individual for whom an application for the appointment of a conservator s pending.

(22) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in n electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(23) "Remote-computing service" means a custodian that provides to a user omputer-processing services or the storage of digital assets by means of an electronic ommunications system, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2510(14), as amended.

(24) "Terms-of-service agreement" means an agreement that controls the relationship etween a user and a custodian.

(25) "Trustee" means a fiduciary with legal title to property under an agreement or leclaration that creates a beneficial interest in another. The term includes a successor trustee.

(26) "User" means a person that has an account with a custodian.

(27) "Will" includes a codicil, testamentary instrument that only appoints an executor, and nstrument that revokes or revises a testamentary instrument.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-403. User direction for disclosure of digital assets. (1) A user may use a online tool to direct the custodian to disclose to a designated recipient or not to disclose some o all of the user's digital assets, including the content of electronic communications. If the onlin tool allows the user to modify or delete a direction at all times, a direction regarding disclosur using an online tool overrides a contrary direction by the user in a will, trust, power of attorney or other record.

(2) If a user has not used an online tool to give direction under subsection (1) or if th custodian has not provided an online tool, the user may allow or prohibit in a will, trust, powe of attorney, or other record, disclosure to a fiduciary of some or all of the user's digital assets including the content of electronic communications sent or received by the user.

(3) A user's direction under subsection (1) or (2) overrides a contrary provision in terms-of-service agreement that does not require the user to act affirmatively and distinctl from the user's assent to the terms of service.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-404. Terms-of-service agreement. (1) This part does not change or impair a righ of a custodian or a user under a terms-of-service agreement to access and use digital assets o the user.

(2) This part does not give a fiduciary or designated recipient any new or expanded right other than those held by the user for whom, or for whose estate, the fiduciary or designate recipient acts or represents.

(3) A fiduciary's or designated recipient's access to digital assets may be modified o eliminated by a user, by federal law, or by a terms-of-service agreement if the user has no provided direction under 72-31-403.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-405. Procedure for disclosing digital assets. (1) When disclosing digital asset of a user under this part, the custodian may at its sole discretion:

(a) grant a fiduciary or designated recipient full access to the user's account;

(b) grant a fiduciary or designated recipient partial access to the user's account sufficien to perform the tasks with which the fiduciary or designated recipient is charged; or

(c) provide a fiduciary or designated recipient a copy in a record of any digital asset that on the date the custodian received the request for disclosure, the user could have accessed if th user were alive and had full capacity and access to the account.

(2) A custodian may assess a reasonable administrative charge for the cost of disclosin digital assets under this part.

(3) A custodian need not disclose under this part a digital asset deleted by a user.

(4) If a user directs or a fiduciary requests a custodian to disclose under this part some but not all, of the user's digital assets, the custodian need not disclose the assets if segregatio of the assets would impose an undue burden on the custodian. If the custodian believes th direction or request imposes an undue burden, the custodian or fiduciary may seek an orde from the court to disclose:

(a) a subset limited by date of the user's digital assets;

(b) all of the user's digital assets to the fiduciary or designated recipient;

(c) none of the user's digital assets; or

(d) all of the user's digital assets to the court for review in camera.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-406. Disclosure of content of electronic communications of deceased user. If a deceased user consented or a court directs disclosure of the contents of electroni communications of the user, the custodian shall disclose to the personal representative of the estate of the user the content of an electronic communication sent or received by the user if the representative gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) a certified copy of the death certificate of the user;

(3) a certified copy of the letter of appointment of the representative or a collection o personal property affidavit or court order;

(4) unless the user provided direction using an online tool, a copy of the user's will, trust, ower of attorney, or other record evidencing the user's consent to disclosure of the content of lectronic communications; and

(5) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigned y the custodian to identify the user's account;

(b) evidence linking the account to the user; or

(c) a finding by the court that:

(i) the user had a specific account with the custodian, identifiable by the information pecified in subsection (5)(a);

(ii) disclosure of the content of electronic communications of the user would not violate 18 .S.C. 2701 et seq., as amended, 47 U.S.C. 222, as amended, or other applicable law;

(iii) unless the user provided direction using an online tool, the user consented to disclosure f the content of electronic communications; or

(iv) disclosure of the content of electronic communications of the user is reasonably ecessary for administration of the estate.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-407. Disclosure of other digital assets of deceased user. Unless the user rohibited disclosure of digital assets or the court directs otherwise, a custodian shall disclose o the personal representative of the estate of a deceased user a catalogue of electronic ommunications sent or received by the user and digital assets, other than the content of lectronic communications, of the user, if the representative gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) a certified copy of the death certificate of the user;

(3) a certified copy of the letter of appointment of the representative or a collection of ersonal property affidavit or court order; and

(4) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigned y the custodian to identify the user's account;

(b) evidence linking the account to the user;

(c) an affidavit stating that disclosure of the user's digital assets is reasonably necessary or administration of the estate; or

(d) a finding by the court that:

(i) the user had a specific account with the custodian, identifiable by the information pecified in subsection (4)(a); or

(ii) disclosure of the user's digital assets is reasonably necessary for administration of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-408. Disclosure of content of electronic communications of principal. To the xtent a power of attorney expressly grants an agent authority over the content of electronic ommunications sent or received by the principal and unless directed otherwise by the principal r the court, a custodian shall disclose to the agent the content if the agent gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) an original or copy of the power of attorney expressly granting the agent authority over he content of electronic communications of the principal;

(3) a certification by the agent, under penalty of perjury, that the power of attorney is in ffect; and

(4) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigned y the custodian to identify the principal's account; or

(b) evidence linking the account to the principal.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-409. Disclosure of other digital assets of principal. Unless otherwise ordered y the court, directed by the principal, or provided by a power of attorney, a custodian shall isclose to an agent with specific authority over digital assets or general authority to act on behalf of a principal a catalogue of electronic communications sent or received by the principa and digital assets, other than the content of electronic communications, of the principal if th agent gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) an original or a copy of the power of attorney that gives the agent specific authorit over digital assets or general authority to act on behalf of the principal;

(3) a certification by the agent, under penalty of perjury, that the power of attorney is i effect; and

(4) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigne by the custodian to identify the principal's account; or

(b) evidence linking the account to the principal.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-410. Disclosure of digital assets held in trust when trustee is original user Unless otherwise ordered by the court or provided in a trust, a custodian shall disclose to trustee that is an original user of an account any digital asset of the account held in trust including a catalogue of electronic communications of the trustee and the content of electroni communications.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-411. Disclosure of contents of electronic communications held in trus when trustee not original user. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, directed by the user or provided in a trust, a custodian shall disclose to a trustee that is not an original user of a account the content of an electronic communication sent or received by an original or successo user and carried, maintained, processed, received, or stored by the custodian in the account o the trust if the trustee gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) a certified copy of the trust instrument or a certification of the trust under 72-38-101 that includes consent to disclosure of the content of electronic communications to the trustee;

(3) a certification by the trustee, under penalty of perjury, that the trust exists and th trustee is a currently acting trustee of the trust; and

(4) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigne by the custodian to identify the trust's account; or

(b) evidence linking the account to the trust.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-412. Disclosure of other digital assets held in trust when trustee not origina user. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, directed by the user, or provided in a trust, custodian shall disclose, to a trustee that is not an original user of an account, a catalogue o electronic communications sent or received by an original or successor user and stored, carried or maintained by the custodian in an account of the trust and any digital assets, other than th content of electronic communications, in which the trust has a right or interest if the truste gives the custodian:

(1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(2) a certified copy of the trust instrument or a certification of the trust under 72-38-1013

(3) a certification by the trustee, under penalty of perjury, that the trust exists and th trustee is a currently acting trustee of the trust; and

(4) if requested by the custodian:

(a) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigne by the custodian to identify the trust's account; or

(b) evidence linking the account to the trust.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-413. Disclosure of digital assets to conservator of protected person. (1) Afte an opportunity for a hearing under 72-5-408, the court may grant a conservator access to th digital assets of a protected person.

(2) Unless otherwise ordered by the court or directed by the user, a custodian shall disclose o a conservator the catalogue of electronic communications sent or received by a protected erson and any digital assets, other than the content of electronic communications, in which the rotected person has a right or interest if the conservator gives the custodian:

(a) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic form;

(b) a certified copy of the court order that gives the conservator authority over the digital ssets of the protected person; and

(c) if requested by the custodian:

(i) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigned y the custodian to identify the account of the protected person; or

(ii) evidence linking the account to the protected person.

(3) A conservator with general authority to manage the assets of a protected person may equest a custodian of the digital assets of the protected person to suspend or terminate an ccount of the protected person for good cause. A request made under this section must be ccompanied by a certified copy of the court order giving the conservator authority over the rotected person's property.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-414. Fiduciary duty and authority. (1) The legal duties imposed on a fiduciary harged with managing tangible property apply to the management of digital assets, including:

(a) the duty of care;

(b) the duty of loyalty; and

(c) the duty of confidentiality.

(2) A fiduciary's or designated recipient's authority with respect to a digital asset of a user:

(a) except as otherwise provided in 72-31-405, is subject to the applicable terms of service;

(b) is subject to other applicable law, including copyright law;

(c) in the case of a fiduciary, is limited by the scope of the fiduciary's duties; and

(d) may not be used to impersonate the user.

(3) A fiduciary with authority over the property of a decedent, protected person, principal, r settlor has the right to access any digital asset in which the decedent, protected person, rincipal, or settlor had a right or interest and that is not held by a custodian or subject to a erms-of-service agreement.

(4) A fiduciary acting within the scope of the fiduciary's duties is an authorized user of he property of the decedent, protected person, principal, or settlor for the purpose of applicable omputer-fraud and unauthorized-computer-access laws, including 45-6-311.

(5) A fiduciary with authority over the tangible, personal property of a decedent, protected erson, principal, or settlor:

(a) has the right to access the property and any digital asset stored in it; and

(b) isanauthorizeduserforthepurposeofcomputer-fraudandunauthorized-computer-access aws, including 45-6-311.

(6) A custodian may disclose information in an account to a fiduciary of the user when he information is required to terminate an account used to access digital assets licensed to the ser.

(7) A fiduciary of a user may request a custodian to terminate the user's account. A request or termination must be in writing, in either physical or electronic form, and accompanied by:

(a) if the user is deceased, a certified copy of the death certificate of the user;

(b) a certified copy of the letter of appointment of the representative or a collection of ersonal property affidavit or court order, court order, power of attorney, or trust giving the iduciary authority over the account; and

(c) if requested by the custodian:

(i) a number, user name, address, or other unique subscriber or account identifier assigned y the custodian to identify the user's account;

(ii) evidence linking the account to the user; or

(iii) a finding by the court that the user had a specific account with the custodian, dentifiable by the information specified in subsection (7)(c)(i).

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 286, L. 2017.**

72-31-415. Custodian compliance and immunity. (1) Not later than 60 days afte receipt of the information required under 72-31-406 through 72-31-414, a custodian shall compl with a request under this part from a fiduciary or designated recipient to disclose digital asset or terminate an account. If the custodian fails to comply, the fiduciary or designated recipien may apply to the court for an order directing compliance.

(2) An order under subsection (1) directing compliance must contain a finding tha compliance is not in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2702, as amended.

(3) A custodian may notify the user that a request for disclosure or to terminate an accoun was made under this part.

(4) A custodian may deny a request under this part from a fiduciary or designated recipien for disclosure of digital assets or to terminate an account if the custodian is aware of any lawfu access to the account following the receipt of the fiduciary's request.

(5) This part does not limit a custodian's ability to obtain or require a fiduciary o designated recipient requesting disclosure or termination under this part to obtain a court orde which:

(a) specifies that an account belongs to the protected person or principal;

(b) specifies that there is sufficient consent from the protected person or principal t support the requested disclosure; and

(c) contains a finding required by law other than this part.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), a custodian and its officers, employees, an agents are immune from liability for an act or omission done in good faith in compliance wit this part.

(b) The immunity in subsection (6)(a) does not apply to actions against the state or political subdivision of the state.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-416. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construin this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law wit respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

72-31-417. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerc Act. This part modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and Nationa Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described i section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 286, L. 2017.

CHAPTER 32
RESERVED

CHAPTER 33
TRUST CODE
GENERAL PROVISIONS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — General Provisions (Repealed)

Part 2 — Creation and Validity of Trusts Resulting and Constructive Trusts (Repealed)

Part 3 — Restrictions on Voluntary and Involuntary Transfers (Repealed)

Part 4 — Modification and Termination of Trusts (Repealed)

Part 5 — Charitable Trusts (Repealed)

Part 6 — Trustees (Repealed)

Part 7 — Beneficiaries (Repealed)

Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-33-101. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-102. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-103. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-104. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-105. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-106. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-107. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-108. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 688, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 18, L. 1995.**

Part 2
Creation and Validity of Trusts
Resulting and Constructive Trusts
(Repealed)

72-33-201. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-202. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-203. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-204. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-205. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-206. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-207. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-208. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-209. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-210. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-33-211. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 290, L. 1999.**

72-33-212 through 72-33-215 reserved.

72-33-216. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2477, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

72-33-217. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2478, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-33-218. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-219. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2479, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-33-220. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 3
Restrictions on Voluntary and Involuntary Transfers (Repealed)

72-33-301. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-302. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-303. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-304. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-305. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-306. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2480, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 4
Modification and Termination of Trusts (Repealed)

72-33-401. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-402. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-403. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-404 and 72-33-405 reserved.

72-33-406. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-407. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-408. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-409. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-410 reserved.

72-33-411. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-412. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-413. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-414. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-415. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 41, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-416. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 5
Charitable Trusts
(Repealed)

72-33-501. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-502. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-503. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 45, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2481, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-33-504. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 6
Trustees
(Repealed)

72-33-601. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-602. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 48, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-603. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-604. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-605 through 72-33-610 reserved.

72-33-611. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 51, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-612. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-613. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-614 and 72-33-615 reserved.

72-33-616. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-617. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-618. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-619. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 57, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-620. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 58, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-621. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 59, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-622. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 60, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-623 through 72-33-625 reserved.

72-33-626. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-627. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-628. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-629. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 64, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-630. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 65, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-631. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 66, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-632. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 67, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 7
Beneficiaries
(Repealed)

72-33-701. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 68, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-33-702. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 69, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-703. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 70, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-704. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 71, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-33-705. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 72, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 34
PRINCIPAL AND INCOME

Part 1 — Duties of Trustees (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 2 — Duties of Trustees of Private Foundations, Charitable Trusts, and Split-Interest Trusts (Repealed)

Part 3 — Powers of Trustees (Repealed)

Part 4 — Montana Uniform Principal and Income Act

72-34-401. Repealed.
72-34-402. Repealed.
72-34-403. Repealed.
72-34-404. Repealed.
72-34-405. Repealed.
72-34-406. Repealed.
72-34-407. Repealed.
72-34-408. Repealed.
72-34-409. Repealed.
72-34-410. Repealed.
72-34-411. Repealed.

72-34-412. Repealed.
72-34-413 through 72-34-415 reserved.
72-34-416. Repealed.
72-34-417 through 72-34-420 reserved.
72-34-421. Short title.
72-34-422. Definitions.
72-34-423. Allocation between principal and income — impartial exercise of discretion.
72-34-424. Adjustments between principal and income.
72-34-425. Notice of proposed action — objections by beneficiary — liability of trustee — proceedings.
72-34-426. Proceedings relating to adjustments — remedy.
72-34-427. Application of part.
72-34-428. Rules applicable after decedent's death or termination of income interest.
72-34-429. Beneficiary's portion of net income — maintenance of records — distribution date.
72-34-430. Beneficiary's entitlement to net income — assets subject to trust — assets subject to successive income interest — termination of income interest.
72-34-431. Allocation of income receipt or disbursement.
72-34-432. Undistributed income — definition — payment to beneficiary.
72-34-433. Allocation of receipts to income or principal — entity defined.
72-34-434. Allocation of amounts received from specified trusts or estates.
72-34-435. Separate accounting records for business or other activity.
72-34-436. Amounts allocated to principal.
72-34-437. Amounts received from rental property allocation.
72-34-438. Interest on obligation to pay money — allocation.
72-34-439. Life insurance policy proceeds — proceeds of contracts insuring against certain losses — allocation.
72-34-440. Insubstantial allocation — allocation of entire amount to principal — exceptions.
72-34-441. Payments characterized as interest or dividend — allocation to income — allocation of other payments — excess allocation to income in order to obtain estate tax marital deduction.
72-34-442. Receipts from liquidating assets — allocation.
72-34-443. Receipts from mineral interests and other natural resources — allocation.
72-34-444. Receipts from sale of timber and related products — allocation.
72-34-445. Increasing income in order to maintain marital deduction.
72-34-446. Transactions in derivatives — allocations of receipts and disbursements — options to buy or sell property — allocation of amounts received or paid.
72-34-447. Payments from collateral financial assets and payments in exchange for interest in asset-backed security — allocation.
72-34-448. Disbursements from income.
72-34-449. Disbursements from principal.
72-34-450. Assets subject to depreciation — transfer from income to principal of portion of net cash receipts.
72-34-451. Transfer from income to principal in anticipation of principal disbursement.
72-34-452. Payment of taxes.
72-34-453. Adjustments between principal and income in certain cases.

Part 5 — Liability of Trustees to Beneficiaries (Repealed)

Part 6 — Montana Uniform Prudent Investor Act (Repealed)

Part 1
Duties of Trustees
(Renumbered and Repealed)

72-34-101. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 73, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-102. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 74, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-103. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 75, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-104. Renumbered 72-34-604. Sec. 14, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-105. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 77, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-106. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 78, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-107. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 79, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-108. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 80, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-109. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 81, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-110. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 82, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-111. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 83, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-112. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 84, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-113. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 85, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 290, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 484, L. 2003.**

72-34-114. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 89, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 290, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 484, L. 2003.**

72-34-115. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 87, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-116. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 86, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-117. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 88, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 279, L. 1997.**

72-34-118. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 90, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-119 and 72-34-120 reserved.

72-34-121. Repealed. Sec. 12, Ch. 484, L. 2003.
History: **En. Sec. 91, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-122 and 72-34-123 reserved.

72-34-124. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 92, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-125. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 93, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-126. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 94, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-127. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 95, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-128. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 96, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-129. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 97, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-130. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 98, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2482, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Part 2
Duties of Trustees of Private Foundations, Charitable Trusts, and Split-Interest Trusts (Repealed)

72-34-201. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: **En. Sec. 99, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-202. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 100, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-203. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 101, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-204. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 102, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-205. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 103, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-34-206. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 104, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-207. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

Part 3
Powers of Trustees
(Repealed)

72-34-301. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 105, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-302. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 106, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-303. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 107, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-304. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 108, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-305 reserved.

72-34-306. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 109, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-307. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 110, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-308. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 111, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-309. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 112, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 289, L. 1993.

72-34-310. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 113, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-311. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 114, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-312 through 72-34-315 reserved.

72-34-316. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-317. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 116, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-318. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 117, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-319. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 118, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-320. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-321. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 120, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-322. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 121, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-323. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 122, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-324 and 72-34-325 reserved.

72-34-326. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 123, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-327. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 124, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-328. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 125, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-329. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 126, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-330. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 127, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-331. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 128, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-332. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 129, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-333 through 72-34-335 reserved.

72-34-336. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 130, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-337. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 131, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-338. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 132, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-339. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 133, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-340. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 134, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-341. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 135, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-342. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 136, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-343. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 137, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 4
Montana Uniform Principal and Income Act

72-34-401. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 138, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-402. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 139, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-403. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 140, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-404. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 141, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-405. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 142, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-406. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 143, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-407. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 144, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-408. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 145, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-409. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 146, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-410. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 147, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-411. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 148, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-412. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 149, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-413 through 72-34-415 reserved.

72-34-416. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 506, L. 2003.
History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-417 through 72-34-420 reserved.

72-34-421. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Uniform Principal and ncome Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-422. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the ollowing definitions apply:

(1) "Accounting period" means a calendar year unless another 12-month period is selected y a fiduciary. The term includes a portion of a calendar year or other 12-month period that egins when an income interest begins or ends when an income interest ends.

(2) "Fiduciary" means a personal representative or a trustee.

(3) "Income" means money or property that a fiduciary receives as current return from a rincipal asset. The term includes a portion of receipts from a sale, exchange, or liquidation of a rincipal asset, to the extent provided in 72-34-433 through 72-34-447.

(4) "Income beneficiary" means a person to whom net income of a trust is or may be ayable.

(5) "Income interest" means the right of an income beneficiary to receive all or part of net ncome, whether the trust requires it to be distributed or authorizes it to be distributed in the rustee's discretion.

(6) "Mandatory income interest" means the right of an income beneficiary to receive net ncome that the trust requires the fiduciary to distribute.

(7) "Net income" means the total receipts allocated to income during an accounting period ninus the disbursements made from income during the accounting period, plus or minus ransfers under this chapter to or from income during the accounting period.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-423. Allocation between principal and income — impartial exercise of liscretion. (1) In allocating receipts and disbursements to or between principal and income nd with respect to any other matter within the scope of this part, a fiduciary:

(a) shall administer a trust or decedent's estate in accordance with the trust or the will, ven if there is a different provision in this part;

(b) may administer a trust or decedent's estate by the exercise of a discretionary power of dministration given to the fiduciary by the trust or the will, even if the exercise of the power produces a result different from a result required or permitted by this part and no inference tha the fiduciary has improperly exercised the discretion arises from the fact that the fiduciary ha made an allocation contrary to a provision of this part;

(c) shall administer a trust or decedent's estate in accordance with this part if the trus or the will does not contain a different provision or does not give the fiduciary a discretionar power of administration; and

(d) shall add a receipt or charge a disbursement to principal to the extent that the trus or the will and this part do not provide a rule for allocating the receipt or disbursement to o between principal and income.

(2) In exercising a discretionary power of administration regarding a matter withi the scope of this part, whether granted by a trust, a will, or this part, including the trustee' power to adjust under 72-34-424(1), the fiduciary shall administer the trust or decedent' estate impartially, except to the extent that the trust or the will expresses an intention tha the fiduciary shall or may favor one or more of the beneficiaries. The exercise of discretion i accordance with this part is presumed to be fair and reasonable to all beneficiaries.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-424. Adjustments between principal and income. (1) Subject to subsection (2) a trustee may make an adjustment between principal and income to the extent the truste considers necessary if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) the trustee invests and manages trust assets under the prudent investor rule unde 72-38-901;

(b) the trust describes the amount that must or may be distributed to a beneficiary b referring to the trust's income; and

(c) the trustee determines, after applying the rules in 72-34-423(1) and considering an power the trustee may have under the trust to invade principal or accumulate income, that th trustee is unable to comply with 72-34-423(2).

(2) A trustee may not make an adjustment between principal and income in any of th following circumstances:

(a) when it would diminish the income interest in a trust:

(i) that requires all of the income to be paid at least annually to a spouse; and

(ii) for which, if the trustee did not have the power to make the adjustment, an estate ta or gift tax marital deduction would be allowed, in whole or in part;

(b) when it would reduce the actuarial value of the income interest in a trust to which a person transfers property with the intent to qualify for a gift tax exclusion;

(c) when it would change the amount payable to a beneficiary as a fixed annuity or a fixe fraction of the value of the trust assets;

(d) when it would be made from any amount that is permanently set aside for charitabl purposes under a will or trust, unless both income and principal are set aside;

(e) when possessing or exercising the power to make an adjustment would cause a individual to be treated as the owner of all or part of the trust for income tax purposes and th individual would not be treated as the owner if the trustee did not possess the power to make a adjustment;

(f) when possessing or exercising the power to make an adjustment would cause all o part of the trust assets to be included for estate tax purposes in the estate of an individua who has the power to remove a trustee or appoint a trustee, or both, and the assets would no be included in the estate of the individual if the trustee did not possess the power to make a adjustment; or

(g) when the trustee is a beneficiary of the trust.

(3) If subsection (2)(e), (2)(f), or (2)(g) of this section applies to a trustee and there is mor than one trustee, a cotrustee to whom the provision does not apply may make the adjustmen unless the exercise of the power by the remaining trustee or trustees is not permitted by th trust.

(4) A trustee may release the entire power conferred by subsection (1) or may release onl the power to adjust from income to principal or the power to adjust from principal to income i either of the following circumstances:

(a) if the trustee is uncertain about whether possessing or exercising the power will cause result described in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(f); or

(b) if the trustee determines that possessing or exercising the power will or may deprive he trust of a tax benefit or impose a tax burden not described in subsection (2).

(5) A release under subsection (4) may be permanent or for a specified period, including a eriod measured by the life of an individual.

(6) A trust that limits the power of a trustee to make an adjustment between principal and ncome does not affect the application of this section unless it is clear from the trust that it is ntended to deny the trustee the power of adjustment provided by subsection (1).

(7) In deciding whether and to what extent to exercise the power to make adjustments nder this section, the trustee may consider, but is not limited to considering, any of the ollowing:

(a) the nature, purpose, and expected duration of the trust;

(b) the intent of the settlor;

(c) the identity and circumstances of the beneficiaries;

(d) the needs for liquidity, regularity of income, and preservation and appreciation of apital;

(e) the assets held in the trust, the extent to which the assets consist of financial assets, nterests in closely held enterprises, tangible and intangible personal property, or real property, he extent to which an asset is used by a beneficiary, and whether an asset was purchased by he trustee or received from the settlor;

(f) the net amount allocated to income under other statutes and the increase or decrease n the value of the principal assets, which the trustee may estimate as to assets for which market alues are not readily available;

(g) whether and to what extent the trust gives the trustee the power to invade principal r accumulate income or prohibits the trustee from invading principal or accumulating income nd the extent to which the trustee has exercised a power from time to time to invade principal r accumulate income;

(h) the actual and anticipated effect of economic conditions on principal and income and ffects of inflation and deflation; or

(i) the anticipated tax consequences of an adjustment.

(8) Nothing in this part or this section is intended to create or imply a duty to make an djustment, and a trustee is not liable for not considering whether to make an adjustment or for hoosing not to make an adjustment.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 153, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-34-425. Notice of proposed action — objections by beneficiary — liability of rustee — proceedings. (1) A trustee may give a notice of proposed action regarding a matter overned by this part as provided in this section. For the purpose of this section, a proposed ction includes a course of action and a decision not to take action.

(2) The trustee shall mail notice of the proposed action to all adult beneficiaries who are eceiving or are entitled to receive income under the trust or to receive a distribution of principal f the trust were terminated at the time the notice is given.

(3) A notice of proposed action need not be given to any person who consents in writing o the proposed action. The consent may be executed at any time before or after the proposed ction is taken.

(4) The notice of proposed action must state that it is given pursuant to this section and nust state all of the following:

(a) the name and mailing address of the trustee;

(b) the name and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for additional nformation;

(c) a description of the action proposed to be taken and an explanation of the reasons for he action;

(d) the time within which objections to the proposed action can be made, which must be at east 30 days from the mailing of the notice of proposed action; and

(e) the date on or after which the proposed action may be taken or is effective.

(5) A beneficiary may object to the proposed action by mailing a written objection to th trustee at the address stated in the notice of proposed action within the time period specified i the notice of proposed action.

(6) A trustee is not liable to a beneficiary for an action regarding a matter governed b this part if the trustee does not receive a written objection to the proposed action from th beneficiary within the applicable period and the other requirements of this section are satisfied If no beneficiary entitled to notice objects under this section, the trustee is not liable to an current or future beneficiary with respect to the proposed action.

(7) If the trustee receives a written objection within the applicable period, either the truste or a beneficiary may petition the court to have the proposed action taken as proposed, take with modifications, or denied. In the proceeding, a beneficiary objecting to the proposed actio has the burden of proving that the trustee's proposed action should not be taken. A beneficiar who has not objected is not estopped from opposing the proposed action in the proceeding. If th trustee decides not to implement the proposed action, the trustee shall notify the beneficiarie of the decision not to take the action and the reasons for the decision, and the trustee's decisio not to implement the proposed action does not itself give rise to liability to any current or futur beneficiary. A beneficiary may petition the court to have the action taken and has the burden o proving that it should be taken.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-426. Proceedings relating to adjustments — remedy. In a proceeding wit respect to a trustee's exercise or nonexercise of the power to make an adjustment unde 72-34-424, the sole remedy is to direct, deny, or revise an adjustment between principal an income.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-427. Application of part. This part applies to every trust or decedent's estat existing on or after October 1, 2003, except as otherwise expressly provided in the trust or wil or in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-428. Rules applicable after decedent's death or termination of incom interest. After the decedent's death, in the case of a decedent's estate, or after an incom interest in a trust ends, the following rules apply:

(1) If property is specifically given to a beneficiary, by will or trust, the fiduciary of th estate or of the terminating income interest shall distribute the net income and principa receipts to the beneficiary who is to receive the property, subject to the following rules:

(a) the net income and principal receipts from the specifically given property ar determined by including all of the amounts the fiduciary receives or pays with respect to th property, whether the amounts accrued or became due before, on, or after the decedent's deat or an income interest in a trust ends and by making a reasonable provision for amounts that th fiduciary believes the estate or terminating income interest may become obligated to pay afte the property is distributed; and

(b) the fiduciary may not reduce income and principal receipts from the specifically give property on account of a payment described in 72-34-447 to the extent that the will or the trus requires payment from other property or to the extent that the fiduciary recovers the paymen from a third person.

(2) The fiduciary shall distribute to a beneficiary who receives a pecuniary amount whether outright or in trust, the interest or any other amount provided by the will, the trust, o 72-3-913 from the remaining net income determined under subsection (3) of this section or fro principal to the extent that net income is insufficient.

(3) The fiduciary shall determine the remaining net income of the decedent's estate o terminating income interest as provided in this part and by doing the following:

(a) including in net income all income from property used to discharge liabilities;

(b) paying from income or principal, in the fiduciary's discretion, fees of attorneys accountants, and fiduciaries, court costs and other expenses of administration, and interest o death taxes, except that the fiduciary may pay these expenses from income of property passin to a trust for which the fiduciary claims an estate tax marital or charitable deduction only to th xtent that the payment of these expenses from income will not cause the reduction or loss of ne deduction;

(c) paying from principal all other disbursements made or incurred in connection with the ettlement of a decedent's estate or the winding up of a terminating income interest, including ebts, funeral expenses, disposition of remains, family allowances, and death taxes and related enalties that are apportioned to the estate or terminating income interest by the will, the trust, Title 72, chapter 16, part 6.

(4) After distributions required by subsection (2), the fiduciary shall distribute the emaining net income determined under subsection (3) in the manner provided in 72-34-429 to ll other beneficiaries.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-429. Beneficiary's portion of net income — maintenance of records — istribution date. (1) Each beneficiary described in 72-34-428(4) is entitled to receive a ortion of the net income equal to the beneficiary's fractional interest in undistributed principal ssets, using values as of the distribution dates and without reducing the values by any unpaid rincipal obligations.

(2) If a fiduciary does not distribute all of the collected but undistributed net income to ach beneficiary as of a distribution date, the fiduciary shall maintain appropriate records howing the interest of each beneficiary in that net income.

(3) The distribution date for purposes of this section may be the date as of which the duciary calculates the value of the assets if that date is reasonably near the date on which ssets are actually distributed.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-430. Beneficiary's entitlement to net income — assets subject to trust — ssets subject to successive income interest — termination of income interest. (1) An icome beneficiary is entitled to net income from the date on which the income interest begins. n income interest begins on the date specified in the trust or, if no date is specified, on the date n asset becomes subject to a trust or successive income interest.

(2) An asset becomes subject to a trust at the following times:

(a) in the case of an asset that is transferred to a trust during the transferor's life, on the ate it is transferred to the trust;

(b) in the case of an asset that becomes subject to a trust by reason of a will, even if there an intervening period of administration of the testator's estate, on the date of the testator's eath; or

(c) in the case of an asset that is transferred to a fiduciary by a third party because of the idividual's death, on the date of the individual's death.

(3) An asset becomes subject to a successive income interest on the day after the preceding icome interest ends, as determined under subsection (4), even if there is an intervening period f administration to wind up the preceding income interest.

(4) An income interest ends on the day before an income beneficiary dies or another erminating event occurs or on the last day of a period during which there is no beneficiary to hom a trustee may distribute income.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-431. Allocation of income receipt or disbursement. (1) A trustee shall allocate n income receipt or disbursement other than one to which 72-34-428(1) applies to principal if s due date occurs before a decedent dies in the case of an estate or before an income interest egins in the case of a trust or successive income interest.

(2) A trustee shall allocate an income receipt or disbursement to income if its due date ccurs on or after the date on which a decedent dies or an income interest begins and it is a eriodic due date. An income receipt or disbursement must be treated as accruing from day to ay if its due date is not periodic or it has no due date. The portion of the receipt or disbursement ccruing before the date on which a decedent dies or an income interest begins must be allocated principal, and the balance must be allocated to income.

(3) An item of income or an obligation is due on the date the payer is required to make payment. If a payment date is not stated, there is no due date for the purposes of this part.

Distributions to shareholders or other owners from an entity to which 72-34-433 applies ar considered to be due on the date fixed by the entity for determining who is entitled to receiv the distribution or, if no date is fixed, on the declaration date for the distribution. A due date i periodic for receipts or disbursements that must be paid at regular intervals under a lease or a obligation to pay interest or if an entity customarily makes distributions at regular intervals.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-432. Undistributed income — definition — payment to beneficiary. (1) (a For the purposes of this section, "undistributed income" means net income received before th date on which an income interest ends.

(b) The term does not include an item of income or expense that is due or accrued or ne income that has been added or is required to be added to principal by the trust.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), on the date when a mandatory income interes ends, the trustee shall pay to a mandatory income beneficiary who survives that date or to th estate of a deceased mandatory income beneficiary whose death causes the interest to end th beneficiary's share of the undistributed income that is not disposed of under the trust.

(3) If immediately before the income interest ends, the beneficiary under subsection (2 has an unqualified power to revoke more than 5% of the trust, the undistributed income fron the portion of the trust that may be revoked must be added to principal.

(4) When a trustee's obligation to pay a fixed annuity or a fixed fraction of the value of th trust's assets ends, the trustee shall prorate the final payment.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-433. Allocation of receipts to income or principal — entity defined. (1) Fo the purposes of this section, "entity" means a corporation, partnership, limited liability company regulated investment company, real estate investment trust, common trust fund, or any othe organization in which a trustee has an interest other than a trust or decedent's estate to whicl 72-34-434 applies, a business or activity to which 72-34-435 applies, or an asset-backed securit to which 72-34-447 applies.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a trustee shall allocate to income mone received from an entity.

(3) A trustee shall allocate to principal the following receipts from an entity:

(a) property other than money;

(b) money received in one distribution or a series of related distributions in exchange fo part or all of a trust's interest in the entity;

(c) money received in total or partial liquidation of the entity; and

(d) money received from an entity that is a regulated investment company or a real estat investment trust if the money distributed is a capital gain dividend for federal income ta purposes.

(4) For purposes of subsection (3)(c):

(a) money is received in partial liquidation:

(i) to the extent that the entity, at or near the time of a distribution, indicates that it is distribution in partial liquidation; or

(ii) if the total amount of money and property received in a distribution or series of relate distributions is greater than 20% of the entity's gross assets, as shown by the entity's yearen financial statements immediately preceding the initial receipt;

(b) money is not received in partial liquidation, nor may it be taken into account unde subsection (4)(a)(ii), to the extent that it does not exceed the amount of income tax that a truste or beneficiary is required to pay on taxable income of the entity that distributes the money.

(5) A trustee may rely on a statement made by an entity about the source or character o a distribution if the statement is made at or near the time of distribution by the entity's boar of directors or other person or group of persons authorized to exercise powers to pay money o transfer property comparable to those of a corporation's board of directors.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-434. Allocation of amounts received from specified trusts or estates. trustee shall allocate to income an amount received as a distribution of income from a trust o a decedent's estate, other than an interest in an investment entity, in which the trust has a interest other than a purchased interest, and shall allocate to principal an amount received as a distribution of principal from the trust or estate.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-435. Separate accounting records for business or other activity. (1) If a trustee who conducts a business or other activity determines that it is in the best interest of all he beneficiaries to account separately for the business or other activity instead of accounting or it as part of the trust's general accounting records, the trustee may maintain separate accounting records for its transactions, whether or not its assets are segregated from other trust assets.

(2) A trustee who accounts separately for a business or other activity may determine he extent to which its net cash receipts must be retained for working capital, the acquisition r replacement of fixed assets, and its other reasonably foreseeable needs, and the extent to which the remaining net cash receipts are accounted for as principal or income in the trust's general accounting records. If a trustee sells assets of the business or other activity, other than n the ordinary course of the business or other activity, the trustee shall account for the net amount received as principal in the trust's general accounting records to the extent the trustee determines that the amount received is no longer required in the conduct of the business or other activity.

(3) Businesses and other activities for which a trustee may maintain separate accounting records include the following:

(a) retail, manufacturing, service, and other traditional business activities;
(b) farming;
(c) raising and selling livestock and other animals;
(d) managing rental properties;
(e) extracting minerals and other natural resources;
(f) timber operations; and
(g) activities to which 72-34-446 applies.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-436. Amounts allocated to principal. A trustee shall allocate to principal:

(1) to the extent not allocated to income under this chapter, assets received from a ransferor during the transferor's lifetime, a decedent's estate, a trust with a terminating ncome interest, or a payer under a contract naming the trust or its trustee as beneficiary;

(2) subject to any contrary rules in 72-34-433 through 72-34-447, money or other property eceived from the sale, exchange, liquidation, or change in form of a principal asset, including ealized profit;

(3) amounts recovered from third parties to reimburse the trust because of disbursements described in 72-34-449(1)(g) or for other reasons to the extent not based on the loss of income;

(4) proceeds of property taken by eminent domain, but a separate award made for the loss of income with respect to an accounting period during which a current income beneficiary had a mandatory income interest is income;

(5) net income received in an accounting period during which there is no beneficiary to whom a trustee may or is required to distribute income; and

(6) other receipts allocated to principal as provided in 72-34-440 through 72-34-447.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-437. Amounts received from rental property allocation. Unless the trustee accounts for receipts from rental property pursuant to 72-34-435, the trustee shall allocate to ncome an amount received as rent of real or personal property, including an amount received for cancellation or renewal of a lease. An amount received as a refundable deposit, including a security deposit or a deposit that is to be applied as rent for future periods, must be added o principal and held subject to the terms of the lease and is not available for distribution to a beneficiary until the trustee's contractual obligations have been satisfied with respect to that amount.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-438. Interest on obligation to pay money — allocation. (1) An amount received as interest, whether determined at a fixed, variable, or floating rate, on an obligation to pay money to the trustee, including an amount received as consideration for prepaying principal must be allocated to income without any provision for amortization of premium.

(2) An amount received from the sale, redemption, or other disposition of an obligation to pay money to the trustee more than 1 year after it is purchased or acquired by the trustee including an obligation whose purchase price or its value when it is otherwise acquired is less than its value at maturity, must be allocated to principal. If the obligation matures within 1 year after it is purchased or acquired by the trustee, an amount received in excess of its purchase price or its value when it is otherwise acquired must be allocated to income.

(3) This section does not apply to an obligation to which 72-34-441, 72-34-442, 72-34-443 72-34-444, 72-34-446, or 72-34-447 applies.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-439. Life insurance policy proceeds — proceeds of contracts insuring against certain losses — allocation. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a trustee shall allocate to principal the proceeds of a life insurance policy or other contract in which the trust or its trustee is named as beneficiary, including a contract that insures the trust or its trustee against loss for damage to, destruction of, or loss of title to a trust asset. The trustee shall allocate dividends on an insurance policy to income if the premiums on the policy are paid from income and to principal if the premiums are paid from principal.

(2) A trustee shall allocate to income proceeds of a contract that insures the trustee against loss of occupancy or other use by an income beneficiary, loss of income, or, subject to 72-34-435 loss of profits from a business.

(3) This section does not apply to a contract to which 72-34-441 applies.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-440. Insubstantial allocation — allocation of entire amount to principal — exceptions. (1) If a trustee determines that an allocation between principal and income required by 72-34-441, 72-34-442, 72-34-443, 72-34-444, or 72-34-447 is insubstantial, the trustee may allocate the entire amount to principal unless one of the circumstances described in 72-34-424(2) applies to the allocation. This power may be exercised by a cotrustee in the circumstances described in 72-34-424(3) and may be released for the reasons and in the manner provided in 72-34-424(4) and (5).

(2) An allocation is presumed to be insubstantial in either of the following cases:

(a) when the amount of the allocation would increase or decrease net income in an accounting period, as determined before the allocation, by less than 10%; or

(b) when the value of the asset producing the receipt for which the allocation would be made is less than 10% of the total value of the trust's assets at the beginning of the accounting period.

(3) Nothing in this section imposes a duty on the trustee to make an allocation under this section, and the trustee is not liable for failure to make an allocation under this section.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-441. Payments characterized as interest or dividend — allocation to income — allocation of other payments — excess allocation to income in order to obtain estate tax marital deduction. (1) In this section:

(a) "Payment" means a payment that a trustee may receive over a fixed number of years or during the life of one or more individuals because of services rendered or property transferred to the payer in exchange for future payments. The term includes a payment made in money or property from the payer's general assets or from a separate fund created by the payer. For purposes of subsections (4), (5), (6), and (7), the term also includes any payment from any separate fund, regardless of the reason for the payment.

(b) "Separate fund" includes a private or commercial annuity, an individual retirement account, and a pension, profit-sharing, stock-bonus, or stock-ownership plan.

(2) To the extent that a payment is characterized as interest, a dividend, or a payment made in lieu of interest or a dividend, a trustee shall allocate the payment to income. The

rustee shall allocate to principal the balance of the payment and any other payment received n the same accounting period that is not characterized as interest, a dividend, or an equivalent ayment.

(3) If no part of a payment is characterized as interest, a dividend, or an equivalent ayment and all or part of the payment is required to be made, a trustee shall allocate to income 0% of the part that is required to be made during the accounting period and the balance o principal. If no part of a payment is required to be made or the payment received is the ntire amount to which the trustee is entitled, the trustee shall allocate the entire payment to rincipal. For purposes of this subsection, a payment is not required to be made to the extent hat it is made because the trustee exercises a right of withdrawal.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), subsections (6) and (7) apply and ubsections (2) and (3) do not apply in determining the allocation of a payment made from a eparate fund to:

(a) a trust to which an election to qualify for a marital deduction under section 2056(b)(7) f the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2056(b)(7), as amended, has been made; or

(b) a trust that qualifies for the marital deduction under section 2056(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2056(b)(5), as amended.

(5) Subsections (4), (6), and (7) do not apply if and to the extent that the series of payments vould, without the application of subsection (4), qualify for the marital deduction under section 056(b)(7)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2056(b)(7)(C), as amended.

(6) A trustee shall determine the internal income of each separate fund for the accounting eriod as if the separate fund were a trust subject to this part. Upon request of the surviving pouse, the trustee shall demand that the person administering the separate fund distribute he internal income to the trust. The trustee shall allocate a payment from the separate fund to ncome to the extent of the internal income of the separate fund and distribute that amount to he surviving spouse. The trustee shall allocate the balance of the payment to principal. Upon equest of the surviving spouse, the trustee shall allocate principal to income to the extent the nternal income of the separate fund exceeds payments made from the separate fund to the rust during the accounting period.

(7) If a trustee cannot determine the internal income of a separate fund but can determine he value of the separate fund, the internal income of the separate fund is deemed to equal 3% f the fund's value, according to the most recent statement of value preceding the beginning of he accounting period. If the trustee can determine neither the internal income of the separate und nor the fund's value, the internal income of the fund is deemed to equal the product of he interest rate and the present value of the expected future payments, as determined under ection 7520 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 7520, as amended, for the month preceding he accounting period for which the computation is made.

(8) This section does not apply to payments to which 72-34-442 applies.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 506, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 2011.

72-34-442. Receipts from liquidating assets — allocation. (1) In this section, liquidating asset" means an asset whose value will diminish or terminate because the asset s expected to produce receipts for a period of limited duration. The term includes a leasehold, atent, copyright, royalty right, and right to receive payments under an arrangement that oes not provide for the payment of interest on the unpaid balance. The term does not include payment subject to 72-34-441, natural resources subject to 72-34-443, timber subject to 2-34-444, a derivative or option subject to 72-34-446, an asset subject to 72-34-447, or any asset or which the trustee establishes a reserve for depreciation under 72-34-450.

(2) A trustee shall allocate to income 85% from a liquidating asset and the balance to rincipal.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 506, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 513, L. 2005.

72-34-443. Receipts from mineral interests and other natural resources — llocation. (1) To the extent that a trustee accounts for receipts from an interest in minerals r other natural resources pursuant to this section, the trustee shall allocate them as follows:

(a) if received as a nominal bonus, nominal delay rental, or nominal annual rent on a ease, a receipt must be allocated to income;

(b) if received from a production payment, a receipt must be allocated to income if and t the extent that the agreement creating the production payment provides a factor for interest o its equivalent. The balance must be allocated to principal.

(c) if an amount received as a royalty, shut-in-well payment, take-or-pay payment, bonus or delay rental is more than nominal, 15% must be allocated to principal and the balance t income; and

(d) if an amount is received from a working interest or any other interest in mineral o other natural resources not described in subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c), 15% of the net amoun received must be allocated to principal and the balance to income.

(2) An amount received on account of an interest in water that is renewable must b allocated to income. If the water is not renewable, 15% of the amount must be allocated t principal and the balance to income.

(3) This part applies whether or not a decedent or donor was extracting minerals, water or other natural resources before the interest became subject to the trust.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-444. Receipts from sale of timber and related products — allocation. (1) T the extent that a trustee accounts for receipts from the sale of timber and related product pursuant to this section, the trustee shall allocate the net receipts as follows:

(a) to income to the extent that the amount of timber removed from the land does no exceed the rate of growth of the timber during the accounting periods in which a beneficiary ha a mandatory income interest;

(b) to principal to the extent that the amount of timber removed from the land exceeds th rate of growth of the timber or the net receipts are from the sale of standing timber;

(c) to or between income and principal if the net receipts are from the lease of timberlan or from a contract to cut timber from land owned by a trust, by determining the amount o timber removed from the land under the lease or contract and applying the rules in subsection (1)(a) and (1)(b);

(d) to principal to the extent that advance payments, bonuses, and other payments are no allocated pursuant to subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c).

(2) In determining net receipts to be allocated under subsection (1), a trustee shall deduc and transfer to principal a reasonable amount for depletion.

(3) This part applies whether or not a decedent or transferor was harvesting timber from the property before it became subject to the trust.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-445. Increasing income in order to maintain marital deduction. (1) I a marital deduction is allowed for all or part of a trust whose assets consist substantially o property that does not provide the spouse with sufficient income from or use of the trust asset and if the amounts that the trustee transfers from principal to income under 72-34-424 an distributes to the spouse from principal pursuant to the terms of the trust are insufficient t provide the spouse with the beneficial enjoyment required to obtain the marital deduction the spouse may require the trustee to make property productive of income or convert it int productive property or exercise the power under 72-34-424(1) within a reasonable time. Th trustee may decide which action or combination of actions to take.

(2) In cases not governed by subsection (1), proceeds from the sale or other disposition of trust asset are principal without regard to the amount of income the asset produces during an accounting period.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-446. Transactions in derivatives — allocations of receipts and disbursement — options to buy or sell property — allocation of amounts received or paid. (1) In this section, "derivative" means a contract or financial instrument or a combination of contract and financial instruments that gives a trust the right or obligation to participate in some or al changes in the price of a tangible or intangible asset or group of assets or changes in a rate, a index of prices or rates, or other market indicator for an asset or a group of assets.

(2) To the extent that a trustee does not account under 72-34-435 for transactions in erivatives, the trustee shall allocate to principal receipts from and disbursements made in onnection with those transactions.

(3) If a trustee grants an option to buy property from the trust, whether or not the trust wns the property when the option is granted, grants an option that permits another person to ell property to the trust, or acquires an option to buy property for the trust or an option to sell n asset owned by the trust and the trustee or other owner of the asset is required to deliver he asset if the option is exercised, an amount received for granting the option must be allocated o principal. An amount paid to acquire the option must be paid from principal. A gain or loss ealized upon the exercise of an option, including an option granted to a settlor of the trust for ervices rendered, must be allocated to principal.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 506, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 154, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-34-447. Payments from collateral financial assets and payments in exchange or interest in asset-backed security — allocation. (1) In this section, "asset-backed ecurity" means an asset whose value is based upon the right it gives the owner to receive istributions from the proceeds of financial assets that provide collateral for the security. The erm includes an asset that gives the owner the right to receive from the collateral financial ssets only the interest or other current return or only the proceeds other than interest or urrent return. The term does not include an asset to which 72-34-433 or 72-34-441 applies.

(2) If a trust receives a payment from interest or other current return and from other roceeds of the collateral financial assets, the trustee shall allocate to income the portion of he payment that the payer identifies as being from interest or other current return and shall llocate the balance of the payment to principal.

(3) If a trust receives one or more payments in exchange for the trust's entire interest in n asset-backed security in one accounting period, the trustee shall allocate the payments to rincipal. If a payment is one of a series of payments that will result in the liquidation of the rust's interest in the security over more than one accounting period, the trustee shall allocate 0% of the payment to income and the balance to principal.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-448. Disbursements from income. A trustee shall make the following isbursements from income to the extent that they are not disbursements to which 2-34-428(3)(b) or (3)(c) applies:

(1) except as otherwise ordered by the court, one-half of the regular compensation of the rustee and of any person providing investment advisory or custodial services to the trustee;

(2) except as otherwise ordered by the court, one-half of all expenses for accountings, udicial proceedings, or other matters that involve both the income and remainder interests;

(3) all of the other ordinary expenses incurred in connection with the administration, anagement, or preservation of trust property and the distribution of income, including nterest, ordinary repairs, regularly recurring taxes assessed against principal, and expenses of proceeding or other matter that concerns primarily the income interest; and

(4) all recurring premiums on insurance covering the loss of a principal asset or the loss of ncome from or use of the asset.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

72-34-449. Disbursements from principal. (1) A trustee shall make the following isbursements from principal:

(a) except as otherwise ordered by the court, the remaining one-half of the disbursements escribed in 72-34-448(1) and (2);

(b) except as otherwise ordered by the court, all of the trustee's compensation calculated n principal as a fee for acceptance, distribution, or termination and disbursements made to repare property for sale;

(c) payments on the principal of a trust debt;

(d) expenses of a proceeding that concerns primarily principal, including a proceeding to onstrue the trust or to protect the trust or its property;

(e) premiums paid on a policy of insurance not described in 72-34-448(4) of which the trust s the owner and beneficiary;

(f) estate, inheritance, and other transfer taxes, including penalties, apportioned to th trust; and

(g) disbursements related to environmental matters, including reclamation, assessin environmental conditions, remedying and removing environmental contamination, monitorin remedial activities and the release of substances, preventing future releases of substance collecting amounts from persons liable or potentially liable for the costs of those activitie penalties imposed under environmental laws or regulations and other payments made to compl with those laws or regulations, statutory or common law claims by third parties, and defendin claims based on environmental matters.

(2) If a principal asset is encumbered with an obligation that requires income from tha asset to be paid directly to the creditor, the trustee shall transfer from principal to income a amount equal to the income paid to the creditor in reduction of the principal balance of th obligation.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-450. Assets subject to depreciation — transfer from income to principa of portion of net cash receipts. (1) For purposes of this section, "depreciation" means reduction in value due to wear, tear, decay, corrosion, or gradual obsolescence of a fixed asse having a useful life of more than 1 year.

(2) A trustee may transfer from income to principal a reasonable amount of the ne cash receipts from a principal asset that is subject to depreciation, under generally accepte accounting principles, but may not transfer any amount for depreciation under this section i any of the following circumstances:

(a) as to the portion of real property used or available for use by a beneficiary as a residenc or of tangible personal property held or made available for the personal use or enjoyment of beneficiary;

(b) during the administration of a decedent's estate; or

(c) if the trustee is accounting under 72-34-435 for the business or activity in which th asset is used.

(3) An amount transferred from income to principal need not be held as a separate fund.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-451. Transfer from income to principal in anticipation of principa disbursement. (1) If a trustee makes or expects to make a principal disbursement describe in this section, the trustee may transfer an appropriate amount from income to principal in on or more accounting periods to reimburse principal or to provide a reserve for future principa disbursements.

(2) Principal disbursements to which subsection (1) applies include the following, but onl to the extent that the trustee has not been and does not expect to be reimbursed by a thir party:

(a) an amount chargeable to income but paid from principal because it is unusually large including extraordinary repairs;

(b) a capital improvement to a principal asset, whether in the form of changes to a existing asset or the construction of a new asset, including special assessments;

(c) disbursements made to prepare property for rental, including tenant allowances leasehold improvements, and broker's commissions;

(d) periodic payments on an obligation secured by a principal asset to the extent that th amount transferred from income to principal for depreciation is less than the periodic payments and

(e) disbursements described in 72-34-449(1)(g).

(3) If the asset whose ownership gives rise to the disbursements becomes subject to successive income interest after an income interest ends, a trustee may continue to transfe amounts from income to principal as provided in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 506, L. 2003.

72-34-452. Payment of taxes. (1) A tax required to be paid by a trustee based on receipt allocated to income must be paid from income.

(2) A tax required to be paid by a trustee based on receipts allocated to principal must be aid from principal, even if the tax is called an income tax by the taxing authority.

(3) A tax required to be paid by a trustee on the trust's share of an entity's taxable income nust be paid:

(a) from income to the extent that receipts from the entity are allocated only to income;

(b) from principal to the extent that receipts from the entity are allocated only to principal;

(c) proportionately from principal and income to the extent that receipts from the entity re allocated to both income and principal; and

(d) from principal to the extent that the tax exceeds the total receipts from the entity.

(4) After applying subsections (1) through (3), the trustee shall adjust income or principal eceipts to the extent that the trust's taxes are reduced because the trust receives a deduction or payments made to a beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 32, Ch. 506, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 2011.**

72-34-453. Adjustments between principal and income in certain cases. (1) A iduciary may make adjustments between principal and income to offset the shifting of economic nterests or tax benefits between income beneficiaries and remainder beneficiaries that arise rom any of the following:

(a) elections and decisions, other than those described in subsection (2), that the fiduciary nakes from time to time regarding tax matters;

(b) an income tax or any other tax that is imposed upon the fiduciary or a beneficiary as a esult of a transaction involving or a distribution from the estate or trust; or

(c) the ownership by a decedent's estate or trust of an interest in an entity whose taxable ncome, whether or not distributed, is includable in the taxable income of the estate, trust, or a eneficiary.

(2) If the amount of an estate tax marital deduction or charitable contribution deduction s reduced because a fiduciary deducts an amount paid from principal for income tax purposes nstead of deducting it for estate tax purposes and as a result estate taxes paid from principal re increased and income taxes paid by a decedent's estate, trust, or beneficiary are decreased, ach estate, trust, or beneficiary that benefits from the decrease in income tax shall reimburse he principal from which the increase in estate tax is paid. The total reimbursement must equal he increase in the estate tax to the extent that the principal used to pay the increase would have ualified for a marital deduction or charitable contribution deduction but for the payment. The roportionate share of the reimbursement for each estate, trust, or beneficiary whose income axes are reduced must be the same as its proportionate share of the total decrease in income ax. An estate or trust shall reimburse principal from income.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 506, L. 2003.**

Part 5
Liability of Trustees to Beneficiaries
(Repealed)

72-34-501. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 151, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-502. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 152, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-503. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 153, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-504. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 154, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-505 reserved.

72-34-506. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 155, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-507. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 156, Ch. 685, L. 1989.**

72-34-508. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 157, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-509. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 158, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-510 reserved.

72-34-511. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 159, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-512. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 160, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-34-513. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 161, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

72-34-514. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 162, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2483, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-34-515. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 163, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2484, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-34-516. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 164, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2485, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-34-517. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 592, L. 1995.

Part 6
Montana Uniform Prudent Investor Act
(Repealed)

72-34-601. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-602. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-603. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-604. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 76, Ch. 685, L. 1989; Sec. 72-34-104, MCA 2001; redes. 72-34-604 by Sec. 14, Ch. 484, L 2003.

72-34-605. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-606. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-607. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-608. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-609. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

72-34-610. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 484, L. 2003.

CHAPTER 35
TRUST CODE — JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING TRUSTS
(Repealed)

Part 1 — Jurisdiction and Venue (Repealed)
Part 2 — Notice (Repealed)
Part 3 — Proceedings Concerning Trusts (Repealed)
Part 4 — Transfer of Trust to Another Jurisdiction (Repealed)
Part 5 — Transfer of Trust From Another Jurisdiction (Repealed)

Part 1
Jurisdiction and Venue
(Repealed)

72-35-101. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 165, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-102. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 166, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-103. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 167, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-104. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 168, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-105. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 169, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-106. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 170, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-107. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 171, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 2
Notice
(Repealed)

72-35-201. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 172, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-202. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 173, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-203. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 174, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-204 and 72-35-205 reserved.

72-35-206. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 175, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-207. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 176, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-208. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 177, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-209. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 178, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 3
Proceedings Concerning Trusts
(Repealed)

72-35-301. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 179, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-302. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 180, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-303. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 181, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-304 and 72-35-305 reserved.

72-35-306. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 182, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 290, L. 1999.

72-35-307. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 183, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-308. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 184, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-309 and 72-35-310 reserved.

72-35-311. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 185, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-312. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 186, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-313. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 187, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2486, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

72-35-314. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 188, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-315. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 189, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 4

Transfer of Trust to Another Jurisdiction (Repealed)

72-35-401. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 190, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-402. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 191, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-403. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 192, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-404. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 193, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-405. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 194, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-406. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 195, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 5

Transfer of Trust From Another Jurisdiction (Repealed)

72-35-501. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 196, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-502. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 197, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-503. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 198, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-504. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 199, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-505. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 200, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-506. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 201, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-507. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 202, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-35-508. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 203, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 36
TRUST CODE — RIGHTS OF THIRD PERSONS
(Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 1 — Liability of Trustee to Third Persons (Repealed)

Part 2 — Protection of Third Persons (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 3 — Rights of Creditors of Trustor (Repealed)

Part 1
Liability of Trustee to Third Persons (Repealed)

72-36-101. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 204, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-102. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 205, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-103. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 206, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-104. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 207, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-105. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 208, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-106. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 209, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

Part 2
Protection of Third Persons (Renumbered and Repealed)

72-36-201. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 210, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-202. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 211, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-203. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 212, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-204 and 72-36-205 reserved.

72-36-206. Renumbered 72-38-1111. Code Commissioner, 2013.

Part 3
Rights of Creditors of Trustor
(Repealed)

72-36-301. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 214, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

72-36-302. Repealed. Sec. 162, Ch. 264, L. 2013.
History: En. Sec. 215, Ch. 685, L. 1989.

CHAPTER 37
FUNERAL PLAN TRUSTS
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Part 1
General Provisions
(Repealed)

72-37-101. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 336, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 232, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 454, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 86-701; Sec. 72-27-201, MCA 1987; redes. 72-37-101 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

72-37-102. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 336, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 232, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 86-702; Sec. 72-27-202, MCA 1987; redes. 72-37-102 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 365, L. 1997.

72-37-103. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 336, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 232, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 431, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 86-703; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1981; Sec. 72-27-203, MCA 1987; redes. 72-37-103 by Code Commissioner, 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 365, L. 1997.

72-37-104. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 336, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 232, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 86-704; Sec. 72-27-204, MCA 1987; redes. 72-37-104 by Code Commissioner, 1989.

CHAPTER 38
MONTANA UNIFORM TRUST CODE

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Part 1
General Provisions, Definitions, Constructive and Resulting Trusts, and Notice of Proposed Action by Trustee

72-38-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Montana Uniform Trust Code.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-102. Scope. This chapter applies to express trusts, charitable or noncharitable, nd trusts created pursuant to a statute, judgment, or decree that requires the trust to be dministered in the manner of an express trust. Other than 72-38-120 through 72-38-123, othing in this chapter affects the law relating to constructive or resulting trusts.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires therwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Action", with respect to an act of a trustee, includes a failure to act.

(2) "Ascertainable standard" means a standard relating to an individual's health, ducation, support, or maintenance within the meaning of section 2041(b)(1)(A) or 2514(c)(1) of he Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on the effective date of this chapter, or as later mended.

(3) "Beneficiary" means a person who:

(a) has a present or future beneficial interest in a trust, vested or contingent; or

(b) in a capacity other than that of trustee, holds a power of appointment over trust roperty.

(4) "Charitable trust" means a trust or portion of a trust created for a charitable purpose escribed in 72-38-405(1).

(5) "Conservator" means a person appointed by the court to administer the estate of a inor or adult individual.

(6) "Environmental law" means a federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance elating to protection of the environment.

(7) "Guardian" means a person appointed by the court, by a parent, or by a spouse to ake decisions regarding the support, care, education, health, and welfare of a minor or adult ndividual. The term does not include a guardian ad litem.

(8) "Interested person" means:

(a) the trustee;

(b) the qualified beneficiaries who are entitled to notice; and

(c) the attorney general if the petition is related to a charitable trust subject to the urisdiction of the attorney general.

(9) "Interests of the beneficiaries" means the beneficial interests provided in the terms of he trust.

(10) "Jurisdiction", with respect to a geographic area, includes a state or country.

(11) "Permissible distributee" means a beneficiary who is currently eligible to receive istributions of trust income or principal, whether mandatory or discretionary, or who holds a resently exercisable power of appointment over trust property. The term includes a charitable rganization only if it is expressly designated to receive distributions under the terms of the haritable trust.

(12) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, imited liability company, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, gency, or instrumentality, public corporation, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(13) "Power of withdrawal" means a presently exercisable general power of appointment ther than a power:

(a) exercisable by a trustee and limited by an ascertainable standard; or

(b) exercisable by another person only upon consent of the trustee or a person holding an dverse interest.

(14) (a) "Principal place of administration" means the usual place in which the day-to-day ctivity of the trust is carried on by the trustee or its representative who is primarily responsible

for the administration of the trust unless otherwise designated by the terms of the trust a provided in 72-38-108.

(b) If the principal place of administration of the trust cannot be determined unde subsection (14)(a), then it must be determined as follows:

(i) if the trust has a single trustee, the principal place of administration of the trust is th trustee's residence or usual place of business; or

(ii) if the trust has more than one trustee, the principal place of administration of the trus is the residence or usual place of business of any of the cotrustees as agreed upon by them. If no agreed upon by the cotrustees, the principal place of administration of the trust is the residenc or usual place of business of any of the cotrustees.

(15) "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real o personal, legal or equitable, or any interest therein.

(16) "Qualified beneficiary" means a beneficiary who on the date the beneficiary' qualification is determined:

(a) is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal;

(b) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if th interests of the distributees described in subsection (16)(a) terminated on that date withou causing the trust to terminate; or

(c) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if th trust terminated on that date.

(17) "Revocable", as applied to a trust, means revocable by the settlor without the consen of the trustee or a person holding an adverse interest.

(18) "Settlor" means a person, including a testator, who creates or contributes property to trust. If more than one person creates or contributes property to a trust, each person is a settlo of the portion of the trust property attributable to that person's contribution except to the exten another person has the power to revoke or withdraw that portion.

(19) "Spendthrift provision" means a term of a trust that restrains both voluntary an involuntary transfer of a beneficiary's interest.

(20) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, th United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdictio of the United States. The term includes an Indian tribe or band recognized by federal law o formally acknowledged by a state.

(21) "Terms of a trust" means:

(a) except as otherwise provided in subsection (21)(b), the manifestation of the settlor' intent regarding a trust's provisions as:

(i) expressed in the trust instrument; or

(ii) established by other evidence that would be admissible in a judicial proceeding; or

(b) the trust's provisions as established, determined, or amended by:

(i) a trustee or trust director in accordance with applicable law;

(ii) court order; or

(iii) a nonjudicial settlement agreement under 72-38-111.

(22) "Trust instrument" means an instrument executed by the settlor that contains term of the trust, including any amendments thereto.

(23) "Trustee" includes an original, additional, and successor trustee and a cotrustee.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-38-104. Knowledge. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person has knowledge of or know a fact if the person:

(a) has actual knowledge of it;

(b) has received a notice or notification of it; or

(c) from all the facts and circumstances known to the person at the time in question, ha reason to know it.

(2) An organization that conducts activities through employees has notice or knowledg of a fact involving a trust only from the time the information was received by an employe having responsibility to act for the trust or would have been brought to the employee's attentio if the organization had exercised reasonable diligence. An organization exercises reasonabl diligence if it maintains reasonable routines for communicating significant information to th

mployee having responsibility to act for the trust and there is reasonable compliance with the outines. Reasonable diligence does not require an employee of the organization to communicate nformation unless the communication is part of the individual's regular duties or the individual nows a matter involving the trust would be materially affected by the information.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-105. Default and mandatory rules. (1) Except as otherwise provided in the terms f the trust, this chapter governs the duties and powers of a trustee, relations among trustees, nd the rights and interests of a beneficiary.

(2) The terms of a trust prevail over any provision of this chapter except:

(a) the requirements for creating a trust;

(b) subject to 72-40-113, 72-40-115, and 72-40-116, the duty of a trustee to act in good faith nd in accordance with the terms and purposes of the trust and the interests of the beneficiaries;

(c) the requirement that a trust and its terms be for the benefit of its beneficiaries and that he trust have a purpose that is lawful, not contrary to public policy, and possible to achieve;

(d) the power of the court to modify or terminate a trust under 72-38-410 through 2-38-416;

(e) the effect of a spendthrift provision;

(f) the power of the court under 72-38-702 to require, dispense with, or modify or terminate bond;

(g) the power of the court under 72-38-708(2) to adjust a trustee's compensation specified n the terms of the trust that is unreasonably low or high;

(h) the effect of an exculpatory term under 72-38-1008;

(i) the rights under 72-38-1010 through 72-38-1013 of a person other than a trustee or eneficiary;

(j) the periods of limitation for commencing a judicial proceeding;

(k) the power of the court to take the action and exercise the jurisdiction that may be ecessary in the interests of justice; and

(l) the subject-matter jurisdiction of the court and venue for commencing a proceeding as rovided in 72-38-201 and 72-38-205.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 325, L. 2021.**

72-38-106. Common law of trusts — principles of equity. The common law of trusts nd principles of equity supplement this chapter except to the extent modified by this chapter or nother statute of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-107. Governing law. The meaning and effect of the terms of a trust are determined y:

(1) the law of the jurisdiction designated in the terms unless the designation of that urisdiction's law is contrary to a strong public policy of the jurisdiction having the most ignificant relationship to the matter at issue; or

(2) in the absence of a controlling designation in the terms of the trust, the law of the urisdiction having the most significant relationship to the matter at issue.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-108. Principal place of administration. (1) Without precluding other means for stablishing a sufficient connection with the designated jurisdiction, terms of a trust designating he principal place of administration are valid and controlling if:

(a) a trustee's principal place of business is located in or a trustee is a resident of the esignated jurisdiction; or

(b) all or part of the administration occurs in the designated jurisdiction.

(2) A trustee is under a continuing duty to administer the trust at a place appropriate to s purposes, its administration, and the interests of the beneficiaries.

(3) Without precluding the right of the court to order, approve, or disapprove a transfer, he trustee, in furtherance of the duty prescribed by subsection (2), may transfer the trust's rincipal place of administration to another state or to a jurisdiction outside of the United tates.

(4) The trustee shall notify the qualified beneficiaries of a proposed transfer of a trust’s principal place of administration not less than 60 days before initiating the transfer. The notice of proposed transfer must include:

(a) the name of the jurisdiction to which the principal place of administration is to be transferred;

(b) the address and telephone number at the new location at which the trustee can be contacted;

(c) an explanation of the reasons for the proposed transfer;

(d) the date on which the proposed transfer is anticipated to occur; and

(e) the date, not less than 60 days after the giving of the notice, by which the qualified beneficiary shall notify the trustee of an objection to the proposed transfer.

(5) The authority of a trustee under this section to transfer a trust’s principal place of administration terminates if a qualified beneficiary notifies the trustee of an objection to the proposed transfer on or before the date specified in the notice.

(6) In connection with a transfer of the trust’s principal place of administration, the trustee may transfer some or all of the trust property to a successor trustee designated in the terms of the trust or appointed pursuant to 72-38-704.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-109. Methods and waiver of notice. (1) (a) Notice to a person under this chapter or the sending of a document to a person under this chapter must be accomplished in a manner reasonably suitable under the circumstances and likely to result in receipt of the notice or document.

(b) Permissible methods of notice or for sending a document include first-class mail personal delivery, delivery to the person’s last-known place of residence or place of business, or a properly directed electronic message.

(c) Notice of at least 30 days prior to the event for which notice is given is considered to be reasonable unless otherwise specifically provided in this chapter.

(2) Notice otherwise required under this chapter or a document otherwise required to be sent under this chapter need not be provided to a person whose identity or location is unknown to and not reasonably ascertainable by the trustee.

(3) Notice under this chapter or the sending of a document under this chapter may be waived by the person to be notified or sent the document.

(4) Notice of a judicial proceeding must be given as provided in 72-38-208 through 72-38-212.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 564, L. 2023.

Compiler’s Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 564, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

72-38-110. Others treated as qualified beneficiaries. (1) Except as provided in 72-38-813, whenever notice to qualified beneficiaries of a trust is required under this chapter the trustee shall also give notice to any other beneficiary who has sent the trustee a request for notice.

(2) A charitable organization expressly designated to receive distributions under the terms of a charitable trust has the rights of a beneficiary and a qualified beneficiary under this chapter if the charitable organization, on the date the charitable organization’s qualification is being determined:

(a) is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal;

(b) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal upon the termination of the interests of other distributees or permissible distributees then receiving or eligible to receive distributions; or

(c) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the trust terminated on that date.

(3) A person appointed to enforce a trust created for the care of an animal or another noncharitable purpose as provided in 72-38-408 or 72-38-409 has the rights of a qualified beneficiary under this chapter.

(4) With respect to a charitable trust having its principal place of administration in this tate:

(a) The attorney general of this state has the rights of a beneficiary.

(b) The attorney general of this state has the following two rights of a qualified beneficiary:

(i) the right to request information pursuant to 72-38-813(1); and

(ii) the right to request a copy of the annual report pursuant to 72-38-813(3).

(c) The attorney general of this state has all of the rights of a qualified beneficiary of charitable trust if, on the date that a determination is being made as to the rights of the ttorney general under this subsection(4), a charitable interest in the trust is not represented by qualified beneficiary under subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 564, L. 2023.

ompiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 564, L. 2023. Amendment effective ctober 1, 2023.

72-38-111. Nonjudicial settlement agreements. (1) For purposes of this section, nterested persons" means persons whose consent would be required in order to achieve a inding settlement were the settlement to be approved by the court.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), interested persons may enter into a inding nonjudicial settlement agreement with respect to any matter involving a trust.

(3) A nonjudicial settlement agreement is valid only to the extent it does not violate a material purpose of the trust and includes terms and conditions that could be properly approved y the court under this chapter.

(4) Matters that may be resolved by a nonjudicial settlement agreement include but are ot limited to:

(a) the interpretation or construction of the terms of the trust;

(b) the approval of a trustee's report or accounting;

(c) direction to a trustee to refrain from performing a particular act or the grant to a rustee of any necessary or desirable power;

(d) the resignation or appointment of a trustee and the determination of a trustee's ompensation;

(e) transfer of a trust's principal place of administration; and

(f) liability of a trustee for an action relating to the trust.

(5) Any interested person may request the court to approve a nonjudicial settlement greement, to determine whether the representation as provided in Title 72, chapter 38, part was adequate, and to determine whether the agreement contains terms and conditions the ourt could have properly approved.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 564, L. 2023.

ompiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 564, L. 2023. Amendment effective ctober 1, 2023.

72-38-112. Rules of construction. The rules of construction that apply in this state o the interpretation of and disposition of property by will also apply as appropriate to the nterpretation of the terms of a trust and the disposition of the trust property.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-113. Insurable interest of trustee. (1) In this section, "settlor" means a person who executes a trust instrument. The term includes a person for which a fiduciary or agent is cting.

(2) A trustee of a trust has an insurable interest in the life of an individual insured under life insurance policy that is owned by the trustee of the trust acting in a fiduciary capacity or hat designates the trust itself as the owner if, on the date the policy is issued:

(a) the insured is:

(i) a settlor of the trust; or

(ii) an individual in whom a settlor of the trust has, or would have had if living at the time he policy was issued, an insurable interest; and

(b) the life insurance proceeds are primarily for the benefit of one or more trust beneficiaries who have an insurable interest in the life of the insured as provided in 33-15-201.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-114 through 72-38-119 reserved.

72-38-120. Resulting trust upon failure of trust. When the owner of propert gratuitously transfers it and manifests in the trust instrument an intention that the transfere should hold the property in trust but the trust fails, the transferee holds the trust estate as resulting trust for the transferor or the transferor's estate unless:

(1) the transferor manifested in the trust instrument an intention that no resulting trus should arise; or

(2) the intended trust fails for illegality and the policy against unjust enrichment of th transferee is outweighed by the policy against giving relief to a person who has entered into a illegal transaction.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-121. Resulting trust upon full performance of trust. When the owner o property gratuitously transfers it subject to a trust that is properly declared and that is full performed without exhausting the trust estate, the trustee holds the surplus as a resultin trust for the transferor or the transferor's estate unless the transferor manifested in the trus instrument an intention that no resulting trust of the surplus should arise.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-122. Purchase money resulting trust. (1) When a transfer of property is mad to one person and the purchase price is paid by another, a resulting trust arises in favor of th person who paid the purchase price.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

(a) whenever the party paying the purchase price manifests an intention that no resultin trust should arise;

(b) whenever the transferee is a spouse, child, or other natural object of the bounty of th person who paid the purchase price; or

(c) whenever the transfer is made in order to accomplish an illegal purpose and the polic against unjust enrichment of the transferee is outweighed by the policy against giving relief t a person who has entered into an illegal transaction.

(3) Subsection (2)(b) does not apply if the party paying the purchase price manifested a intention that the transferee should not have the beneficial interest in the property.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-123. Constructive trust. A constructive trust arises when a person holding title t property is subject to an equitable duty to convey it to another on the ground that the perso holding title would be unjustly enriched if the holder were permitted to retain it.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-124. Resulting trusts — constructive trusts — statute of frauds. Resultin trusts and constructive trusts are considered to arise by operation of law and are valid unde 72-38-407(3).

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-125 through 72-38-129 reserved.

72-38-130. Scope and effect of part — proposed action or inaction described (1) Subject to 72-38-131(2), a trustee may give a notice of proposed action or notice of propose inaction regarding a matter governed by the provisions of Title 72, chapter 3, part 4, 72-38-801 through 72-38-817, Title 72, chapter 38, part 9, or any other provision of law or this chapte under which a trustee has discretion to act as provided in 72-38-130 through 72-38-134.

(2) For the purpose of 72-38-130 through 72-38-134, a proposed action includes a cours of action or a decision not to take action. Sections 72-38-130 through 72-38-134 do not preclud an application or assertion of any other rights or remedies available to an interested party a otherwise provided in this chapter regarding an action to be taken or not to be taken by th trustee.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-131. When use of notice authorized. (1) The trustee who elects to provide notice ursuant to this part shall provide notice of the proposed action or notice of proposed inaction to ach qualified beneficiary as provided in 72-38-130 through 72-38-134.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of 72-38-130 through 72-38-134, the trustee ay not use a notice of proposed action or notice of proposed inaction in any of the following ircumstances:

(a) allowance of the trustee's compensation;

(b) allowance of compensation of the attorney for the trustee;

(c) settlement of accounts or reports;

(d) preliminary and final distributions and discharge;

(e) sale of property of the trust to the trustee or to the attorney for the trustee;

(f) exchange of property of the trust for property of the trustee or for property of the ttorney for the trustee;

(g) grant of an option to purchase property of the trust to the trustee or to the attorney for he trustee;

(h) allowance, payment, or compromise of a claim of the trustee, or the attorney for the rustee, against the trust;

(i) compromise of settlement of a claim, action, or proceeding by the trust against the rustee or against the attorney for the trust; and

(j) extension, renewal, or modification of the terms of a debt or other obligation of the rustee, or the attorney for the trustee, owing to or in favor of the trust.

(3) Notice of proposed action or notice of proposed inaction is not required to be given to qualified beneficiary who consents in writing to the proposed action or inaction. The consent ay be executed at any time before or after the effective date of the proposed action or inaction.

(4) A trustee is not required to provide a copy of the notice of the proposed action or notice f proposed inaction to a qualified beneficiary who is known to the trustee but who cannot be cated by the trustee after reasonable diligence or who is unknown to the trustee.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-132. Content of notice. The notice of proposed action or notice of proposed inaction ust state that it is given pursuant to this part and must include all of the following:

(1) the name and mailing address of the trustee;

(2) the name and telephone number of a person who may be contacted for additional nformation;

(3) a description of the action or inaction proposed, the material facts upon which the rustee has relied in making its decision regarding the proposed action or inaction, and an xplanation of the reasons for the action or inaction;

(4) a statement that failure of a qualified beneficiary to object within the allowed time bars he qualified beneficiary from taking any legal action against the trustee for liability within the cope of 72-38-133 except as provided in 72-38-133(3) and that a qualified beneficiary may want o seek independent legal advice regarding the matter at the qualified beneficiary's expense;

(5) the time within which objections to the proposed action or inaction can be made, which ust be at least 30 days from providing the notice of proposed action or notice of proposed naction; and

(6) the date on or after which the proposed action or inaction is effective.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 2015.**

72-38-133. Objection to proposed action or inaction — petition — liability of rustee. (1) A qualified beneficiary may object to the proposed action or inaction by providing written objection to the trustee at the address stated in the notice of proposed action or otice of proposed inaction within the time period specified in the notice of proposed action or otice of proposed inaction. The written objection may take any form reasonably calculated to ommunicate the objection but need not give any reason for the objection.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a trustee is not liable to a qualified beneficiary or an action or inaction regarding a matter governed by this part if the trustee does not receive written objection to the proposed action or inaction from the qualified beneficiary within the pplicable period and the other requirements of this part are satisfied. Except as provided in

subsection (3), if no qualified beneficiary objects under this section, the trustee is not liable t any qualified beneficiary with respect to the proposed action or inaction. This section does no apply to an unborn or minor child or an incapacitated adult unless notice of the proposed actio is provided to an appropriate representative pursuant to 72-38-303.

(3) The failure of a qualified beneficiary to object does not preclude the qualified beneficiar from holding the trustee liable for a breach of trust in any of the following circumstances:

(a) if the qualified beneficiary at the time of the qualified beneficiary's failure to object di not have notice of the proposed action as prescribed in 72-38-130 through 72-38-134; or

(b) if the qualified beneficiary's failure to object was induced by improper conduct of th trustee.

(4) If the trustee receives a written objection to a notice of proposed action within th applicable period, either the trustee or a qualified beneficiary may petition the court to hav the proposed action taken as proposed, taken with modifications, or denied. In the proceeding the trustee has the burden of proving that the trustee's proposed action should be taken. A qualified beneficiary who has not objected is not estopped from opposing the proposed action i the proceeding.

(5) If the trustee decides not to implement the proposed action, the trustee shall notify th qualified beneficiaries of the decision not to take the action and the reasons for the decision, an the trustee's decision not to implement the proposed action does not itself give rise to liability t any beneficiary. A qualified beneficiary may petition the court to have the action taken, and th qualified beneficiary has the burden of proving that it should be taken.

(6) If the trustee receives a written objection to a notice of proposed inaction within th applicable period, either the trustee or a qualified beneficiary may petition the court to approv the proposed inaction. In the proceeding, the trustee has the burden of proving that the truste should not act. A qualified beneficiary who has not objected is not estopped from opposing th proposed inaction in the proceeding.

(7) If after providing a notice of proposed inaction, the trustee decides to act, the truste shall notify the qualified beneficiaries of the decision to act and the reasons for the decision and the trustee's decision does not itself give rise to liability to any beneficiary. A qualifie beneficiary may petition the court to direct the trustee not to act, and the qualified beneficiar has the burden of proof.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-134. Procedures not required. Sections 72-38-130 through 72-38-134 do no require a trustee to use these procedures prior to taking any action or deciding not to act.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 2
Judicial Proceedings

72-38-201. Subject matter jurisdiction. (1) The district court having jurisdiction ove the trust pursuant to this chapter has exclusive jurisdiction of proceedings concerning th internal affairs of trusts.

(2) The district court having jurisdiction over the trust pursuant to this chapter ha concurrent jurisdiction of the following:

(a) actions and proceedings to determine the existence of trusts;

(b) actions and proceedings by or against creditors or debtors of trusts; and

(c) other actions and proceedings involving trustees and third persons.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-202. Powers of court. In proceedings concerning the internal affairs of trust commenced pursuant to this chapter, the court has all the powers of a district court exercising its general jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-203. Jurisdiction over trustees and beneficiaries. Subject to 72-38-204:

(1) by accepting the trusteeship of a trust having its principal place of administration i this state, the trustee submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court under this chapter;

(2) to the extent of their interests in the trust, all beneficiaries of a trust having its principal place of administration in this state are subject to the jurisdiction of the court under this chapter; and

(3) by accepting a distribution from a trust having its principal place of administration in this state, the recipient submits personally to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state regarding ny matter involving the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-204. Basis of jurisdiction over trust, trust property, and trust parties. The ourt may exercise jurisdiction in proceedings under Title 72, chapter 38, part 2, on any basis ermitted by Title 72, chapter 38, part 2, or by Rule 4, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-205. Venue. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), venue for a judicial roceeding involving a trust is in the county of this state in which the trust's principal place of dministration is or will be located and, if the trust is created by will and the estate is not yet losed, in the county in which the decedent's estate is being administered.

(2) If a trust has no trustee, venue for a judicial proceeding for the appointment of a trustee s in a county of this state in which a beneficiary resides, in a county in which any trust property s located, and if the trust is created by will, in the county in which the decedent's estate was or s being administered.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (1) and (2), the proper county for ommencement of a proceeding pursuant to this chapter is determined by the rules applicable to ivil actions generally.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-206. Rules of procedure in trust proceedings. (1) The pleadings described in 72-38-214 are permitted pleadings in judicial proceedings under this chapter.

(2) Unless specifically provided to the contrary in this chapter or unless inconsistent with his chapter, the rules of civil procedure, including the rules concerning vacation of orders and appellate review, govern proceedings under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-207. Jury trial. There is no right to a jury trial in proceedings under this chapter concerning the internal affairs of trusts.

History: **En. Sec. 30, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-208. Application. Sections 72-38-209 through 72-38-212 apply to notice in proceedings commenced pursuant to Title 72, chapter 38, part 2.

History: **En. Sec. 31, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-209. Notice — method and time of giving. (1) If notice of a hearing on any petition is required and except for specific notice requirements as otherwise provided in this chapter, the petitioner shall cause notice of the time and place of hearing of any petition to be given to any interested person or the person's attorney if the person has appeared by attorney or requested that notice be sent to the person's attorney.

(2) Notice must be given:

(a) by mailing a copy of the notice at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing by certified mail or ordinary first-class mail addressed to the person being notified at the post-office address given in the person's demand for notice, if any, or at the person's office or place of residence, if known;

(b) by delivering a copy of the notice to the person being notified personally at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing; or

(c) if the address or identity of any person is not known and cannot be ascertained with reasonable diligence, by publishing the notice in a weekly paper once a week for 3 consecutive weeks and, if in a newspaper published more often than once a week, by publishing on at least 3 different days of publication. There must be at least 10 days from the first to the last day of publication, both the first and last day being included.

(3) The court for good cause shown may provide for a different method or time of giving notice for any hearing.

(4) Proof of the giving of notice must be made on or before the hearing and filed in th proceeding. If it appears to the satisfaction of the court that notice has been regularly given o that the party entitled to notice has waived, the court shall so find in its order. When the orde becomes final, it is conclusive on all persons, whether or not in being.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-210. Waiver of notice. A person, including a guardian ad litem, conservator, o other fiduciary, may waive notice by a writing signed by the person or the person's attorney an filed in the proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-211. Pleadings — when orders or notice binding one binds another – representation. In proceedings involving trusts, the following apply:

(1) Interests to be affected must be described in pleadings that give reasonable informatio to owners by name or class, by reference to the instrument creating the interests, or in othe appropriate manner.

(2) Persons are bound by orders binding others in the following cases:

(a) Orders binding the sole holder or all coholders of a power of revocation or a presentl exercisable general power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment bind other persons to the extent their interests, as objects, takers in default, or otherwise, ar subject to the power.

(b) (i) To the extent there is no conflict of interest between them or among person represented, orders binding a:

(A) conservator bind the person whose estate the conservator controls;

(B) guardian bind the ward if a conservator of the ward's estate has not been appointed;

(C) trustee bind beneficiaries of the trust in proceedings establishing or adding to a trust to review the acts or accounts of a prior fiduciary, and in proceedings involving creditors or othe third parties; and

(D) personal representative bind persons interested in the undistributed assets of decedent's estate in actions or proceedings by or against the estate.

(ii) If there is no conflict of interest and a conservator or guardian has not been appointed a parent may represent the parent's minor child.

(c) An unborn or unascertained person who is not otherwise represented is bound by a order to the extent the person's interest is adequately represented by another party having substantially identical interest in the proceeding.

(3) Notice is required as follows:

(a) Notice as prescribed by 72-38-209 must be given to every interested person or to on who can bind an interested person as described in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b). Notice may b given both to a person and to another who may bind the person.

(b) Notice is given to unborn or unascertained persons who are not represented unde subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) by giving notice to all known persons whose interests in the proceeding are substantially identical to those of the unborn or unascertained persons.

(4) At any point in a proceeding, a court may appoint a guardian ad litem to represen the interest of a minor, an incapacitated, unborn, or unascertained person, or a person whos identity or address is unknown if the court determines that representation of the interes otherwise would be inadequate. If not precluded by conflict of interests, a guardian ad litem ma be appointed to represent several persons or interests. The court shall set out its reasons fo appointing a guardian ad litem as a part of the record of the proceeding. The guardian ad lite is entitled to reasonable compensation and to costs and expenses, including attorney fees.

(5) The notice for a petition and hearing requesting the court to settle reports or pass upo the acts of the trustee or that otherwise may affect substantive property rights of a beneficiar or other interested party must state that fact in the notice and must further state that failure t appear and object bars any further claims against the trustee relating to the subject matter o the petition.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-212. Additional notice. (1) The court may, on its own motion or on motion of a rustee or other person interested in the trust, require that further or additional notice be given at any stage of the proceeding. The court may prescribe the form and method of the notice to be iven.

(2) A petitioner or other person required to give notice may cause notice to be given to any person interested in the trust without the need for a court order.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-213. Petitioners — grounds for petition. (1) Except as provided in 72-38-603, a trustee or beneficiary of a trust may petition the court under this chapter concerning the nternal affairs of the trust or to determine the existence of the trust.

(2) Proceedings concerning the internal affairs of a trust include but are not limited to proceedings for any of the following purposes:

(a) determining questions of construction of a trust instrument;

(b) determining the existence or nonexistence of any immunity, power, privilege, duty, or ight;

(c) determining the validity of a trust provision;

(d) ascertaining beneficiaries and determining to whom property must pass or be delivered upon final or partial termination of the trust, to the extent the determination is not made by the rust instrument;

(e) settling the accounts and passing upon the acts of the trustee, including the exercise of discretionary powers;

(f) instructing the trustee;

(g) compelling the trustee to provide information about the trust or submit a report to a qualified beneficiary if:

(i) the trustee has failed to provide information or submit a requested report within 60 days after written request of the qualified beneficiary; and

(ii) in the case of a report, no report has been made within 6 months preceding the request;

(h) granting powers to the trustee;

(i) fixing or allowing payment of the trustee's compensation;

(j) appointing or removing a trustee;

(k) accepting the resignation of a trustee;

(l) compelling redress of a breach of the trust by any available remedy;

(m) approving or directing the modification or termination of the trust;

(n) approving or directing the combination or division of trusts;

(o) amending or conforming the trust instrument in the manner required to qualify a decedent's estate for the charitable estate tax deduction under federal law, including the addition of mandatory governing instrument requirements for a charitable remainder trust as required by final regulations and rulings of the United States Internal Revenue Service, in any case in which all parties interested in the trust have submitted written agreement to the proposed changes or written disclaimer of interest;

(p) authorizing or directing transfer of a trust or trust property to or from another urisdiction;

(q) directing transfer of a testamentary trust subject to continuing court jurisdiction from one county to another;

(r) approving removal of a testamentary trust from continuing court jurisdiction; or

(s) reforming or excusing compliance with the governing instrument of an organization pursuant to 72-38-825.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-214. Commencement of proceedings. (1) A proceeding under this chapter is commenced by filing a verified petition stating facts showing that the petition is authorized under this chapter and the grounds of the petition.

(2) The following pleadings are specifically permitted:

(a) a petition filed pursuant to this chapter;

(b) a report or account filed in regard to a petition filed pursuant to this chapter; and

(c) an objection or response filed in regard to a petition, report, or account filed pursuan to this chapter.

(3) When a petition that requires a hearing is filed with the court clerk, the clerk shall se the matter for hearing.

(4) Except as provided in 25-4-203 regarding verification by an agent or attorney, al pleadings described in subsection (2) must be verified as follows:

(a) A petition must be verified by the petitioner or, if there are two or more parties joinin in the petition, by any one of the petitioners.

(b) A report or account must be verified by the person who has the duty to make the repor or, if there are two or more persons having a duty to report, by any one of the persons having th duty.

(c) An objection or response must be verified by the objector or respondent or, if ther are two or more parties joining in the objection or response, by any one of the objectors o respondents.

(5) In any trust proceeding, an affidavit or verified petition must be received as evidenc when offered in an uncontested proceeding under this chapter.

(6) In addition to the verification required by 25-4-203 and subsection (5), every pleadin filed in connection with any trust proceeding must be signed by the attorney of the person filin the pleading if the person is represented by an attorney.

(7) Nothing in this chapter precludes the commencement, within a decedent's probate, o a trust proceeding for the construction of a testamentary trust, provided the probate has no previously been closed pursuant to Title 72, chapter 3, part 10.

History: **En. Sec. 37, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-215. Dismissal of petition. The court may dismiss a petition if it appears tha the proceeding is not reasonably necessary for the protection of the interests of the trustee o beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 38, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-216. Request for special notice. (1) If proceedings involving a trust are pending a beneficiary of the trust may, in person or by attorney, serve on the trustee or the trustee' attorney and file with the court clerk where the proceedings are pending a written reques stating that the beneficiary desires special notice of the filing of all pleadings in the proceedin relating to any or all of the purposes described in 72-38-213 and giving an address for receivin notice by mail. Proof of service of the request on the trustee must be filed with the court cler when the request is filed.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), after serving and filing a request and proof o service pursuant to subsection (1), the beneficiary is entitled to notice pursuant to 72-38-209.

(3) A request for special notice made by a beneficiary whose right to notice is restricted b 72-38-603 is not effective.

History: **En. Sec. 39, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-217. Request for copy of petition. If a trustee or beneficiary has served and file either a notice of appearance, in person or by counsel, directed to the petitioner or the petitioner' counsel in connection with a particular petition and proceeding or a written request for a cop of the petition and has given an address to which notice or a copy of the petition may be maile or delivered, the petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the trustee or beneficiary within days after service of the notice of appearance or receipt of the request.

History: **En. Sec. 40, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-218. Authority to make necessary orders — temporary trustee. The court i its discretion may make any orders and take any other action necessary or proper to dispos of the matters presented by the petition, including appointment of a temporary trustee t administer the trust in whole or in part.

History: **En. Sec. 41, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-219. Appeal. An appeal may be taken from the grant or denial of any final orde made under this chapter except the following:

(1) compelling the trustee to provide information or submit a report to a qualifie beneficiary pursuant to 72-38-213(2)(g);

(2) accepting the resignation of a trustee pursuant to 72-38-213(2)(k); or

(3) approving removal of a testamentary trust from continuing court jurisdiction pursuant o 72-38-213(2)(r).

History: **En. Sec. 42, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-220. Intermittent judicial intervention in trust administration. The administration of trusts is intended to proceed expeditiously and free of judicial intervention, subject to the jurisdiction of the court.

History: **En. Sec. 43, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-221. Enforcement of beneficiary's rights under charitable trust by attorney general. In a case involving a charitable trust subject to the jurisdiction of the attorney general, he attorney general may petition under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 44, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

Part 3
Representation

72-38-301. Representation — basic effect. (1) Notice to a person who may represent and bind another person under this part has the same effect as if notice were given directly to he other person.

(2) The consent of a person who may represent and bind another person under this part is binding on the person represented unless the person represented objects to the representation by notifying the trustee or representative before the consent would otherwise have become effective.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in 72-38-411 and 72-38-602, a person who under this part may represent a settlor who lacks capacity may receive notice and give a binding consent on the settlor's behalf.

(4) A settlor may not represent and bind a beneficiary under this part with respect to the termination or modification of a trust under 72-38-411(1).

(5) In the event of a conflict between this part and part 2 of this chapter, the provisions of part 2 must supersede the contrary provisions in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 45, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 181, L. 2015.**

72-38-302. Representation by holder of general testamentary power of appointment. To the extent there is no conflict of interest between the holder of a general estamentary power of appointment and the persons represented with respect to the particular question or dispute, the holder may represent and bind persons whose interests, as permissible appointees, takers in default, or otherwise, are subject to the power.

History: **En. Sec. 46, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-303. Representation by fiduciaries and parents. To the extent there is no conflict of interest between the representative and the person represented or among those being represented with respect to a particular question or dispute:

(1) a conservator may represent and bind the estate that the conservator controls;

(2) a guardian may represent and bind the ward if a conservator of the ward's estate has not been appointed;

(3) an agent having authority to act with respect to the particular question or dispute may represent and bind the principal;

(4) a trustee may represent and bind the beneficiaries of the trust;

(5) a personal representative of a decedent's estate may represent and bind persons interested in the estate; and

(6) a parent may represent and bind the parent's minor or unborn child if a conservator or guardian for the child has not been appointed. The parent entitled to represent and bind the child is determined in the following order of priority:

(a) the parent who is a lineal descendant of a settlor;

(b) the parent who is a beneficiary of the trust that is the subject of the representation;

(c) the parent with legal custody of the child; and

(d) if one parent cannot be determined pursuant to the preceding criteria and if disagreement arises between the parents seeking to represent the same child, a guardian a litem must be appointed to represent the minor child.

History: En. Sec. 47, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-304. Representation by person having substantially identical interes Unless otherwise represented, a minor, incapacitated, or unborn individual or a person whos identity or location is unknown and not reasonably ascertainable may be represented by an bound by another having a substantially identical interest with respect to the particular questio or dispute, but only to the extent there is no conflict of interest between the representative an the person represented.

History: En. Sec. 48, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-305. Appointment of representative. (1) If the court determines that an interes is not represented under this part or that the otherwise available representation might b inadequate, the court may appoint a representative to receive notice, give consent, and otherwis represent, bind, and act on behalf of a minor, incapacitated, or unborn individual or a perso whose identity or location is unknown. A representative may be appointed to represent severa persons or interests.

(2) A representative may act on behalf of the individual represented with respect to an matter arising under this chapter, whether or not a judicial proceeding concerning the trust i pending.

(3) In making decisions, a representative may consider general benefit accruing to th living members of the individual's family.

History: En. Sec. 49, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 4
Creation, Validity, Modification, and Termination of Trust

72-38-401. Methods of creating trust. A trust may be created by:

(1) transfer of property to a person as trustee during the settlor's lifetime or by will o other disposition taking effect upon the settlor's death;

(2) declaration by the owner of property that the owner holds identifiable property a trustee; or

(3) exercise of a power of appointment in favor of a trustee.

History: En. Sec. 50, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-402. Requirements for creation. (1) A trust is created only if:

(a) the settlor has capacity to create a trust;
(b) the settlor indicates an intention to create the trust;
(c) the trust has a definite beneficiary or is:
(i) a charitable trust;
(ii) a trust for the care of an animal, as provided in 72-38-408; or
(iii) a trust for a noncharitable purpose, as provided in 72-38-409;
(d) the trustee has duties to perform; and
(e) the same person is not the sole trustee and sole beneficiary.

(2) A beneficiary is definite if the beneficiary can be ascertained now or in the future subject to any applicable rule against perpetuities.

(3) A power in a trustee to select a beneficiary from an indefinite class is valid. If the powe is not exercised within a reasonable time, the power fails and the property subject to the powe passes to the persons who would have taken the property had the power not been conferred.

(4) A conservation easement created or conveyed under Title 76, chapter 6, does not creat a charitable trust unless the settlor expresses a clear intention in the conservation easemen instrument to create or convey the conservation easement as a charitable trust.

History: En. Sec. 51, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-403. Trusts created in other jurisdictions. A trust not created by will is validly reated if its creation complies with the law of the jurisdiction in which the trust instrument as executed or the law of the jurisdiction in which, at the time of creation:

(1) the settlor was domiciled, had a place of abode, or was a national;

(2) a trustee was domiciled or had a place of business; or

(3) any trust property was located.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-404. Trust purposes. A trust may be created only to the extent its purposes are awful, not contrary to public policy, and possible to achieve. A trust and its terms must be for he benefit of its beneficiaries.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-405. Charitable purposes — enforcement. (1) A charitable trust may be created r the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion, the promotion of health, overnmental or municipal purposes, or other purposes the achievement of which is beneficial o the community.

(2) If the terms of a charitable trust do not indicate a particular charitable purpose or eneficiary, the court may select one or more charitable purposes or beneficiaries. The selection ust be consistent with the settlor's intention to the extent it can be ascertained.

(3) A proceeding to enforce a charitable trust may be brought by the settlor, the attorney eneral, a charitable organization expressly named in the trust to receive distributions, or any ther person with standing.

History: En. Sec. 54, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-406. Creation of trust induced by fraud, duress, or undue influence. A trust s void to the extent its creation was induced by fraud, duress, or undue influence.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-407. Statute of frauds. A trust is not valid unless evidenced by one of the following ethods:

(1) by a written instrument signed by the trustee or by the trustee's agent if authorized in riting to do so;

(2) by a written instrument signed by the settlor or by the settlor's agent if authorized in riting to do so; or

(3) by operation of law.

History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-408. Trust for care of animal. (1) A trust may be created to provide for the care of n animal alive during the settlor's lifetime. The trust terminates upon the death of the animal r, if the trust was created to provide for the care of more than one animal alive during the ettlor's lifetime, upon the death of the last surviving animal.

(2) A trust authorized by this section may be enforced by a person appointed in the terms f the trust or, if no person is so appointed, by a person appointed by the court. A person having n interest in the welfare of the animal may request the court to appoint a person to enforce the rust or to remove a person appointed.

(3) Property of a trust authorized by this section may be applied only to its intended se, except to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property exceeds the mount required for the intended use. Except as otherwise provided in the terms of the trust, roperty not required for the intended use must be distributed to the settlor, if then living, and therwise to the settlor's successors in interest.

History: En. Sec. 57, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-409. Noncharitable trust without ascertainable beneficiary. Except as therwise provided in 72-38-408 or by another statute, the following rules apply:

(1) A trust may be created for a noncharitable purpose without a definite or definitely scertainable beneficiary or for a noncharitable but otherwise valid purpose to be selected by he trustee. The trust may not be enforced for more than 21 years.

(2) A trust authorized by this section may be enforced by a person appointed in the terms f the trust or, if no person is so appointed, by a person appointed by the court.

(3) Property of a trust authorized by this section may be applied only to its intende use, except to the extent the court determines that the value of the trust property exceeds th amount required for the intended use. Except as otherwise provided in the terms of the trus property not required for the intended use must be distributed to the settlor, if then living, an otherwise to the settlor's successors in interest.

History: En. Sec. 58, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-410. Modification or termination of trust — proceedings for approval o disapproval. (1) In addition to the methods of termination prescribed by 72-38-411 throug 72-38-414, a trust terminates to the extent the trust is revoked or expires pursuant to it terms, no purpose of the trust remains to be achieved, or the purposes of the trust have becom unlawful, contrary to public policy, or impossible to achieve.

(2) A proceeding to approve or disapprove a proposed modification or termination unde 72-38-411 through 72-38-416 or a trust combination or division under 72-38-417 may b commenced by a trustee or beneficiary, and a proceeding to approve or disapprove a propose modification or termination under 72-38-411 may be commenced by the settlor. The settlor of charitable trust may maintain a proceeding to modify the trust under 72-38-413.

History: En. Sec. 59, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-411. Modification or termination of irrevocable trust by consent. (1) A irrevocable trust may be modified or terminated upon consent of the settlor and all beneficiaries even if the modification or termination is inconsistent with a material noncharitable purpose the trust. Modification or termination of a charitable trust requires the consent of the attorne general. A settlor's power to consent to a trust's modification or termination may be exercise by an agent under a power of attorney only to the extent expressly authorized by the power o attorney and the terms of the trust; by the settlor's conservator with the approval of the cour supervising the conservatorship if an agent is not so authorized; or by the settlor's guardia with the approval of the court supervising the guardianship if an agent is not so authorize and a conservator has not been appointed. This subsection does not apply to irrevocable trust created before or to revocable trusts that became irrevocable before October 1, 1989.

(2) An irrevocable trust may be terminated upon consent of all of the beneficiaries if th court concludes that continuance of the trust is not necessary to achieve any material purpos of the trust. An irrevocable trust may be modified upon consent of all of the beneficiaries i the court concludes that modification is not inconsistent with a material purpose of the trust Modification or termination of a charitable trust requires the consent of the attorney general.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a spendthrift provision in the terms of the trust is no presumed to constitute a material purpose of the trust.

(4) Upon termination of a trust under subsection (1) or (2), the trustee shall distribute th trust property as agreed by the beneficiaries. In the case of a charitable trust, the trust propert must be distributed in accord with the terms of the trust, and in the absence of applicable terms consistent with the charitable purposes of the trust as agreed by the attorney general and th beneficiaries or, if there are no charitable organizations with the rights of a beneficiary an the termination is pursuant to subsection (1), then as agreed by the settlor and the attorne general, but if the termination is pursuant to subsection (2), then as decided by the court.

(5) If not all of the beneficiaries consent to a proposed modification or termination of th trust under subsection (1) or (2), the modification or termination may be approved by the cour if the court is satisfied that:

(a) if all of the beneficiaries had consented, the trust could have been modified o terminated under this section; and

(b) the interests of a beneficiary who does not consent will be adequately protected.

History: En. Sec. 60, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 564, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 564, L. 2023. Amendment effectiv October 1, 2023.

72-38-412. Modification or termination because of unanticipated circumstance or inability to administer trust effectively. (1) The court may modify the administrative o dispositive terms of a trust or terminate the trust if, because of circumstances not anticipate by the settlor, modification or termination will further the purposes of the trust. To the extent practicable, the modification must be made in accordance with the settlor's probable intention.

(2) The court may modify the administrative terms of a trust if continuation of the trust on ts existing terms would be impracticable or wasteful or impair the trust's administration.

(3) Upon termination of a trust under this section, the trustee shall distribute the trust property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 61, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-413. Cy pres. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), if a particular charitable purpose becomes unlawful, impracticable, impossible to achieve, or wasteful:

(a) the trust does not fail, in whole or in part;

(b) the trust property does not revert to the settlor or the settlor's successors in interest; and

(c) the court may apply cy pres to modify or terminate the trust by directing that the trust property be applied or distributed, in whole or in part, in a manner consistent with the settlor's charitable purposes.

(2) A provision in the terms of a charitable trust that would result in distribution of the trust property to a noncharitable beneficiary prevails over the power of the court under subsection (1) to apply cy pres to modify or terminate the trust only if, when the provision takes effect:

(a) the trust property is to revert to the settlor and the settlor is still living; or

(b) fewer than 21 years have elapsed since the date of the trust's creation.

History: **En. Sec. 62, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-414. Modification or termination of uneconomic trust. (1) After notice to the qualified beneficiaries, the trustee of a trust consisting of trust property having a total value less than $100,000 may terminate the trust if the trustee concludes that the value of the trust property is insufficient to justify the cost of administration.

(2) The court may modify or terminate a trust or remove the trustee and appoint a different trustee if it determines that the value of the trust property is insufficient to justify the cost of administration.

(3) Upon termination of a trust under this section, the trustee shall distribute the trust property in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 63, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-415. Reformation to correct mistakes. The court may reform the terms of a trust, even if unambiguous, to conform the terms to the settlor's intention if it is proved by clear and convincing evidence what the settlor's intention was and that the terms of the trust were affected by a mistake of fact or law, whether in expression or inducement.

History: **En. Sec. 64, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-416. Modification to achieve settlor's tax objectives. To achieve the settlor's tax objectives, the court may modify the terms of a trust in a manner that is not contrary to the settlor's probable intention. The court may provide that the modification has retroactive effect.

History: **En. Sec. 65, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-417. Combination and division of trusts. After notice to the qualified beneficiaries, a trustee may combine two or more trusts into a single trust or divide a trust into two or more separate trusts if the result does not impair rights of any beneficiary or adversely affect achievement of the purposes of the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 66, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

Part 5

Creditor's Claims — Spendthrift and Discretionary Trusts

72-38-501. Rights of beneficiary's creditor or assignee. To the extent a beneficiary's interest is not subject to a spendthrift provision, the court may authorize a creditor or assignee of the beneficiary to reach the beneficiary's interest by attachment of present or future distributions to or for the benefit of the beneficiary or other means. The court may limit the award to the relief that is appropriate under the circumstances.

History: **En. Sec. 67, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-502. Spendthrift provision. (1) A spendthrift provision is valid only if it restrains both voluntary and involuntary transfer of a beneficiary's interest.

(2) A term of a trust providing that the interest of a beneficiary is held subject to a "spendthrift trust", or words of similar import, is sufficient to restrain both voluntary and involuntary transfer of the beneficiary's interest.

(3) A beneficiary may not transfer an interest in a trust in violation of a valid spendthrift provision, and except as otherwise provided in this part, a creditor or assignee of the beneficiary may not reach the interest or a distribution by the trustee before its receipt by the beneficiary.

History: **En. Sec. 68, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-503 reserved.

72-38-504. Discretionary trusts — effect of standard. (1) Whether or not a trust contains a spendthrift provision, a creditor of a beneficiary may not compel a distribution that is subject to the trustee's discretion even if:

(a) the discretion is expressed in the form of a standard of distribution; or

(b) the trustee has abused the discretion.

(2) This section does not limit the right of a beneficiary to maintain a judicial proceeding against a trustee for an abuse of discretion or failure to comply with a standard for distribution.

(3) If the trustee's or cotrustee's discretion to make distributions for the trustee's or cotrustee's own benefit is limited by an ascertainable standard, a creditor may not reach or compel distribution of the beneficial interest except to the extent the interest would be subject to the creditor's claim were the beneficiary not acting as trustee or cotrustee.

History: **En. Sec. 69, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-505. Creditor's claim against settlor. (1) Whether or not the terms of a trust contain a spendthrift provision, the following rules apply:

(a) During the lifetime of the settlor, the property of a revocable trust is subject to claims of the settlor's creditors.

(b) With respect to an irrevocable trust, a creditor or assignee of the settlor may reach the maximum amount that can be distributed to or for the settlor's benefit. If a trust has more than one settlor, the amount the creditor or assignee of a particular settlor may reach may not exceed the settlor's interest in the portion of the trust attributable to that settlor's contribution. A trustee's discretionary authority to pay directly or to reimburse the settlor for any tax that is payable by the settlor on trust income or principal may not be considered to be an amount that can be distributed to or for the settlor's benefit, and a creditor or assignee of the settlor is not entitled to reach any amount solely by reason of this discretionary authority.

(c) After the death of a settlor, and subject to the settlor's right to direct the source from which liabilities will be paid, the property of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death is subject to claims of the settlor's creditors, costs of administration of the settlor's estate, the expenses of the settlor's funeral and disposal of remains, and statutory allowances to a surviving spouse and children to the extent the settlor's probate estate is inadequate to satisfy those claims, costs, expenses, and allowances.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) during the period the power may be exercised, the holder of a power of withdrawal is treated in the same manner as the settlor of a revocable trust to the extent of the property subject to the power; and

(b) upon the lapse, release, or waiver of the power, the holder is treated as the settlor of the trust only to the extent the value of the property affected by the lapse, release, or waiver exceeds the greater of the amount specified in section 2041(b)(2) or 2514(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or section 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in each case as in effect on the effective date of this chapter or as later amended.

History: **En. Sec. 70, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-506. Overdue distribution. (1) (a) In this section, "mandatory distribution" means a distribution of income or principal that the trustee is required to make to a beneficiary under he terms of the trust, including a distribution upon termination of the trust.

(b) The term does not include a distribution subject to the exercise of the trustee's discretion even if:

(i) the discretion is expressed in the form of a standard of distribution; or

(ii) the terms of the trust authorizing a distribution couple language of discretion with anguage of direction.

(2) Whether or not a trust contains a spendthrift provision, a creditor or assignee of a beneficiary may reach a mandatory distribution of income or principal, including a distribution upon termination of the trust, if the trustee has not made the distribution to the beneficiary within a reasonable time after the designated distribution date.

History: En. Sec. 71, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-507. Personal obligations of trustee. Trust property is not subject to personal obligations of the trustee, even if the trustee becomes insolvent or bankrupt.

History: En. Sec. 72, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 6
Revocable Trusts

72-38-601. Capacity of settlor of revocable trust. The capacity required to create, amend, revoke, or add property to a revocable trust or to direct the actions of the trustee of a revocable trust is the same as that required to make a will.

History: En. Sec. 73, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-602. Revocation or amendment of revocable trust. (1) Unless the terms of a trust expressly provide that the trust is irrevocable, the settlor may revoke or amend the trust. This subsection does not apply to a trust created under an instrument executed before October 1, 1989.

(2) If a revocable trust is created or funded by more than one settlor:

(a) to the extent the trust consists of community property, the trust may be revoked by either party acting alone but may be amended only by joint action of both parties;

(b) to the extent the trust consists of property other than community property, each settlor may revoke or amend the trust with regard the portion of the trust property attributable to that settlor's contribution; and

(c) upon the revocation or amendment of the trust by fewer than all of the settlors, the trustee shall promptly provide notice to the other settlors of the revocation or amendment.

(3) The settlor may revoke or amend a revocable trust:

(a) by substantial compliance with a method provided in the terms of the trust; or

(b) if the terms of the trust do not provide a method, by a writing delivered to the trustee manifesting clear and convincing evidence of the settlor's intent.

(4) Upon revocation of a revocable trust, the trustee shall deliver the trust property as the settlor directs. However, with respect to community property under subsection (2)(a), the trustee shall deliver the property to the respective spouses, proportionate to their respective shares of the community property as prescribed by the laws of the state out of which the community property interest arose, and the nonrevoking spouse may elect to have the trust continue with respect to that spouse's share of the community property.

(5) A settlor's powers with respect to revocation, amendment, or distribution of trust property may be exercised by an agent under a power of attorney only to the extent expressly authorized by the terms of the trust and the power of attorney.

(6) A conservator of the settlor or, if no conservator has been appointed, a guardian of the settlor may exercise a settlor's powers with respect to revocation, amendment, or distribution of trust property only with the approval of the court supervising the conservatorship or guardianship.

(7) A trustee who does not know that a trust has been revoked or amended is not liable to the settlor or settlor's successors in interest for distributions made and other actions taken on the assumption that the trust had not been amended or revoked.

History: En. Sec. 74, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-603. Settlor's powers — powers of withdrawal. (1) To the extent a trust is revocable by a settlor, a trustee may follow a direction of the settlor that is contrary to the terms of the trust. To the extent a trust is revocable by a settlor in conjunction with a person other than a trustee or person holding an adverse interest, the trustee may follow a direction from the settlor and the other person holding the power to revoke even if the direction is contrary to the terms of the trust.

(2) To the extent a trust is revocable, rights of the beneficiaries are subject to the contro of the settlor and the duties of the trustee, including the duty to provide notice, are owed exclusively to the settlor.

(3) During the period the power may be exercised, the holder of a power of withdrawal has the rights of a settlor of a revocable trust under this section to the extent of the property subject to the power.

History: **En. Sec. 75, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 325, L. 2021.**

72-38-604. Limitation on action contesting validity of revocable trust — distribution of trust property. (1) A person may commence a judicial proceeding to contest the validity of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death within the earlier of:

(a) 3 years after the settlor's death; or

(b) 120 days after the trustee sent the person a copy of the trust instrument and a notice informing the person of the trust's existence, of the trustee's name and address, and of the time allowed for commencing a proceeding.

(2) Upon the death of the settlor of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death, the trustee may proceed to distribute the trust property in accordance with the terms of the trust The trustee is not subject to liability for doing so unless:

(a) the trustee knows of a pending judicial proceeding contesting the validity of the trust or

(b) a potential contestant has notified the trustee of a possible judicial proceeding to contest the trust and a judicial proceeding is commenced within 60 days after the contestant sent the notification.

(3) A beneficiary of a trust that is determined to have been invalid is liable to return any distribution received.

History: **En. Sec. 76, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-605. Fees and expenses — by whom paid. When the validity of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death is contested through a judicial proceeding, the attorney fees and costs, as provided in 25-10-201, incurred in defending the validity of the trust must be paid by the party contesting the validity of the trust if the trust is found valid. If the trust is found invalid, costs as provided in 25-10-201, but not attorney fees of the objecting party, must be paid by the party who defended the validity of the trust or out of the trust property, as the court directs.

History: **En. Sec. 77, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-606. Separate writing identifying disposition of tangible personal property (1) A revocable trust instrument may refer to a written statement or list to dispose of items of tangible personal property not otherwise specifically disposed of by the trust, other than money

(2) To be admissible under this section as evidence of the intended disposition, the writing must be signed by the settlor and must describe the items and the devisees with reasonable certainty.

(3) The writing may be:

(a) referred to as one to be in existence at the time of the settlor's death;

(b) prepared before or after the execution of the trust;

(c) altered by the settlor after its preparation; and

(d) a writing that has no significance apart from its effect upon the dispositions made by the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 78, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

Part 7
Office of Trustee

72-38-701. Accepting or declining trusteeship. (1) Except as otherwise provided in ubsection (3), a person designated as trustee accepts the trusteeship:

(a) by substantially complying with a method of acceptance provided in the terms of the rust; or

(b) if the terms of the trust do not provide a method or the method provided in the terms s not expressly made exclusive, by accepting delivery of the trust property, exercising powers or erforming duties as trustee, or otherwise indicating acceptance of the trusteeship.

(2) A person designated as trustee who has not yet accepted the trusteeship may reject the rusteeship. A designated trustee who does not accept the trusteeship within a reasonable time fter knowing of the designation is considered to have rejected the trusteeship.

(3) A person designated as trustee, without accepting the trusteeship, may:

(a) act to preserve the trust property if, within a reasonable time after acting, the person ends a rejection of the trusteeship to the settlor or, if the settlor is dead or lacks capacity, to a ualified beneficiary; and

(b) inspect or investigate trust property to determine potential liability under nvironmental or other law or for any other purpose.

History: En. Sec. 79, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-702. Trustee's bond. (1) A trustee shall give bond to secure performance of the rustee's duties only if the court finds that a bond is needed to protect the interests of the eneficiaries or is required by the terms of the trust and the court has not dispensed with the equirement.

(2) The court may specify the amount of a bond, its liabilities, and whether sureties are ecessary. The court may modify or terminate a bond at any time.

(3) A regulated financial-service institution qualified to do trust business in this state eed not give bond, even if required by the terms of the trust.

History: En. Sec. 80, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-703. Cotrustees. (1) Cotrustees who are unable to reach a unanimous decision may ct by majority decision.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in a cotrusteeship, the remaining cotrustees may act for the trust.

(3) Subject to 72-40-116, a cotrustee shall participate in the performance of a trustee's unction unless the cotrustee is unavailable to perform the function because of absence, illness, isqualification under other law, or other temporary incapacity or the cotrustee has properly elegated the performance of the function to another trustee.

(4) If a cotrustee is unavailable to perform duties because of absence, illness, disqualification nder other law, or other temporary incapacity and prompt action is necessary to achieve the urposes of the trust or to avoid injury to the trust property, the remaining cotrustee or a ajority of the remaining cotrustees may act for the trust.

(5) A trustee may not delegate to a cotrustee the performance of a function the settlor easonably expected the trustees to perform jointly. Unless a delegation was irrevocable, a rustee may revoke a delegation previously made.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), a trustee who does not join in an action f another trustee is not liable for the action.

(7) Subject to 72-40-116, each trustee shall exercise reasonable care to:

(a) prevent a cotrustee from committing a serious breach of trust; and

(b) compel a cotrustee to redress a serious breach of trust.

(8) A dissenting trustee who joins in an action at the direction of the majority of the rustees and who notifies any cotrustee of the dissent at or before the time of the action is not iable for the action unless the action is a serious breach of trust.

History: En. Sec. 81, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-38-704. Vacancy in trusteeship — appointment of successor. (1) A vacancy in a rusteeship occurs if:

(a) a person designated as trustee rejects the trusteeship;

(b) a person designated as trustee cannot be identified or does not exist;
(c) a trustee resigns;
(d) a trustee is disqualified or removed;
(e) a trustee dies;
(f) a guardian or conservator is appointed for an individual serving as trustee; or
(g) a trustee has been ordered committed as provided in 53-21-102.

(2) If one or more cotrustees remain in office, a vacancy in a trusteeship need not be filled A vacancy in a trusteeship must be filled if the trust has no remaining trustee.

(3) A vacancy in a trusteeship of a trust that is required to be filled must be filled in th following order of priority:
(a) by a person designated in the terms of the trust to act as successor trustee;
(b) by a person appointed by unanimous agreement of the qualified beneficiaries; or
(c) by a person appointed by the court.

(4) Whether or not a vacancy in a trusteeship exists or is required to be filled, the court ma appoint an additional trustee or special fiduciary whenever the court considers the appointmen necessary for the administration of the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 82, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-705. Resignation of trustee. (1) A trustee may resign:
(a) upon at least 30 days' notice to the qualified beneficiaries, the settlor, if living, and al cotrustees; or
(b) with the approval of the court.

(2) In approving a resignation, the court may issue orders and impose condition reasonably necessary for the protection of the trust property.

(3) Any liability of a resigning trustee or of any sureties on the trustee's bond for acts o omissions of the trustee is not discharged or affected by the trustee's resignation.

History: **En. Sec. 83, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-706. Removal of trustee. (1) The settlor, a cotrustee, or a beneficiary may reques the court to remove a trustee, or a trustee may be removed by the court on its own initiative.

(2) The court may remove a trustee if:
(a) the trustee has committed a serious breach of trust;
(b) lack of cooperation among cotrustees substantially impairs the administration of th trust;
(c) because of unfitness, unwillingness, or persistent failure of the trustee to administe the trust effectively and impartially, the court determines that removal of the trustee bes serves the interests of the beneficiaries; or
(d) there has been a substantial change of circumstances or removal is requested by all c the qualified beneficiaries, the court finds that removal of the trustee best serves the interest of all of the beneficiaries and is not inconsistent with a material purpose of the trust, and suitable cotrustee or successor trustee is available.

(3) Pending a final decision on a request to remove a trustee or in lieu of or in additio to removing a trustee, the court may order appropriate relief under 72-38-1001(2) as may b necessary to protect the trust property or the interests of the beneficiaries.

History: **En. Sec. 84, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-707. Delivery of property by former trustee. (1) Unless a cotrustee remains i office or the court otherwise orders, and until the trust property is delivered to a successo trustee or other person entitled to it, a trustee who has resigned or been removed has the dutie of a trustee and the powers necessary to protect the trust property.

(2) A trustee who has resigned or been removed shall proceed expeditiously to deliver th trust property within the trustee's possession to the cotrustee, successor trustee, or other perso entitled to it. If a trustee fails to deliver trust property as required in this subsection:
(a) the resigned or removed trustee is personally liable for the actual damages incurred a a result of the failure to deliver trust property; and
(b) the court, in its discretion, may order the resigned or removed trustee personally t pay the reasonable attorney fees incurred in enforcing the resigned or removed trustee's duty t deliver trust property.

History: **En. Sec. 85, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

72-38-708. Compensation of trustee. (1) If the terms of a trust do not specify the trustee's compensation, a trustee is entitled to compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances.

(2) If the terms of a trust specify the trustee's compensation, the trustee is entitled to be compensated as specified, but the court may allow more or less compensation if:

(a) the duties of the trustee are substantially different from those contemplated when the trust was created; or

(b) the compensation specified by the terms of the trust would be unreasonably low or high.

History: En. Sec. 86, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-709. Reimbursement of expenses. (1) A trustee is entitled to be reimbursed out of the trust property, with interest as appropriate, for:

(a) expenses that were properly incurred in the administration of the trust; and

(b) to the extent necessary to prevent unjust enrichment of the trust, expenses that were not properly incurred in the administration of the trust.

(2) An advance by the trustee of money for the protection of the trust gives rise to a lien against trust property to secure reimbursement with reasonable interest.

History: En. Sec. 87, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 8
Duties and Powers of Trustee

72-38-801. Duty to administer trust. Upon acceptance of a trusteeship, the trustee shall administer the trust expeditiously and in good faith, in accordance with its terms and purposes and the interests of the beneficiaries, and in accordance with this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 88, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-802. Duty of loyalty. (1) A trustee shall administer the trust solely in the interests of the beneficiaries.

(2) Subject to the rights of persons dealing with or assisting the trustee as provided in 72-38-1012, a sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the investment or management of trust property entered into by the trustee for the trustee's own personal account or that is otherwise affected by a conflict between the trustee's fiduciary and personal interests is voidable by a beneficiary affected by the transaction unless:

(a) the transaction was authorized by the terms of the trust;

(b) the transaction was approved by the court;

(c) the beneficiary did not commence a judicial proceeding within the time allowed by 72-38-1005;

(d) the beneficiary consented to the trustee's conduct, ratified the transaction, or released the trustee in compliance with 72-38-1009; or

(e) the transaction involves a contract entered into or claim acquired by the trustee before the person became or contemplated becoming trustee.

(3) A sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the investment or management of trust property is presumed to be affected by a conflict between personal and fiduciary interests if it is entered into by the trustee with:

(a) the trustee's spouse;

(b) the trustee's descendants, siblings, parents, or their spouses;

(c) an agent or attorney of the trustee; or

(d) a corporation or other person or enterprise in which the trustee, or a person who owns a significant interest in the trustee, has an interest that might affect the trustee's best judgment.

(4) A transaction between a trustee and a beneficiary that does not concern trust property but that occurs during the existence of the trust or while the trustee retains significant influence over the beneficiary and from which the trustee obtains an advantage is voidable by the beneficiary unless the trustee establishes that the transaction was fair to the beneficiary. However, a beneficiary's gift to charity or to a trust for a charity's benefit is not voidable by this subsection even though the charity may be, or may have been, serving as trustee of a trust created for the benefit of the beneficiary.

(5) A transaction not concerning trust property in which the trustee engages in th trustee's individual capacity involves a conflict between personal and fiduciary interests if th transaction concerns an opportunity properly belonging to the trust.

(6) An investment by a trustee in securities of an investment company or investment trus to which the trustee or its affiliate provides services in a capacity other than as trustee is no presumed to be affected by a conflict between personal and fiduciary interests if the investmen otherwise complies with the prudent investor rule of Title 72, chapter 38, part 9. In additio to its compensation for acting as trustee, the trustee may be compensated by the investmen company or investment trust for providing those services out of fees charged to the trust. If th trustee receives compensation from the investment company or investment trust for providin investment advisory or investment management services, the trustee must at least annuall notify the persons entitled under 72-38-813 to receive a copy of the trustee's annual report of th rate and method by which that compensation was determined.

(7) In voting shares of stock or in exercising powers of control over similar interests i other forms of enterprise, the trustee shall act in the best interests of the beneficiaries. If th trust is the sole owner of a corporation or other form of enterprise, the trustee shall elect o appoint directors or other managers who will manage the corporation or enterprise in the bes interests of the beneficiaries.

(8) This section does not preclude the following transactions, if fair to the beneficiaries:

(a) an agreement between a trustee and a beneficiary relating to the appointment o compensation of the trustee;

(b) payment of reasonable compensation to the trustee;

(c) a transaction between a trust and another trust, decedent's estate, or conservatorshi of which the trustee is a fiduciary or in which a beneficiary has an interest;

(d) a deposit of trust money in a regulated financial-service institution operated by th trustee; or

(e) an advance by the trustee of money for the protection of the trust.

(9) The court may appoint a special fiduciary to make a decision with respect to an proposed transaction that might violate this section if entered into by the trustee.

History: En. Sec. 89, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 181, L. 2015.

72-38-803. Impartiality. If a trust has two or more beneficiaries, the trustee shall ac impartially in investing, managing, and distributing the trust property, giving due regard to th beneficiaries' respective interests.

History: En. Sec. 90, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-804. Prudent administration. A trustee shall administer the trust as a pruden person would, by considering the purposes, terms, distributional requirements, and othe circumstances of the trust. In satisfying this standard, the trustee shall exercise reasonabl care, skill, and caution.

History: En. Sec. 91, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-805. Costs of administration. In administering a trust, the trustee may incur onl costs that are reasonable in relation to the trust property, the purposes of the trust, and th skills of the trustee.

History: En. Sec. 92, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-806. Trustee's skills. A trustee who has special skills or expertise or is name trustee in reliance upon the trustee's representation that the trustee has special skills o expertise shall use those special skills or expertise.

History: En. Sec. 93, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-807. Delegation by trustee. (1) A trustee may delegate duties and powers tha a prudent trustee of comparable skills could properly delegate under the circumstances. Th trustee shall exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution in:

(a) selecting an agent;

(b) establishing the scope and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes an terms of the trust; and

(c) periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's performance nd compliance with the terms of the delegation.

(2) In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the trust to exercise easonable care to comply with the terms of the delegation.

(3) A trustee who complies with subsection (1) is not liable to the beneficiaries or to the ust for an action of the agent to whom the function was delegated.

(4) By accepting a delegation of powers or duties from the trustee of a trust that is subject o the law of this state, an agent submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state.

History: En. Sec. 94, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-808. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 95, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-809. Control and protection of trust property. A trustee shall take reasonable teps to take control of and protect the trust property.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-810. Recordkeeping and identification of trust property. (1) A trustee shall eep adequate records of the administration of the trust.

(2) A trustee shall keep trust property separate from the trustee's own property.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), a trustee shall designate the trust roperty so that the interest of the trust, to the extent feasible, appears in records maintained y a party other than a trustee or beneficiary.

(4) If the trustee maintains records clearly indicating the respective interests, a trustee ay invest as a whole the property of two or more separate trusts.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-811. Enforcement and defense claims. A trustee shall take reasonable steps to nforce claims of the trust and to defend claims against the trust.

History: En. Sec. 98, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-812. Collecting trust property. A trustee shall take reasonable steps to compel a ormer trustee or other person to deliver trust property to the trustee and to redress a breach of rust known to the trustee to have been committed by a former trustee.

History: En. Sec. 99, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-813. Duty to inform and report. A trustee shall comply with the following rovisions unless the trust instrument specifically limits or waives any of these requirements:

(1) A trustee shall keep the qualified beneficiaries of the trust reasonably informed about he administration of the trust and of the material facts necessary for them to protect their nterests. A trustee shall promptly respond to a qualified beneficiary's request for information hat is reasonably necessary to enable the qualified beneficiary to enforce the rights of the ualified beneficiary under the trust or to prevent or redress a breach of trust.

(2) A trustee:

(a) upon request of any beneficiary, shall promptly furnish to the beneficiary a copy of the ortions of the trust instrument that describe or affect the beneficiary's interest;

(b) within 60 days after accepting a trusteeship, shall notify the qualified beneficiaries of he acceptance and of the trustee's name, address, and telephone number;

(c) within 60 days after the date the trustee acquires knowledge of the creation of an rrevocable trust or the date the trustee acquires knowledge that a formerly revocable trust has ecome irrevocable, whether by the death of the settlor or otherwise, shall notify the qualified eneficiaries of the trust's existence, of the identity of the settlor or settlors, of the right to equest a copy of portions of the trust instrument as provided in subsection (2)(a), and of the ight to a trustee's report as provided in subsection (3); and

(d) shall notify the qualified beneficiaries in advance of any change in the method or rate f the trustee's compensation.

(3) A trustee shall send to the distributees or permissible distributees of trust income or rincipal and to other qualified beneficiaries who request it, at least annually, on a calendar ear or fiscal year basis consistent with tax reporting requirements and at the termination of the rust, a report of the trust property, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements, including the source

and amount of the trustee's compensation, a listing of the trust assets and, if feasible, thei respective market values including any cash, cash equivalents, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, c other securities, investments, or investment property held by the trustee as of the last busines day of the calendar year or fiscal period, if the fair market value is readily ascertainable or th property is traded on an established public market. An appraisal or statement of fair marke value may not be required for any real estate, closely held business, or other property held b the trustee as of that date if the fair market value is not readily ascertainable or traded on a established public market. A qualified beneficiary must also receive, upon request, copies of an applicable income, estate, or transfer tax returns relevant to the administration of the trus Upon a vacancy in a trusteeship, unless a cotrustee remains in office, a report must be sen to the qualified beneficiaries by the former trustee. A personal representative, conservator, o guardian may send the qualified beneficiaries a report on behalf of a deceased or incapacitate trustee.

(4) A qualified beneficiary may waive the right to a trustee's report or other informatio otherwise required to be furnished under this section. A qualified beneficiary, with respect t future reports and other information, may withdraw a waiver previously given.

(5) Subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) do not apply to a trustee who accepts a trusteeship befor October 1, 2013, to an irrevocable trust created before October 1, 2013, or to a revocable trus that becomes irrevocable before October 1, 2013.

History: En. Sec. 100, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-814. Discretionary powers — tax savings. (1) Notwithstanding the breadth c discretion granted to a trustee in the terms of the trust, including the use of such terms a "absolute", "sole", or "uncontrolled", the trustee shall exercise a discretionary power in good fait and in accordance with the terms and purposes of the trust and the interests of the beneficiarie

(2) Subject to subsection (4) and unless the terms of the trust expressly indicate that rule in this subsection does not apply:

(a) a person other than a settlor who is a beneficiary and trustee of a trust that confers o the trustee a power to make discretionary distributions to or for the trustee's personal benefi may exercise the power only in accordance with an ascertainable standard; and

(b) a trustee may not exercise a power to make discretionary distributions to satisfy legal obligation of support that the trustee personally owes another person.

(3) A power whose exercise is limited or prohibited by subsection (2) may be exercised b a majority of the remaining trustees whose exercise of the power is not so limited or prohibited If the power of all trustees is so limited or prohibited, the court may appoint a special fiducia with authority to exercise the power.

(4) Subsection (2) does not apply to:

(a) a power held by the settlor's spouse who is the trustee of a trust for which a marit deduction, as defined in section 2056(b)(5) or 2523(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as i effect on the effective date of this chapter or as later amended, was previously allowed;

(b) any trust during any period that the trust may be revoked or amended by its settlor; o

(c) a trust if contributions to the trust qualify for the annual exclusion under sectio 2503(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as in effect on the effective date of this chapter o as later amended.

History: En. Sec. 101, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-815. General powers of trustee. (1) A trustee, without authorization by the court may exercise:

(a) powers conferred by the terms of the trust; and

(b) except as limited by the terms of the trust:

(i) all powers over the trust property that an unmarried competent owner has ove individually owned property;

(ii) any other powers appropriate to achieve the proper investment, management, an distribution of the trust property; and

(iii) any other powers conferred by this chapter.

(2) The exercise of a power is subject to the fiduciary duties prescribed by 72-38-80 through 72-38-817.

History: En. Sec. 102, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-816. Specific powers of trustee. Without limiting the authority conferred by 72-38-815, a trustee may:

(1) collect trust property and accept or reject additions to the trust property from a settlor or any other person;

(2) acquire or sell property, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale;

(3) exchange, partition, or otherwise change the character of trust property;

(4) deposit trust money in an account in a regulated financial-service institution;

(5) borrow money, with or without security, and mortgage or pledge trust property for a period within or extending beyond the duration of the trust;

(6) with respect to an interest in a proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, business trust, corporation, or other form of business or enterprise, continue the business or other enterprise and take any action that may be taken by shareholders, members, or property owners, including merging, dissolving, or otherwise changing the form of business organization or contributing additional capital;

(7) with respect to stocks or other securities, exercise the rights of an absolute owner, including the right to:

(a) vote or give proxies to vote, with or without power of substitution, or enter into or continue a voting trust agreement;

(b) hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the trust so that title may pass by delivery;

(c) pay calls, assessments, and other sums chargeable or accruing against the securities and sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights; and

(d) deposit the securities with a depositary or other regulated financial-service institution;

(8) with respect to an interest in real property, construct or make ordinary or extraordinary repairs to, alterations to, or improvements in, buildings or other structures, demolish improvements, raze existing or erect new party walls or buildings, subdivide or develop land, dedicate land to public use or grant public or private easements, and make or vacate plats and adjust boundaries;

(9) enter into a lease for any purpose as lessor or lessee, including a lease or other arrangement for exploration and removal of natural resources, with or without the option to purchase or renew, for a period within or extending beyond the duration of the trust;

(10) grant an option involving a sale, lease, or other disposition of trust property or acquire an option for the acquisition of property, including an option exercisable beyond the duration of the trust, and exercise an option so acquired;

(11) insure the property of the trust against damage or loss and insure the trustee, the trustee's agents, and beneficiaries against liability arising from the administration of the trust;

(12) abandon or decline to administer property of no value or of insufficient value to justify its collection or continued administration;

(13) with respect to possible liability for violation of environmental law:

(a) inspect or investigate property the trustee holds or has been asked to hold, or property owned or operated by an organization in which the trustee holds or has been asked to hold an interest, for the purpose of determining the application of environmental law with respect to the property;

(b) take action to prevent, abate, or otherwise remedy any actual or potential violation of any environmental law affecting property held directly or indirectly by the trustee, whether taken before or after the assertion of a claim or the initiation of governmental enforcement;

(c) decline to accept property into trust or disclaim any power with respect to property that is or may be burdened with liability for violation of environmental law;

(d) compromise claims against the trust that may be asserted for an alleged violation of environmental law; and

(e) pay the expense of any inspection, review, abatement, or remedial action to comply with environmental law;

(14) pay or contest any claim, settle a claim by or against the trust, and release, in whole or in part, a claim belonging to the trust;

(15) pay taxes, assessments, compensation of the trustee and of employees and agents of the trust, and other expenses incurred in the administration of the trust;

(16) exercise elections with respect to federal, state, and local taxes;

(17) select a mode of payment under any employee benefit or retirement plan, annuity, c life insurance payable to the trustee, exercise rights thereunder, including exercise of the righ to indemnification for expenses and against liabilities, and take appropriate action to collect th proceeds;

(18) make loans out of trust property, including loans to a beneficiary on terms an conditions the trustee considers to be fair and reasonable under the circumstances, and assert lien on future distributions for repayment of those loans;

(19) pledge trust property to guarantee loans made by others to the beneficiary;

(20) appoint a trustee to act in another jurisdiction with respect to trust property locate in the other jurisdiction, confer upon the appointed trustee all of the powers and duties of th appointing trustee, require that the appointed trustee furnish security, and remove any truste so appointed;

(21) pay an amount distributable to a beneficiary who is under a legal disability, or who th trustee reasonably believes is incapacitated, by paying it directly to the beneficiary or applyin it for the beneficiary's benefit or by:

(a) paying it to the beneficiary's conservator or, if the beneficiary does not have conservator, the beneficiary's guardian;

(b) paying it to the beneficiary's custodian named under the Uniform Transfers to Minor Act or to a custodial trustee pursuant to the laws of any state and, for that purpose, creating custodianship or custodial trust;

(c) if the trustee does not know of a conservator, guardian, custodian, or custodial trustee paying it to an adult relative or other person having legal or physical care or custody of th beneficiary, to be expended on the beneficiary's behalf; or

(d) managing it as a separate fund on the beneficiary's behalf, subject to the beneficiary' continuing right to withdraw the distribution;

(22) on distribution of trust property or the division or termination of a trust, mak distributions in divided or undivided interests, allocate particular assets in proportionate o disproportionate shares, value the trust property for those purposes, and adjust for resultin differences in valuation;

(23) resolve a dispute concerning the interpretation of the trust or its administration b mediation, arbitration, or other procedure for alternative dispute resolution;

(24) prosecute or defend an action, claim, or judicial proceeding in any jurisdiction to protec trust property and the trustee in the performance of the trustee's duties;

(25) sign and deliver contracts and other instruments that are useful to achieve or facilitat the exercise of the trustee's powers; and

(26) on termination of the trust, exercise the powers appropriate to wind up th administration of the trust and distribute the trust property to the persons entitled to it.

History: En. Sec. 103, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-817. Distribution upon termination. (1) Upon termination or partial terminatio of a trust, the trustee may send to the beneficiaries a proposal for distribution. The right of an beneficiary to object to the proposed distribution terminates if the beneficiary does not notif the trustee of an objection within 30 days after the proposal was sent but only if the proposa informed the beneficiary of the right to object and of the time allowed for objection.

(2) Upon the occurrence of an event terminating or partially terminating a trust, th trustee shall proceed expeditiously to distribute the trust property to the persons entitled t it, subject to the right of the trustee to retain a reasonable reserve for the payment of debts expenses, and taxes.

(3) A release by a beneficiary of a trustee from liability for breach of trust is invalid to th extent:

(a) it was induced by improper conduct of the trustee; or

(b) the beneficiary, at the time of the release, did not know of the beneficiary's rights or o the material facts relating to the breach.

History: En. Sec. 104, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-818 and 72-38-819 reserved.

72-38-820. Definitions. As used in 72-38-820 through 72-38-826, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Charitable trust" means a charitable trust as described in section 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) "Private foundation" means a private foundation as defined in section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) "Split-interest trust" means a split-interest trust as described in section 4947(a)(2) of he Internal Revenue Code.

History: En. Sec. 105, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-821. Distribution under charitable trust or private foundation. During any period when a trust is considered to be a charitable trust or a private foundation, the trustee hall distribute its income for each taxable year (and principal if necessary) at a time and in a manner that will not subject the property of the trust to tax under section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code.

History: En. Sec. 106, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-822. Restrictions on trustees under charitable trust, private foundations, or split-interest trust. During any period when a trust is considered to be a charitable trust, a private foundation, or a split-interest trust, the trustee may not do any of the following:

(1) engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(2) retain any excess business holdings as defined in section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(3) make any investments in a manner that subjects the property of the trust to tax under section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code; or

(4) make any taxable expenditure as defined in section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

History: En. Sec. 107, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-823. Exceptions applicable to split-interest trusts. (1) Subsections (2) and (3) f 72-38-822 do not apply to any trust described in section 4947(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Section 72-38-822 does not apply with respect to any of the following:

(a) any amounts payable under the terms of a trust to income beneficiaries unless a deduction was allowed under section 170(f)(2)(B), 2055(e)(2)(B), or 2522(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(b) any amounts in trust other than amounts for which a deduction was allowed under ection 170, 545(b)(2), 556(b)(2), 642(c), 2055, 2106(a)(2), or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code if he amounts are segregated, as that term is defined in section 4947(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, from amounts for which no deduction was allowable; or

(c) any amounts irrevocably transferred in trust before May 27, 1969.

History: En. Sec. 108, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-824. Incorporation in trust instruments. The provisions of 72-38-821 through 72-38-823 and 72-38-826 must be considered to be contained in the terms of the trust to which 72-38-820 through 72-38-826 apply. Any term of the trust inconsistent with or contrary to 72-38-820 through 72-38-826 is without effect unless that term is more restrictive.

History: En. Sec. 109, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-825. Proceedings. (1) A proceeding contemplated by section 101(l)(3) of the federal Tax Reform Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-172) may be commenced pursuant to 72-38-213 by the organization involved. All specifically named beneficiaries of the organization and the attorney general must be parties to the proceedings. Notwithstanding 72-38-201, this provision is not exclusive and does not limit any jurisdiction that otherwise exists.

(2) If an instrument creating a trust affected by this section has been recorded, a notice of pendency of judicial proceedings under this section must be recorded in a similar manner within 10 days from the commencement of the proceedings. A duly certified copy of any final judgment or decree in the proceedings must be similarly recorded.

History: En. Sec. 110, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-826. Disposition of property upon termination of a charitable trust, privat foundation, or split-interest trust. At the termination of a charitable trust, private foundatio organized as a trust, or any other trust described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenu Code, the trust property must be distributed for one or more exempt purposes or to organization that are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes within the meaning of sectio 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or must be distributed to the federal government or t a state or local government for a public purpose. At the termination of a split-interest trust the charitable portion of the trust property must be distributed to one or more organization described in sections 170(c), 2055(a), and 2522(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

History: En. Sec. 111, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 9
Uniform Prudent Investor Act

72-38-901. Prudent investor rule. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a trustee wh invests and manages trust assets owes a duty to the beneficiaries of the trust to comply with th prudent investor rule.

(2) The settlor may expand or restrict the prudent investor rule by express provisions i the trust instrument. A trustee is not liable to a beneficiary for the trustee's good faith relianc on these express provisions.

History: En. Sec. 112, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-902. Standard of care — investments and management — considerations (1) A trustee shall invest and manage trust assets as a prudent investor would, by considerin the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the trust. I satisfying this standard, the trustee shall exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution.

(2) A trustee's investment and management decisions respecting individual assets an courses of action must be evaluated not in isolation, but in the context of the trust portfoli as a whole and as a part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return objective reasonably suited to the trust.

(3) Among circumstances that are appropriate to consider in investing and managin trust assets are the following, to the extent relevant to the trust or its beneficiaries:

(a) general economic conditions;

(b) the possible effect of inflation or deflation;

(c) the expected tax consequences of investment decisions or strategies;

(d) the role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall trust portfolio

(e) the expected total return from income and the appreciation of capital;

(f) other resources of the beneficiaries known to the trustee as determined fron information provided by the beneficiaries;

(g) needs for liquidity, regularity of income, and preservation or appreciation of capital and

(h) an asset's special relationship or special value, if any, to the purposes of the trust or t one or more of the beneficiaries.

(4) A trustee shall make a reasonable effort to ascertain facts relevant to the investmen and management of trust assets.

(5) A trustee may invest in any kind of property or type of investment or engage in an course of action or investment strategy consistent with the standards of this Act.

History: En. Sec. 113, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-903. Diversification — duty of trustee — exception. (1) Subject to subsectio (2), in making and implementing investment decisions, the trustee has a duty to diversify th investments of the trust unless, under the circumstances, it is not prudent to do so.

(2) If trust assets include farm or ranch property, a closely held family business, timbe interests, or interests in oil, gas, or minerals, the trustee may elect to retain those assets. A trustee's exercise of discretion to retain assets of the character described in this subsection is no a breach of the trustee's duty to diversify investments.

History: En. Sec. 114, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-904. Review of assets — time for compliance. Within a reasonable time after ccepting a trusteeship or receiving trust assets, a trustee shall review the trust assets and nake and implement decisions concerning the retention and disposition of assets in order to ring the trust portfolio into compliance with the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, nd other circumstances of the trust and with the requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-905. Compliance determinations — standards. Compliance with the prudent nvestor rule is determined in light of the facts and circumstances existing at the time of a rustee's decision or action and not by hindsight.

History: En. Sec. 116, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-906. Interpretation of trust terms construing legal investments. The ollowing terms or comparable language in the provisions of a trust, unless otherwise limited r modified, must be construed as authorizing any investment or strategy permitted under his part: “investments permissible by law for investment of trust funds”, “legal investments”, authorized investments”, “using the judgment and care under the circumstances then revailing that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of heir own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their unds, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of their capital”, “prudent nan rule”, “prudent trustee rule”, “prudent person rule”, and “prudent investor rule”.

History: En. Sec. 117, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

Part 10
Liability of Trustees and Rights of Persons Dealing with Trustee

72-38-1001. Remedies for breach of trust. (1) A violation by a trustee of a duty the rustee owes to a beneficiary is a breach of trust.

(2) To remedy a breach of trust that has occurred or may occur, the court may:

(a) compel the trustee to perform the trustee's duties;

(b) enjoin the trustee from committing a breach of trust;

(c) compel the trustee to redress a breach of trust by paying money, restoring property, or ther means;

(d) order a trustee to account;

(e) appoint a special fiduciary to take possession of the trust property and administer the rust;

(f) suspend the trustee;

(g) remove the trustee as provided in 72-38-706;

(h) reduce or deny compensation to the trustee;

(i) subject to 72-38-1012, void an act of the trustee, impose a lien or a constructive trust n trust property, or trace trust property wrongfully disposed of and recover the property or its roceeds; or

(j) order any other appropriate relief.

History: En. Sec. 118, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1002. Damages for breach of trust. (1) A trustee who commits a breach of trust is iable to the beneficiaries affected for the greater of:

(a) any loss or depreciation in value of the trust estate resulting from the breach of trust, vith interest;

(b) the profit the trustee made by reason of the breach of trust, with interest; or

(c) any profit that would have accrued to the trust estate if the loss of profit is the result of he breach of trust.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if more than one trustee is liable to he beneficiaries for a breach of trust, a trustee is entitled to contribution from the other trustee r trustees. A trustee is not entitled to contribution if the trustee was substantially more at ault than another trustee or if the trustee committed the breach of trust in bad faith or with eckless indifference to the fiduciary duties of the trustee, the terms or purposes of the trust, or

the interests of the beneficiaries. A trustee who received a benefit from the breach of trust is n entitled to contribution from another trustee to the extent of the benefit received.

(3) If the trustee is liable for interest pursuant to this section, interest must be determine as the greater of the following amounts:

(a) the amount of interest that accrues at the legal rate on judgments; or

(b) the amount of interest the trustee actually received as a result of the breach of trust.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1003. Damages in absence of breach. (1) A trustee is accountable to an affecte beneficiary for any profit made by the trustee arising from the administration of the trust, eve absent a breach of trust.

(2) Absent a breach of trust, a trustee is not liable to a beneficiary for a loss or depreciatio in the value of trust property or for not having made a profit.

History: En. Sec. 120, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1004. Attorney fees and costs. In a judicial proceeding involving the administratio of a trust, the court, as justice and equity may require, may award costs and expenses, includin reasonable attorney fees, to any party, to be paid by another party or from the trust that is th subject of the controversy.

History: En. Sec. 121, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1005. Limitation of action against trustee. (1) A beneficiary may not commenc a proceeding against a trustee for breach of trust more than 3 years after the date the beneficiar or a representative of the beneficiary was sent a report that adequately disclosed the existenc of a potential claim for breach of trust and informed the beneficiary of the time allowed fo commencing a proceeding.

(2) A report adequately discloses the existence of a potential claim for breach of trust if i provides sufficient information so that the beneficiary or representative knows of the potentia claim or should have inquired into its existence.

(3) If subsection (1) does not apply, a judicial proceeding by a beneficiary against a truste for breach of trust must be commenced within 5 years after the first to occur of:

(a) the removal, resignation, or death of the trustee;

(b) the termination of the beneficiary's interest in the trust; or

(c) the termination of the trust.

History: En. Sec. 122, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1006. Reliance on trust instrument. A trustee who acts in reasonable relianc on the terms of the trust as expressed in the trust instrument is not liable to a beneficiary for breach of trust to the extent the breach resulted from the reliance.

History: En. Sec. 123, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1007. Event affecting administration or distribution. If the happening of a event, including marriage, divorce, performance of educational requirements, or death, affect the administration or distribution of a trust, a trustee who has exercised reasonable care t ascertain the happening of the event is not liable for a loss resulting from the trustee's lack o knowledge.

History: En. Sec. 124, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1008. Exculpation of trustee. (1) A term of a trust relieving a trustee of liabilit for breach of trust is unenforceable to the extent that it:

(a) relieves the trustee of liability for breach of trust committed in bad faith or wit reckless indifference to the fiduciary duties of the trustee, the terms or purposes of the trust, o the interests of the beneficiaries;

(b) was inserted as the result of an abuse by the trustee of a fiduciary or confidentia relationship to the settlor; or

(c) relieves the trustee of accountability for profits derived from a breach of trust.

(2) An exculpatory term drafted or caused to be drafted by the trustee is invalid as a abuse of a fiduciary or confidential relationship unless the trustee proves that the exculpator term is fair under the circumstances and that its existence and contents were adequatel communicated to the settlor.

History: En. Sec. 125, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 181, L. 2015.

72-38-1009. Beneficiary's consent, release, or ratification. A trustee is not liable to a beneficiary for breach of trust if the beneficiary consented to the conduct constituting the breach, released the trustee from liability for the breach, or ratified the transaction constituting he breach unless:

(1) the consent, release, or ratification of the beneficiary was induced by improper conduct of the trustee; or

(2) at the time of the consent, release, or ratification, the beneficiary did not know of the beneficiary's rights or of the material facts relating to the breach.

History: En. Sec. 126, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1010. Limitation on personal liability of trustee. (1) Except as otherwise provided in the contract, a trustee is not personally liable on a contract properly entered into n the trustee's fiduciary capacity in the course of administering the trust if the trustee in the contract disclosed the fiduciary capacity.

(2) A trustee is personally liable for torts committed in the course of administering a trust or for obligations arising from ownership or control of trust property, including liability for violation of environmental law, only if the trustee is personally at fault.

(3) A claim based on a contract entered into by a trustee in the trustee's fiduciary capacity, on an obligation arising from ownership or control of trust property, or on a tort committed in he course of administering a trust, may be asserted in a judicial proceeding against the trustee n the trustee's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the trustee is personally liable for the claim.

History: En. Sec. 127, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1011. Interest as general partner. (1) Unless personal liability is imposed in the contract, a trustee who in the trustee's fiduciary capacity holds an interest as a general partner n a general or limited partnership is not personally liable on a contract entered into by the partnership after the trust's acquisition of the interest if the fiduciary capacity was disclosed in he contract or in a statement previously filed pursuant to the Montana Uniform Partnership Act or the Montana Uniform Limited Partnership Act. The addition of the phrase "trustee" or "as trustee" or a similar designation to the signature of a trustee on a written contract is satisfactory disclosure of the fiduciary capacity.

(2) A trustee who, in the trustee's fiduciary capacity, holds an interest as a general partner s not personally liable for torts committed by the partnership or for obligations arising from ownership or control of the interest, but this does not affect the liability of the trustee for the trustee's own negligence, wrongful act, or misconduct.

(3) If the trustee of a revocable trust holds an interest as a general partner, the settlor is personally liable for contracts and other obligations of the partnership as if the settlor were a general partner.

History: En. Sec. 128, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1012. Protection of person dealing with trustee. (1) A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith assists a trustee or who in good faith and for value deals with a rustee without knowledge that the trustee is exceeding or improperly exercising the trustee's powers is protected from liability as if the trustee properly exercised the power.

(2) A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith deals with a trustee is not required o inquire into the extent of the trustee's powers or the propriety of their exercise.

(3) A person who in good faith delivers assets to a trustee need not ensure their proper application.

(4) A person other than a beneficiary who in good faith assists a former trustee or who in good faith and for value deals with a former trustee without knowledge that the trusteeship has terminated is protected from liability as if the former trustee were still a trustee.

(5) Comparable protective provisions of other laws relating to commercial transactions or transfer of securities by fiduciaries prevail over the protection provided by this section.

History: En. Sec. 129, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1013. Certification of trust. (1) Instead of furnishing a copy of the trust instrument to a person other than a beneficiary, the trustee may furnish to the person a certification of trust containing the following information:

(a) that the trust exists and the date the trust instrument was executed;

(b) the identity of the settlor;
(c) the identity and address of the currently acting trustee;
(d) the relevant powers of the trustee;
(e) the revocability or irrevocability of the trust and the identity of any person holding power to revoke the trust;
(f) the authority of cotrustees to sign or otherwise authenticate and whether all or les than all are required in order to exercise powers of the trustee; and
(g) if the governing law of the trust is not the law of Montana, the identity of the stat whose laws govern the trust.

(2) A certification of trust may be signed or otherwise authenticated by any trustee. Upo request, the trustee shall acknowledge the certification in order that the certification may b recorded.

(3) A certification of trust must state that the trust has not been revoked, modified, c amended in any manner that would cause the representations contained in the certification c trust to be incorrect.

(4) A certification of trust need not contain the dispositive terms of a trust.

(5) A recipient of a certification of trust may require the trustee to furnish copies of thos excerpts from the original trust instrument and later amendments that designate the truste and confer upon the trustee the power to act in the pending transaction.

(6) A person who acts in reliance upon a certification of trust without knowledge that th representations contained therein are incorrect is not liable to any person for so acting and ma assume without inquiry the existence of the facts contained in the certification. Knowledge c the terms of the trust may not be inferred solely from the fact that a copy of all or part of th trust instrument is held by the person relying upon the certification.

(7) A person who in good faith enters into a transaction in reliance upon a certification c trust may enforce the transaction against the trust property as if the representations containe in the certification were correct.

(8) A person making a demand for the trust instrument in addition to a certification c trust or excerpts is liable for damages if the court determines that the person did not act in goo faith in demanding the trust instrument.

(9) This section does not limit the right of a person to obtain a copy of the trust instrumen when required to be furnished by law or in a judicial proceeding concerning the trust.

(10) A certification under subsection (1)(g) may not be construed as constituting consent b any person receiving a certification of trust to the jurisdiction or application of laws of any state

History: En. Sec. 130, Ch. 264, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 181, L. 2015.

Part 11
Miscellaneous Provisions

72-38-1101. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construin this chapter, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law wit respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 131, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1102. Electronic records and signatures. The provisions of this chapte governing the legal effect, validity, or enforceability of electronic records or electronic signature and of contracts formed or performed with the use of such records or signatures conform to th requirements of section 102 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Ac (15 U.S.C. 7002) and supersede, modify, and limit the requirements of the Electronic Signature in Global and National Commerce Act.

History: En. Sec. 132, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

72-38-1103. Limit on charitable trust requirement. (1) Except as provided i subsections (2) and (3), a state agency or state official may not impose any annual filing o reporting requirements on a charitable trust that are more stringent, restrictive, or expansiv than the requirements authorized under Montana law.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to state grants and contracts, fraud investigations, o enforcement actions against specific charitable trusts.

(3) Subsection (1) may not be construed to impact the authority of the attorney general to ct as a qualified beneficiary for a charitable trust pursuant to 72-38-221.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 458, L. 2023.**

ompiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

72-38-1104 through 72-38-1110 reserved.

72-38-1111. Effects on real property transactions. (1) This section relates only to onveyances of real property to or from a trust and supplements but does not modify other ubstantive provisions of Title 72, chapter 38, relating to the creation or validity of trusts.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in Title 72, chapter 38, a conveyance of real property to trustee designated as such in the conveyance vests the whole estate conveyed in the trustee, ubject only to the trustee's duties. The beneficiaries of the trust take no estate or interest in he real property, but may determine or enforce the terms of the trust as provided in Title 72, hapter 38.

(3) An instrument creating or amending a trust need not be recorded, but may be recorded f properly acknowledged.

(4) If there is no clear reference to or designation of a grantee as trustee in a conveyance r in a separately recorded instrument recorded in the same county as the conveyance and lescribing the same property as described in the conveyance, the conveyance must be considered o be absolute to the grantee, in favor of purchasers or encumbrancers from the grantee, who vere without actual knowledge and who acted for a valuable consideration, despite any valid rust that may exist.

(5) Unless limitations upon a trustee's power or authority are set forth in the recorded onveyance of real property to the trustee or in a separate trust instrument, portion of a eparate trust instrument, or abstract of a separate trust instrument recorded in the same ounty, there are no limitations upon the trustee's power or authority to convey or encumber the eal property in favor of third persons who were without actual knowledge and who acted for a aluable consideration. A separate trust instrument incorporated by reference in a conveyance o a trustee may not limit the trustee's power or authority to convey or encumber unless the imitations are set forth in the trust instrument, portion of a trust instrument, or abstract of trust instrument that is also recorded in the county where the real property is located. An mendment to a recorded trust instrument may not affect the power or authority of a trustee to onvey or encumber unless it is also recorded in the same place.

(6) A subsequent conveyance from a person designated in the original conveyance as rustee or from the successor trustee conveys the whole estate vested in the trustee, except as imited by the terms of the conveyance. The identity of a successor trustee may be established y a recorded affidavit of the successor trustee specifying the successor trustee's name and ddress and the date and circumstances of succession and confirming that the successor trustee s currently lawfully serving in that capacity.

(7) In an action or proceeding by a third person involving the real property granted to a rustee, the person designated as trustee in the original conveyance, or the successor trustee s established in subsection (6), or, if none, the person then actually serving as trustee, or, if one, any beneficiary designated by the court to represent the interests of the beneficiaries is onsidered the only necessary representative of the trust and of all persons with an interest in he trust. A judgment is binding upon and conclusive against the trust and all persons interested n the trust as to all matters finally adjudicated in the judgment.

(8) The designation of the name of a trust in a recorded conveyance vests the estate in he trustee of the trust. A subsequent conveyance may be made by the trustee. The identity of party serving as trustee may be established by a recorded affidavit of the party or by another ecorded instrument specifying the trustee's name and address and confirming that the party is urrently serving as the trustee.

History: **En. Sec. 213, Ch. 685, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 688, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 494, L. 1993; amd. ec. 2487, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 264, L. 2013; Sec. 72-36-206, MCA 2011; redes. 72-38-1111 by Code ommissioner, 2013.**

CHAPTER 39
UNIFORM TRUST DECANTING ACT

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Part 1
General Provisions

72-39-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Uniform Trust Decanting Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-102. Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Appointive property" has the meaning in 72-7-102(2).

(2) "Ascertainable standard" means a standard relating to an individual's healt education, support, or maintenance within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. 2041(b)(1)(A), as amende or 26 U.S.C. 2514(c)(1), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

(3) "Authorized fiduciary" means:

(a) a trustee or other fiduciary, other than a settlor, that has discretion to distribute o direct a trustee to distribute part or all of the principal of the first trust to one or more curren beneficiaries;

(b) a special fiduciary appointed under 72-39-205; or

(c) a special-needs fiduciary under 72-39-209.

(4) "Beneficiary" means a person that:

(a) has a present or future, vested or contingent, beneficial interest in a trust;

(b) holds a power of appointment over trust property; or

(c) is an identified charitable organization that will or may receive distributions under th terms of the trust.

(5) "Charitable interest" means an interest in a trust that:

(a) is held by an identified charitable organization and makes the organization a qualified beneficiary;

(b) benefits only charitable organizations and, if the interest were held by an identified charitable organization, would make the organization a qualified beneficiary; or

(c) is held solely for charitable purposes and, if the interest were held by an identified charitable organization, would make the organization a qualified beneficiary.

(6) "Charitable organization" means:

(a) a person, other than an individual, organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes; or

(b) a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, to the extent it holds funds exclusively for a charitable purpose.

(7) "Charitable purpose" means the relief of poverty, the advancement of education or religion, the promotion of health, a municipal or other governmental purpose, or another purpose the achievement of which is beneficial to the community.

(8) "Court" means the court in this state having jurisdiction in matters relating to trusts.

(9) "Current beneficiary" means a beneficiary that on the date the beneficiary's qualification is determined is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal. The term includes the holder of a presently exercisable general power of appointment but does not include a person that is a beneficiary only because the person holds any other power of appointment.

(10) "Decanting power" or "the decanting power" means the power of an authorized fiduciary under this chapter to distribute property of a first trust to one or more second trusts or to modify the terms of the first trust.

(11) "Expanded distributive discretion" means a discretionary power of distribution that is not limited to an ascertainable standard or a reasonably definite standard.

(12) "First trust" means a trust over which an authorized fiduciary may exercise the decanting power.

(13) "First-trust instrument" means the trust instrument for a first trust.

(14) "General power of appointment" has the meaning in 72-7-102(6).

(15) "Jurisdiction", with respect to a geographic area, includes a state or country.

(16) "Person" has the meaning in 72-38-103(12).

(17) "Power of appointment" has the meaning in 72-7-102(13).

(18) "Powerholder" has the meaning in 72-7-102(14).

(19) "Presently exercisable power of appointment" means a power of appointment exercisable by the powerholder at the relevant time. The term:

(a) includes a power of appointment exercisable only after the occurrence of a specified event, the satisfaction of an ascertainable standard, or the passage of a specified time only after:

(i) the occurrence of the specified event;

(ii) the satisfaction of the ascertainable standard; or

(iii) the passage of the specified time; and

(b) does not include a power exercisable only at the powerholder's death.

(20) "Qualified beneficiary" means a beneficiary that on the date the beneficiary's qualification is determined:

(a) is a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal;

(b) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the interests of the distributees described in subsection (20)(a) terminated on that date without causing the trust to terminate; or

(c) would be a distributee or permissible distributee of trust income or principal if the trust terminated on that date.

(21) "Reasonably definite standard" means a clearly measurable standard under which a holder of a power of distribution is legally accountable within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. 674(b)(5)(A), as amended, and any applicable regulations.

(22) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(23) "Second trust" means:

(a) a first trust after modification under this chapter; or

(b) a trust to which a distribution of property from a first trust is or may be made unde this chapter.

(24) "Second-trust instrument" means the trust instrument for a second trust.

(25) "Settlor", except as otherwise provided in 72-39-221, means a person, including testator, that creates or contributes property to a trust. If more than one person creates o contributes property to a trust, each person is a settlor of the portion of the trust propert attributable to the person's contribution except to the extent another person has power to revok or withdraw that portion.

(26) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

(a) to execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) to attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, o process.

(27) "State" has the meaning in 72-38-103(20).

(28) "Terms of the trust" means:

(a) except as otherwise provided in subsection (28)(b), the manifestation of the settlor's intent regarding a trust's provisions as:

(i) expressed in the trust instrument; or

(ii) established by other evidence that would be admissible in a judicial proceeding; or

(b) the trust's provisions as established, determined, or amended by:

(i) a trustee or other person in accordance with applicable law;

(ii) a court order; or

(iii) a nonjudicial settlement agreement under 72-38-111.

(29) "Trust instrument" means a record executed by the settlor to create a trust or by any person to create a second trust that contains some or all of the terms of the trust, including any amendments.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-103. Scope. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), this chapter applies to an express trust that is irrevocable or revocable by the settlor only with the consent of the trustee or a person holding an adverse interest.

(2) This chapter does not apply to a trust held solely for charitable purposes.

(3) Subject to 72-39-211, a trust instrument may restrict or prohibit exercise of the decanting power.

(4) This chapter does not limit the power of a trustee, powerholder, or other person to distribute or appoint property in further trust or to modify a trust under the trust instrument, law of this state other than this chapter, common law, a court order, or a nonjudicial settlement agreement.

(5) This chapter does not affect the ability of a settlor to provide in a trust instrument for the distribution of the trust property or appointment in further trust of the trust property or for modification of the trust instrument.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-104. Application — governing law. This chapter applies to a trust created before, on, or after October 1, 2021 that:

(1) has its principal place of administration in this state, including a trust whose principal place of administration has been changed to this state; or

(2) provides by its trust instrument that is governed by the law of this state or is governed by the law of this state for the purpose of:

(a) administration, including administration of a trust whose governing law for purposes of administration has been changed to the law of this state;

(b) construction of terms of the trust; or

(c) determining the meaning or effect of terms of the trust.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Decanting

72-39-201. Fiduciary duty. (1) In exercising the decanting power, an authorized fiduciary hall act in accordance with its fiduciary duties, including the duty to act in accordance with the urposes of the first trust.

(2) This chapter does not create or imply a duty to exercise the decanting power or to nform beneficiaries about the applicability of this chapter.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in a first-trust instrument, for purposes of this chapter nd 72-38-801 and 72-38-802(1), the terms of the first trust are deemed to include the decanting ower.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-202. Reasonable reliance. A trustee or other person that reasonably relies on the alidity of a distribution of part or all of the property of a trust to another trust, or a modification f a trust, under this chapter, law of this state other than this chapter, or the law of another urisdiction is not liable to any person for any action or failure to act as a result of the reliance.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-203. Notice — exercise of decanting power. (1) In this section, a notice period egins on the day notice is given under subsection (3) and ends 60 days after the day notice is iven.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an authorized fiduciary may exercise the ecanting power without the consent of any person and without court approval.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6), an authorized fiduciary shall give notice a record of the intended exercise of the decanting power not later than 60 days, exclusive of he day notice is given, before the exercise to:

(a) each settlor of the first trust, if living or then in existence;

(b) each qualified beneficiary of the first trust;

(c) each holder of a presently exercisable power of appointment over any part or all of the rst trust;

(d) each person that currently has the right to remove or replace the authorized fiduciary;

(e) each other fiduciary of the first trust;

(f) each fiduciary of the second trust; and

(g) the attorney general, if 72-39-210(2) applies.

(4) An authorized fiduciary is not required to give notice under subsection (3) to a person hat is not known to the fiduciary or is known to the fiduciary but cannot be located by the duciary after reasonable diligence.

(5) A notice under subsection (3) must:

(a) specify the manner in which the authorized fiduciary intends to exercise the decanting ower;

(b) specify the proposed effective date for exercise of the power;

(c) include a copy of the first-trust instrument; and

(d) include a copy of all second-trust instruments.

(6) The decanting power may be exercised before expiration of the notice period under ubsection (1) if all persons entitled to receive notice waive the period in a signed record.

(7) The receipt of notice, waiver of the notice period, or expiration of the notice period does ot affect the right of a person to file an application under 72-39-205 asserting that:

(a) an attempted exercise of the decanting power is ineffective because it did not comply ith this chapter or was an abuse of discretion or breach of fiduciary duty; or

(b) 72-39-218 applies to the exercise of the decanting power.

(8) An exercise of the decanting power is not ineffective because of the failure to give notice one or more persons under subsection (3) if the authorized fiduciary acted with reasonable are to comply with subsection (3).

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-204. Representation. (1) Notice to a person with authority to represent and bind another person under a first-trust instrument or Title 72, chapter 38, part 3, has the same effect as notice given directly to the person represented.

(2) Consent of or waiver by a person with authority to represent and bind another person under a first-trust instrument or Title 72, chapter 38, part 3, is binding on the person represented unless the person represented objects to the representation before the consent or waiver otherwise would become effective.

(3) A person with authority to represent and bind another person under a first-trust instrument or Title 72, chapter 38, part 3, may file an application under 72-39-205 on behalf of the person represented.

(4) A settlor may not represent or bind a beneficiary under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-205. Court involvement. (1) On application of an authorized fiduciary, a person entitled to notice under 72-39-203(3), a beneficiary, or with respect to a charitable interest the attorney general or other person that has standing to enforce the charitable interest, the court may:

(a) provide instructions to the authorized fiduciary regarding whether a proposed exercise of the decanting power is permitted under this chapter and consistent with the fiduciary duties of the authorized fiduciary;

(b) appoint a special fiduciary and authorize the special fiduciary to determine whether the decanting power should be exercised under this chapter and to exercise the decanting power;

(c) approve an exercise of the decanting power;

(d) determine that a proposed or attempted exercise of the decanting power is ineffective because:

(i) after applying 72-39-218, the proposed or attempted exercise does not or did not comply with this chapter; or

(ii) the proposed or attempted exercise would be or was an abuse of the fiduciary's discretion or a breach of fiduciary duty;

(e) determine the extent to which 72-39-218 applies to a prior exercise of the decanting power;

(f) provide instructions to the trustee regarding the application of 72-39-218 to a prior exercise of the decanting power; or

(g) order other relief to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) On application of an authorized fiduciary, the court may approve:

(a) an increase in the fiduciary's compensation under 72-39-212; or

(b) a modification under 72-39-214 of a provision granting a person the right to remove or replace the fiduciary.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-206. Formalities. An exercise of the decanting power must be made in a record signed by an authorized fiduciary. The signed record must, directly or by reference to the notice required by 72-39-203, identify the first trust and the second trust or trusts and state the property of the first trust being distributed to each second trust and the property, if any, that remains in the first trust.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-207. Decanting power under expanded distributive discretion. (1) In this section:

(a) "Noncontingent right" means a right that is not subject to the exercise of discretion or the occurrence of a specified event that is not certain to occur. The term does not include a right held by a beneficiary if any person has discretion to distribute property subject to the right to any person other than the beneficiary or the beneficiary's estate.

(b) "Presumptive remainder beneficiary" means a qualified beneficiary other than a current beneficiary.

(c) "Successor beneficiary" means a beneficiary that is not a qualified beneficiary on the date the beneficiary's qualification is determined. The term does not include a person that is a beneficiary only because the person holds a nongeneral power of appointment.

(d) "Vested interest" means:
(i) a right to a mandatory distribution that is a noncontingent right as of the date of the xercise of the decanting power;
(ii) a current and noncontingent right, annually or more frequently, to a mandatory istribution of income, a specified dollar amount, or a percentage of value of some or all of the rust property;
(iii) a current and noncontingent right, annually or more frequently, to withdraw income, a pecified dollar amount, or a percentage of value of some or all of the trust property;
(iv) a presently exercisable general power of appointment; or
(v) a right to receive an ascertainable part of the trust property on the trust's termination hich is not subject to the exercise of discretion or to the occurrence of a specified event that is ot certain to occur.
(2) Subject to subsection (3) and 72-39-210, an authorized fiduciary that has expanded istributive discretion over the principal of a first trust for the benefit of one or more current eneficiaries may exercise the decanting power over the principal of the first trust.
(3) Subject to 72-39-209, in an exercise of the decanting power under this section, a second rust may not:
(a) include as a current beneficiary a person that is not a current beneficiary of the first rust, except as otherwise provided in subsection (4);
(b) include as a presumptive remainder beneficiary or successor beneficiary a person that s not a current beneficiary, presumptive remainder beneficiary, or successor beneficiary of the rst trust, except as otherwise provided in subsection (4); or
(c) reduce or eliminate a vested interest.
(4) Subject to subsection (3)(c) and 72-39-210, in an exercise of the decanting power nder this section, a second trust may be a trust created or administered under the law of any urisdiction and may:
(a) retain a power of appointment granted in the first trust;
(b) omit a power of appointment granted in the first trust, other than a presently xercisable general power of appointment;
(c) create or modify a power of appointment if the powerholder is a current beneficiary of ne first trust and the authorized fiduciary has expanded distributive discretion to distribute rincipal to the beneficiary; and
(d) create or modify a power of appointment if the powerholder is a presumptive remainder eneficiary or successor beneficiary of the first trust, but the exercise of the power may take effect nly after the powerholder becomes, or would have become if then living, a current beneficiary.
(5) A power of appointment described in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(d) may be general r nongeneral. The class of permissible appointees in favor of which the power may be exercised nay be broader than or different from the beneficiaries of the first trust.
(6) If an authorized fiduciary has expanded distributive discretion over part but not all of ne principal of a first trust, the fiduciary may exercise the decanting power under this section ver that part of the principal over which the authorized fiduciary has expanded distributive iscretion.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-208. Decanting power under limited distributive discretion. (1) In this ection, "limited distributive discretion" means a discretionary power of distribution that is mited to an ascertainable standard or a reasonably definite standard.
(2) An authorized fiduciary that has limited distributive discretion over the principal of he first trust for benefit of one or more current beneficiaries may exercise the decanting power ver the principal of the first trust.
(3) Under this section and subject to 72-39-210, a second trust may be created or dministered under the law of any jurisdiction. Under this section, the second trusts, in the ggregate, must grant each beneficiary of the first trust beneficial interests that are substantially imilar to the beneficial interests of the beneficiary in the first trust.
(4) A power to make a distribution under a second trust for the benefit of a beneficiary who s an individual is substantially similar to a power under the first trust to make a distribution irectly to the beneficiary. A distribution is for the benefit of a beneficiary if:

(a) the distribution is applied for the benefit of the beneficiary;

(b) the beneficiary is under a legal disability or the trustee reasonably believes the beneficiary is incapacitated, and the distribution is made as permitted under the Montana Uniform Trust Code; or

(c) the distribution is made as permitted under the terms of the first-trust instrument and the second-trust instrument for the benefit of the beneficiary.

(5) If an authorized fiduciary has limited distributive discretion over part but not all of the principal of a first trust, the fiduciary may exercise the decanting power under this section over that part of the principal over which the authorized fiduciary has limited distributive discretion

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-209. Trust for beneficiary with disability. (1) In this section:

(a) "Beneficiary with a disability" means a beneficiary of a first trust who the special-needs fiduciary believes may qualify for governmental benefits based on disability, whether or not the beneficiary currently receives those benefits or is an individual who has been adjudicated incapacitated.

(b) "Governmental benefits" means financial aid or services from a state, federal, or other public agency.

(c) "Special-needs fiduciary" means, with respect to a trust that has a beneficiary with a disability:

(i) a trustee or other fiduciary, other than a settlor, that has discretion to distribute part or all of the principal of a first trust to one or more current beneficiaries;

(ii) if no trustee or fiduciary has discretion under subsection (1)(c)(i), a trustee or other fiduciary, other than a settlor, that has discretion to distribute part or all of the income of the first trust to one or more current beneficiaries; or

(iii) if no trustee or fiduciary has discretion under subsections (1)(c)(i) and (1)(c)(ii), a trustee or other fiduciary, other than a settlor, that is required to distribute part or all of the income or principal of the first trust to one or more current beneficiaries.

(d) "Special-needs trust" means a trust the trustee believes would not be considered a resource for purposes of determining whether a beneficiary with a disability is eligible for governmental benefits.

(2) A special-needs fiduciary may exercise the decanting power under 72-39-207 over the principal of the first trust as if the fiduciary had authority to distribute principal to a beneficiary with a disability subject to expanded distributive discretion if:

(a) a second trust is a special-needs trust that benefits the beneficiary with a disability and

(b) the special-needs fiduciary determines that exercise of the decanting power will further the purposes of the first trust.

(3) In an exercise of the decanting power under this section, the following rules apply:

(a) Notwithstanding 72-39-207(3)(b), the interest in the second trust of a beneficiary with a disability may:

(i) be a pooled trust as defined by medicaid law for the benefit of the beneficiary with a disability under 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4)(C), as amended; or

(ii) contain payback provisions complying with reimbursement requirements of medicaid law under 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4)(A), as amended.

(b) 72-39-207(3)(c) does not apply to the interests of the beneficiary with a disability.

(c) Except as affected by any change to the interests of the beneficiary with a disability. the second trust, or if there are two or more second trusts, the second trusts in the aggregate. must grant each other beneficiary of the first trust beneficial interests in the second trusts that are substantially similar to the beneficiary's beneficial interests in the first trust.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-210. Protection of charitable interest. (1) In this section:

(a) "Determinable charitable interest" means a charitable interest that is a right to a mandatory distribution currently, periodically, on the occurrence of a specified event, or after the passage of a specified time and which is unconditional or will be held solely for charitable purposes.

(b) "Unconditional" means not subject to the occurrence of a specified event that is not ertain to occur, other than a requirement in a trust instrument that a charitable organization e in existence or qualify under a particular provision of the United States Internal Revenue ode of 1986, as amended, on the date of the distribution, if the charitable organization meets he requirement on the date of determination.

(2) If a first trust contains a determinable charitable interest, the attorney general has the ights of a qualified beneficiary and may represent and bind the charitable interest.

(3) If a first trust contains a charitable interest, the second trust or trusts may not:

(a) diminish the charitable interest;

(b) diminish the interest of an identified charitable organization that holds the charitable nterest;

(c) alter any charitable purpose stated in the first-trust instrument; or

(d) alter any condition or restriction related to the charitable interest.

(4) If there are two or more second trusts, the second trusts must be treated as one trust for urposes of determining whether the exercise of the decanting power diminishes the charitable nterest or diminishes the interest of an identified charitable organization for purposes of ubsection (3).

(5) If a first trust contains a determinable charitable interest, the second trust or trusts hat include a charitable interest pursuant to subsection (3) must be administered under the aw of this state unless:

(a) the attorney general, after receiving notice under 72-39-203, fails to object in a signed ecord delivered to the authorized fiduciary within the notice period;

(b) the attorney general consents in a signed record to the second trust or trusts being dministered under the law of another jurisdiction; or

(c) the court approves the exercise of the decanting power.

(6) This chapter does not limit the powers and duties of the attorney general under law of his state other than this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-211. Trust limitation on decanting. (1) An authorized fiduciary may not exercise he decanting power to the extent the first-trust instrument expressly prohibits exercise of:

(a) the decanting power; or

(b) a power granted by state law to the fiduciary to distribute part or all of the principal of he trust to another trust or to modify the trust.

(2) Exercise of the decanting power is subject to any restriction in the first-trust instrument hat expressly applies to exercise of:

(a) the decanting power; or

(b) a power granted by state law to a fiduciary to distribute part or all of the principal of he trust to another trust or to modify the trust.

(3) A general prohibition of the amendment or revocation of a first trust, a spendthrift lause, or a clause restraining the voluntary or involuntary transfer of a beneficiary's interest oes not preclude exercise of the decanting power.

(4) Subject to subsections (1) and (2), an authorized fiduciary may exercise the decanting ower under this chapter even if the first-trust instrument permits the authorized fiduciary or nother person to modify the first-trust instrument or to distribute part or all of the principal of he first trust to another trust.

(5) If a first-trust instrument contains an express prohibition described in subsection 1) or an express restriction described in subsection (2), the provision must be included in the econd-trust instrument.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-212. Change in compensation. (1) If a first-trust instrument specifies an uthorized fiduciary's compensation, the fiduciary may not exercise the decanting power to ncrease the fiduciary's compensation above the specified compensation unless:

(a) all qualified beneficiaries of the second trust consent to the increase in a signed record; r

(b) the increase is approved by the court.

(2) If a first-trust instrument does not specify an authorized fiduciary's compensation, the fiduciary may not exercise the decanting power to increase the fiduciary's compensation above the compensation permitted by the Montana Uniform Trust Code unless:

(a) all qualified beneficiaries of the second trust consent to the increase in a signed record or

(b) the increase is approved by the court.

(3) A change in an authorized fiduciary's compensation that is incidental to other changes made by the exercise of the decanting power is not an increase in the fiduciary's compensation for purposes of subsections (1) and (2).

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-213. Relief from liability and indemnification. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a second-trust instrument may not relieve an authorized fiduciary from liability for breach of trust to a greater extent than the first-trust instrument.

(2) A second-trust instrument may provide for indemnification of an authorized fiduciary of the first trust or another person acting in a fiduciary capacity under the first trust for any liability or claim that would have been payable from the first trust if the decanting power had not been exercised.

(3) A second-trust instrument may not reduce fiduciary liability in the aggregate.

(4) Subject to subsection (3), a second-trust instrument may divide and reallocate fiduciary powers among fiduciaries, including one or more trustees, distribution advisors, investment advisors, trust protectors, or other persons, and relieve a fiduciary from liability for an act or failure to act of another fiduciary as permitted by law of this state other than this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-214. Removal or replacement of authorized fiduciary. An authorized fiduciary may not exercise the decanting power to modify a provision in a first-trust instrument granting another person power to remove or replace the fiduciary unless:

(1) the person holding the power consents to the modification in a signed record and the modification applies only to the person;

(2) the person holding the power and the qualified beneficiaries of the second trust consent to the modification in a signed record and the modification grants a substantially similar power to another person; or

(3) the court approves the modification and the modification grants a substantially similar power to another person.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 177, L. 2021.

72-39-215. Tax-related limitations. (1) In this section:

(a) "Grantor trust" means a trust as to which a settlor of a first trust is considered the owner under 26 U.S.C. 671 through 677, as amended, or 26 U.S.C. 679, as amended.

(b) "Internal Revenue Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(c) "Nongrantor trust" means a trust that is not a grantor trust.

(d) "Qualified benefits property" means property subject to the minimum distribution requirements of 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(9), as amended, and any applicable regulations, or to any similar requirements that refer to 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(9) or the regulations.

(2) An exercise of the decanting power is subject to the following limitations:

(a) If a first trust contains property that qualified, or would have qualified but for provisions of this chapter other than this section, for a marital deduction for purposes of the gift or estate tax under the Internal Revenue Code or a state gift, estate, or inheritance tax, the second-trust instrument may not include or omit any term that, if included in or omitted from the trust instrument for the trust to which the property was transferred, would have prevented the transfer from qualifying for the deduction, or would have reduced the amount of the deduction under the same provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or state law under which the transfer qualified.

(b) If the first trust contains property that qualified, or would have qualified but for provisions of this chapter other than this section, for a charitable deduction for purposes of the income, gift, or estate tax under the Internal Revenue Code or a state income, gift, estate, or nheritance tax, the second-trust instrument may not include or omit any term that, if included n or omitted from the trust instrument for the trust to which the property was transferred, ould have prevented the transfer from qualifying for the deduction, or would have reduced the mount of the deduction, under the same provisions of the Internal Revenue Code or state law nder which the transfer qualified.

(c) If the first trust contains property that qualified, or would have qualified but for rovisions of this chapter other than this section, for the exclusion from the gift tax described n 26 U.S.C. 2503(b), as amended, the second-trust instrument may not include or omit a term hat, if included in or omitted from the trust instrument for the trust to which the property as transferred, would have prevented the transfer from qualifying under 26 U.S.C. 2503(b), s amended. If the first trust contains property that qualified, or would have qualified but for rovisions of this chapter other than this section, for the exclusion from the gift tax described in 6 U.S.C. 2503(b), as amended, by application of 26 U.S.C. 2503(c), as amended, the second-trust nstrument may not include or omit a term that, if included or omitted from the trust instrument or the trust to which the property was transferred, would have prevented the transfer from ualifying under 26 U.S.C. 2503(c), as amended.

(d) If the property of the first trust includes shares of stock in an S corporation, as defined n 26 U.S.C. 1361, as amended, and the first trust is, or but for provisions of this chapter other han this section would be, a permitted shareholder under any provision of 26 U.S.C. 1361, s amended, an authorized fiduciary may exercise the power with respect to part or all of the -corporation stock only if any second trust receiving the stock is a permitted shareholder under 6 U.S.C. 1361(c)(2), as amended. If the property of the first trust includes shares of stock in an corporation and the first trust is, or but for provisions of this chapter other than this section ould be, a qualified subchapter-S trust within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. 1361(d), as amended, he second-trust instrument may not include or omit a term that prevents the second trust from ualifying as a qualified subchapter-S trust.

(e) If the first trust contains property that qualified, or would have qualified but for rovisions of this chapter other than this section, for a zero inclusion ratio for purposes of he generation-skipping transfer tax under 26 U.S.C. 2642(c), as amended, the second-trust nstrument may not include or omit a term that, if included in or omitted from the first-trust nstrument, would have prevented the transfer to the first trust from qualifying for a zero nclusion ratio under 26 U.S.C. 2642(c), as amended.

(f) If the first trust is directly or indirectly the beneficiary of qualified benefits property, he second-trust instrument may not include or omit any term that, if included in or omitted om the first-trust instrument, would have increased the minimum distributions required ith respect to the qualified benefits property under 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(9), as amended, and ny applicable regulations, or any similar requirements that refer to 26 U.S.C. 401(a)(9), as mended, or the regulations. If an attempted exercise of the decanting power violates the receding sentence, the trustee is deemed to have held the qualified benefits property and any einvested distributions of the property as a separate share from the date of the exercise of the ower and 72-39-218 applies to the separate share.

(g) If the first trust qualifies as a grantor trust because of the application of 26 U.S.C. 72(f)(2)(A), as amended, the second trust may not include or omit a term that, if included in r omitted from the first-trust instrument, would have prevented the first trust from qualifying nder 26 U.S.C. 672(f)(2)(A), as amended.

(h) In this subsection (2)(h), “tax benefit” means a federal or state tax deduction, exemption, xclusion, or other benefit not otherwise listed in this section, except for a benefit arising om being a grantor trust. Subject to subsection (2)(h)(i) and (2)(h)(ii) below, a second-trust nstrument may not include or omit a term that, if included in or omitted from the first-trust nstrument, would have prevented qualification for a tax benefit if:

(i) the first-trust instrument expressly indicates an intent to qualify for the benefit or the rst-trust instrument clearly is designed to enable the first trust to qualify for the benefit; and

(ii) the transfer of property held by the first trust or the first trust qualified, or but for rovisions of this chapter other than this section, would have qualified for the tax benefit.

(i) Subject to subsection (2)(d):

(i) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)(g), the second trust may be a nongrantor rust, even if the first trust is a grantor trust; and

(ii) except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)(j), the second trust may be a granto trust, even if the first trust is a nongrantor trust.

(j) An authorized fiduciary may not exercise the decanting power if a settlor objects in signed record delivered to the fiduciary within the notice period and:

(i) the first trust and a second trust are both grantor trusts, in whole or in part, the firs trust grants the settlor or another person the power to cause the first trust to cease to be grantor trust, and the second trust does not grant an equivalent power to the settlor or othe person; or

(ii) the first trust is a nongrantor trust and a second trust is a grantor trust, in whole or i part, with respect to the settlor, unless:

(A) the settlor has the power at all times to cause the second trust to cease to be a granto trust; or

(B) the first-trust instrument contains a provision granting the settlor or another perso a power that would cause the first trust to cease to be a grantor trust and the second-trus instrument contains the same provision.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-216. Duration of second trust. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a second trust ma have a duration that is the same as or different from the duration of the first trust.

(2) To the extent that property of a second trust is attributable to property of the firs trust, the property of the second trust is subject to any rules governing maximum perpetuity accumulation, or suspension of the power of alienation, which apply to property of the first trust

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-217. Need to distribute not required. An authorized fiduciary may exercise th decanting power whether or not under the first trust's discretionary distribution standard th fiduciary would have made or could have been compelled to make a discretionary distribution o principal at the time of the exercise.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-218. Saving provision. (1) If exercise of the decanting power would be effectiv under this chapter except that the second-trust instrument in part does not comply with thi chapter, the exercise of the power is effective and the following rules apply with respect to th principal of the second trust attributable to the exercise of the power:

(a) A provision in the second-trust instrument that is not permitted under this chapter i void to the extent necessary to comply with this chapter.

(b) A provision required by this chapter to be in the second-trust instrument that is no contained in the instrument is deemed to be included in the instrument to the extent necessar to comply with this chapter.

(2) If a trustee or other fiduciary of a second trust determines that subsection (1) applies t a prior exercise of the decanting power, the fiduciary shall take corrective action consistent wit the fiduciary's duties.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-219. Trust for care of animal. (1) In this section:

(a) "Animal trust" means a trust or an interest in a trust created to provide for the care one or more animals.

(b) "Protector" means a person appointed in an animal trust to enforce the trust on behal of the animal or, if no such person is appointed in the trust, a person appointed by the court fo that purpose.

(2) The decanting power may be exercised over an animal trust that has a protector to th extent the trust could be decanted under this chapter if each animal that benefits from the trus were an individual, if the protector consents in a signed record to the exercise of the power.

(3) A protector for an animal has the rights under this chapter of a qualified beneficiary.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if a first trust is an animal trus in an exercise of the decanting power, the second trust must provide that trust property may b applied only to its intended purpose for the period the first trust benefitted the animal.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-220. Terms of second trust. A reference in Title 72, chapter 38, to a trust nstrument or terms of the trust includes a second-trust instrument and the terms of the second rust.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-221. Settlor. (1) For purposes of law of this state other than this chapter and subject o subsection (2), a settlor of a first trust is deemed to be the settlor of the second trust with espect to the portion of the principal of the first trust subject to the exercise of the decanting ower.

(2) In determining settlor intent with respect to a second trust, the intent of a settlor of the irst trust, a settlor of the second trust, and the authorized fiduciary may be considered.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-222. Later-discovered property. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3), if exercise of the decanting power was intended to distribute all the principal of the first rust to one or more second trusts, later-discovered property belonging to the first trust and roperty paid to or acquired by the first trust after the exercise of the power is part of the trust state of the second trust or trusts.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), if exercise of the decanting power was ntended to distribute less than all the principal of the first trust to one or more second trusts, ater-discovered property belonging to the first trust or property paid to or acquired by the first rust after exercise of the power remains part of the trust estate of the first trust.

(3) An authorized fiduciary may provide in an exercise of the decanting power or by the erms of a second trust for disposition of later-discovered property belonging to the first trust or roperty paid to or acquired by the first trust after exercise of the power.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-223. Obligations. A debt, liability, or other obligation enforceable against property f a first trust is enforceable to the same extent against the property when held by the second rust after exercise of the decanting power.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

Part 3
Miscellaneous Provisions

72-39-301. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing his uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with espect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-302. Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. his chapter modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National ommerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) f that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in ection 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

72-39-303. Common law of trusts — principles of equity. The common law of trusts nd principles of equity supplement this chapter except to the extent modified by this chapter or nother statute of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 30, Ch. 177, L. 2021.**

CHAPTER 40
UNIFORM DIRECTED TRUST ACT

Part 1 — General Provisions

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Part 1
General Provisions

72-40-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Directed Trust Act".
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 2021.**

72-40-102. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Breach of trust" includes a violation by a trust director or trustee of a duty imposed o that director or trustee by the terms of the trust, this part, or law of this state other than thi part pertaining to trusts.

(2) "Directed trust" means a trust for which the terms of the trust grant a power o direction.

(3) "Directed trustee" means a trustee that is subject to a trust director's power of direction

(4) "Person" has the meaning in 72-38-103.

(5) "Power of direction" means a power over a trust granted to a person by the terms of th trust to the extent the power is exercisable while the person is not serving as a trustee. The ter includes a power over the investment, management, or distribution of trust property or othe matters of trust administration. The term excludes the powers described in 72-40-105(2).

(6) "Settlor" has the meaning in 72-38-103.

(7) "State" has the meaning in 72-38-103.

(8) "Terms of a trust" means:

(a) except as otherwise provided in subsection (8)(b), the manifestation of the settlor' intent regarding a trust's provision as:

(i) expressed in the trust instrument; or

(ii) established by other evidence that would be admissible in a judicial proceeding; or

(b) the trust's provisions as established, determined, or amended by:

(i) a trustee or trust director in accordance with applicable law;

(ii) court order; or

(iii) a nonjudicial settlement agreement under 72-38-111.

(9) "Trust director" means a person that is granted a power of direction by the terms a trust to the extent the power is exercisable while the person is not serving as a trustee. Th person is a trust director whether or not the terms of the trust refer to the person as a trus director and whether or not the person is a beneficiary or settlor of the trust.

(10) "Trustee" has the meaning in 72-38-103.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 325, L. 2021.**

72-40-103. Application — principal place of administration. (1) This part applies t a trust, whenever created, that has its principal place of administration in this state, subject t the following rules:

(a) if the trust was created before October 1, 2021, this part applies only to a decision o action occurring on or after October 1, 2021; and

(b) if the principal place of administration of the trust is changed to this state on or afte October 1, 2021, this part applies only to a decision or action occurring on or after the date of th change.

(2) Without precluding other means to establish a sufficient connection with the esignated jurisdiction in a directed trust, terms of the trust that designate the principal place f administration of the trust are valid and controlling if:

(a) a principal place of business is located in or a trustee is a resident of the designated urisdiction;

(b) a trust director's principal place of business is located in or a trust director is a resident f the designated jurisdiction; or

(c) all or part of the administration occurs in the designated jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-104. Common law and principles of equity. The common law and principles of quity supplement this part, except to the extent modified by this part or law of this state other han this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-105. Exclusions. (1) In this section, "power of appointment" means a power that nables a person acting in a nonfiduciary capacity to designate a recipient of an ownership nterest in or another power of appointment over trust property.

(2) This part does not apply to a:

(a) power of appointment;

(b) power to appoint or remove a trustee or trust director;

(c) power of a settlor over a trust to the extent the settlor has a power to revoke the trust;

(d) power of a beneficiary over a trust to the extent the exercise or nonexercise of the ower affects the beneficial interest of:

(i) the beneficiary; or

(ii) another beneficiary represented by the beneficiary under 72-38-301 through 72-38-305 ith respect to the exercise or nonexercise of the power; or

(e) power over a trust if:

(i) the terms of the trust provide that the power is held in a nonfiduciary capacity; and

(ii) the power must be held in a nonfiduciary capacity to achieve the settlor's tax objectives nder the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations issued nder it, as amended.

(3) Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, a power granted to a person to designate recipient of an ownership interest in or power of appointment over trust property, which is xercisable while the person is not serving as a trustee, is a power of appointment and not a ower of direction.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-106 through 72-40-109 reserved.

72-40-110. Powers of trust director. (1) Subject to 72-40-111, the terms of a trust may rant a power of direction to a trust director.

(2) Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise:

(a) a trust director may exercise any further power appropriate to the exercise or onexercise of a power of direction granted to the director under subsection (1); and

(b) trust directors with joint powers shall act by majority decision.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-111. Limitations on trust director. A trust director is subject to the same rules as trustee in a like position and under similar circumstances in the exercise or nonexercise of a ower of direction or further power under 72-40-110(2)(a) regarding:

(1) a payback provision in the terms of a trust necessary to comply with the reimbursement equirements of medicaid law in section 1917 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4)(A), s amended, and regulations issued under it, as amended; and

(2) a charitable interest in the trust, including notice regarding the interest to the attorney eneral.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-112. Duty and liability of trust director. (1) Subject to subsection (2), wit respect to a power of direction or further power under 72-40-110(2)(a):

(a) a trust director has the same fiduciary duty and liability in the exercise or nonexercis of the power:

(i) if the power is held individually, as a sole trustee in a like position and under simila circumstances; or

(ii) if the power is held jointly with a trustee or another trust director, as a cotrustee in like position and under similar circumstances; and

(b) the terms of the trust may vary the director's duty or liability to the same extent th terms of the trust could vary the duty or liability of a trustee in a like position and under simila circumstances.

(2) Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, if a trust director is licensed, certifie or otherwise authorized or permitted by law other than this part to provide health care in th ordinary course of the director's business or practice of a profession, to the extent the directo acts in that capacity, the director has no duty or liability under this part.

(3) The terms of a trust may impose a duty or liability on a trust director in addition to th duties and liabilities under this section.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-113. Duty and liability of directed trustee. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a directe trustee shall take reasonable action to comply with a trust director's exercise or nonexercise a power of direction or further power under 72-40-110(2)(a), and the trustee is not liable for th action.

(2) A directed trustee may not comply with a trust director's exercise or nonexercise of power of direction or further power under 72-40-110(2)(a) to the extent that by complying th trustee would engage in willful misconduct.

(3) An exercise of a power of direction under which a trust director may release a truste or another trust director from liability for breach of trust is not effective if:

(a) the breach involved the trustee's or other director's willful misconduct;

(b) the release was induced by improper conduct of the trustee or other director i procuring the release; or

(c) at the time of the release, the director did not know the material facts relating to th breach.

(4) A directed trustee that has reasonable doubt about its duty under this section ma petition the court for instructions.

(5) The terms of a trust may impose a duty or liability on a directed trustee in addition t the duties and liabilities under this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-114. Duty to provide information to trust director or trustee. (1) Subject t 72-40-115, a trustee shall provide information to a trust director to the extent the information i reasonably related both to:

(a) the powers or duties of the trustee; and

(b) the powers or duties of the director.

(2) Subject to 72-40-115, a trust director shall provide information to a trustee or anothe trust director to the extent the information is reasonably related both to:

(a) the powers or duties of the director; and

(b) the powers or duties of the trustee or other director.

(3) A trustee that acts in reliance on information provided by a trust director is not liabl for a breach of trust to the extent the breach resulted from the reliance, unless by so acting th trustee engages in willful misconduct.

(4) A trust director that acts in reliance on information provided by a trustee or anothe trust director is not liable for a breach of trust to the extent the breach resulted from the relianc unless by so acting the trust director engages in willful misconduct.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-115. No duty to monitor, inform, or advise. (1) Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise:

(a) a trustee does not have a duty to:

(i) monitor a trust director; or

(ii) inform or give advice to a settlor, beneficiary, trustee, or trust director concerning an nstance in which the trustee might have acted differently than the director; and

(b) by taking an action described in subsection (1)(a), a trustee does not assume the duty excluded by subsection (1)(a).

(2) Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise:

(a) a trust director does not have a duty to:

(i) monitor a trustee or another trust director; or

(ii) inform or give advice to a settlor, beneficiary, trustee, or another trust director concerning an instance in which the director might have acted differently than a trustee or another trust director; and

(b) by taking an action described in subsection (2)(a), a trust director does not assume the duty excluded by subsection (2)(a).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-116. Application to cotrustee. The terms of a trust may relieve a cotrustee from duty and liability with respect to another cotrustee's exercise or nonexercise of a power of the other cotrustee to the same extent that in a directed trust a directed trustee is relieved from duty and liability with respect to a trust director's power of direction under 72-40-113 through 72-40-115.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-117. Limitation of action against trust director. (1) An action against a trust director for breach of trust must be commenced within the same limitation period as under 72-38-1005 for an action for breach of trust against a trustee in a like position and under similar circumstances.

(2) A report or accounting has the same effect on the limitation period for an action against a trust director for breach of trust that the report or accounting would have under 72-38-1005 in an action for breach of trust against a trustee in a like position and under similar circumstances.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-118. Defenses in action against trust director. In an action against a trust director for breach of trust, the director may assert the same defenses a trustee in a like position and under similar circumstances could assert in an action for breach of trust against the trustee.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-119. Jurisdiction over trust director. (1) By accepting appointment as a trust director of a trust subject to this part, the director submits to personal jurisdiction of the courts of this state regarding any matter related to a power or duty of the director.

(2) This section does not preclude other methods of obtaining jurisdiction over a trust director.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-120. Office of trust director. Unless the terms of a trust provide otherwise, the ules applicable to a trustee apply to a trust director regarding the following matters:

(1) acceptance under 72-38-701;

(2) giving of bond to secure performance under 72-38-702;

(3) reasonable compensation under 72-38-708;

(4) resignation under 72-38-705;

(5) removal under 72-38-706; and

(6) vacancy and appointment of successor under 72-38-704.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-121. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing his uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

72-40-122. Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerc act. This part modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and Nationa Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described i section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 325, L. 2021.

TITLES 73 AND 74
RESERVED

TITLE 75

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5. Water Quality.
6. Public Water Supplies, Distribution, and Treatment.
7. Aquatic Ecosystem Protections.
8. Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation.
Chapter 9 reserved.
10. Waste and Litter Control.
11. Underground Storage Tanks.
Chapters 12 through 14 reserved.
15. Landscape Management.
16. Transboundary Pollution.
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20. Major Facility Siting.
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CHAPTER 1

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROTECTION GENERALLY

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Chapter Cross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Environmental review exemptions related to forest management grants, 76-13-119.
Agricultural chemical ground water protection, Title 80, ch. 15.
State policy of consistency and continuity in adoption and application of environmental rules, 90-1-101.

Part 1
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Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.

75-1-101. Short title. Parts 1 through 3 may be cited as the "Montana Environmenta Policy Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6501.

Cross-References

State policy of consistency and continuity in adoption and application of environmental rules, 90-1-101.

75-1-102. Intent — purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligation under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Montan Environmental Policy Act. The Montana Environmental Policy Act is procedural, and it is th legislature's intent that the requirements of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter provide for th adequate review of state actions in order to ensure that:

(a) environmental attributes are fully considered by the legislature in enacting laws t fulfill constitutional obligations; and

(b) the public is informed of the anticipated impacts in Montana of potential state actions

(2) The purpose of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter is to declare a state policy that wil encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment, to protec the right to use and enjoy private property free of undue government regulation, to promot efforts that will prevent, mitigate, or eliminate damage to the environment and biospher and stimulate the health and welfare of humans, to enrich the understanding of the ecologica systems and natural resources important to the state, and to establish an environmental qualit council.

(3) (a) The purpose of requiring an environmental assessment and an environmenta impact statement under part 2 of this chapter is to assist the legislature in determining whethe laws are adequate to address impacts to Montana's environment and to inform the public an public officials of potential impacts resulting from decisions made by state agencies.

(b) Except to the extent that an applicant agrees to the incorporation of measures in permit pursuant to 75-1-201(4)(b), it is not the purpose of parts 1 through 3 of this chapter t provide for regulatory authority, beyond authority explicitly provided for in existing statute, t a state agency.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6502; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 352, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Department of Public Service Regulation, 2-15-2601.

75-1-103. Policy. (1) The legislature, recognizing the profound impact of human activity on the interrelations of all components of the natural environment, particularly the profound nfluences of population growth, high-density urbanization, industrial expansion, resource exploitation, and new and expanding technological advances, recognizing the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare and human development, and further recognizing that governmental regulation may unnecessarily restrict the use and enjoyment of private property, declares that it is the continuing policy of the state of Montana, in cooperation with the federal government, local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations, to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can coexist in productive harmony, to recognize the right to use and enjoy private property free of undue government regulation, and to fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Montanans.

(2) In order to carry out the policy set forth in parts 1 through 3, it is the continuing responsibility of the state of Montana to use all practicable means consistent with other essential considerations of state policy to improve and coordinate state plans, functions, programs, and resources so that the state may:

(a) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;

(b) ensure for all Montanans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;

(c) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;

(d) protect the right to use and enjoy private property free of undue government regulation;

(e) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our unique heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;

(f) achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and

(g) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

(3) The legislature recognizes that each person is entitled to a healthful environment, that each person is entitled to use and enjoy that person's private property free of undue government regulation, that each person has the right to pursue life's basic necessities, and that each person has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment. The implementation of these rights requires the balancing of the competing interests associated with the rights by the legislature in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6503; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 352, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Private Property Assessment Act, Title 2, ch. 10, part 1.
Comments of historic preservation officer, 22-3-433.
Renewable resource development, Title 90, ch. 2.

75-1-104. Specific statutory obligations unimpaired. Sections 75-1-103 and 75-1-201 do not affect the specific statutory obligations of any agency of the state to:

(1) comply with criteria or standards of environmental quality;

(2) coordinate or consult with any local government, other state agency, or federal agency; or

(3) act or refrain from acting contingent upon the recommendations or certification of any other state or federal agency.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6506; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 2003.

75-1-105. Policies and goals supplementary. The policies and goals set forth in parts 1 through 3 are supplementary to those set forth in existing authorizations of all boards, commissions, and agencies of the state.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6507.

75-1-106. Private property protection — ongoing programs of state government Nothing in 75-1-102, 75-1-103, or 75-1-201 expands or diminishes private property protection afforded in the U.S. or Montana constitutions. Nothing in 75-1-102, 75-1-103, or 75-1-201 may be construed to preclude ongoing programs of state government pending the completion of any statements that may be required by 75-1-102, 75-1-103, or 75-1-201.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 352, L. 1995.

75-1-107. Determination of constitutionality. In any action filed in district court invoking the court's original jurisdiction to challenge the constitutionality of a licensing or permitting decision made pursuant to Title 75 or Title 82 or activities taken pursuant to a license or permit issued under Title 75 or Title 82, the plaintiff shall first establish the unconstitutionality of the underlying statute.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

75-1-108. Venue. A proceeding to challenge an action taken pursuant to parts 1 through 3, 10, and 11 must be brought in the county in which the activity that is the subject of the action is proposed to occur or will occur. If an activity is proposed to occur or will occur in more than one county, the proceeding may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity is proposed to occur or will occur.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

75-1-109 reserved.

75-1-110. Environmental rehabilitation and response account. (1) There is an environmental rehabilitation and response account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be deposited in the account:

(a) fine and penalty money received pursuant to 75-10-1223, 82-4-311, and 82-4-424 and other funds or contributions designated for deposit to the account;

(b) reimbursements received pursuant to 75-10-1403;

(c) unclaimed or excess reclamation bond money received pursuant to 82-4-241, 82-4-311, and 82-4-424; and

(d) interest earned on the account.

(3) Money in the account is available to the department of environmental quality by appropriation and must be used to pay for:

(a) reclamation and revegetation of land affected by mining activities, research pertaining to the reclamation and revegetation of land, and the rehabilitation of water affected by mining activities;

(b) reclamation and revegetation of unreclaimed mine lands for which the department may not require reclamation by, or obtain costs of reclamation from, a legally responsible party;

(c) remediation of sites containing hazardous wastes as defined in 75-10-403, hazardous or deleterious substances as defined in 75-10-701, or solid waste as defined in 75-10-203; or

(d) response to an imminent threat of substantial harm to the environment, to public health, or to public safety for which no funding or insufficient funding is available pursuant to 75-1-1101.

(4) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account at the end of a fiscal year must remain in the account until spent or appropriated by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

Part 2
Environmental Impact Statements

75-1-201. General directions — environmental impact statements. (1) The legislature authorizes and directs that, to the fullest extent possible:

(a) the policies, regulations, and laws of the state must be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in parts 1 through 3;

(b) under this part, all agencies of the state, except the legislature and except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), shall:

(i) use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that will ensure:

(A) the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts n planning and in decisionmaking for a state-sponsored project that may have an impact on the Montana human environment by projects in Montana; and

(B) that in any environmental review that is not subject to subsection (1)(b)(iv), when an gency considers alternatives, the alternative analysis will be in compliance with the provisions f subsections (1)(b)(iv)(C)(I) and (1)(b)(iv)(C)(II) and, if requested by the project sponsor or if etermined by the agency to be necessary, subsection (1)(b)(iv)(C)(III);

(ii) identify and develop methods and procedures that will ensure that presently nquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate consideration in ecisionmaking for state-sponsored projects, along with economic and technical considerations;

(iii) identify and develop methods and procedures that will ensure that state government ctions that may impact the human environment in Montana are evaluated for regulatory estrictions on private property, as provided in subsection (1)(b)(iv)(D);

(iv) include in each recommendation or report on proposals for projects, programs, and ther major actions of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human nvironment in Montana a detailed statement on:

(A) the environmental impact of the proposed action;

(B) any adverse effects on Montana's environment that cannot be avoided if the proposal is mplemented;

(C) alternatives to the proposed action. An analysis of any alternative included in the nvironmental review must comply with the following criteria:

(I) any alternative proposed must be reasonable, in that the alternative must be achievable nder current technology and the alternative must be economically feasible as determined solely y the economic viability for similar projects having similar conditions and physical locations nd determined without regard to the economic strength of the specific project sponsor;

(II) the agency proposing the alternative shall consult with the project sponsor regarding ny proposed alternative, and the agency shall give due weight and consideration to the project ponsor's comments regarding the proposed alternative;

(III) the agency shall complete a meaningful no-action alternative analysis. The no-action lternative analysis must include the projected beneficial and adverse environmental, social, nd economic impact of the project's noncompletion.

(D) any regulatory impacts on private property rights, including whether alternatives that educe, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights have been analyzed. he analysis in this subsection (1)(b)(iv)(D) need not be prepared if the proposed action does not nvolve the regulation of private property.

(E) the relationship between local short-term uses of the Montana human environment nd the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity;

(F) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in he proposed action if it is implemented;

(G) the customer fiscal impact analysis, if required by 69-2-216; and

(H) the details of the beneficial aspects of the proposed project, both short-term and ong-term, and the economic advantages and disadvantages of the proposal;

(v) in accordance with the criteria set forth in subsection (1)(b)(iv)(C), study, develop, and escribe appropriate alternatives to recommend courses of action in any proposal that involves nresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. If the alternatives nalysis is conducted for a project that is not a state-sponsored project and alternatives are ecommended, the project sponsor may volunteer to implement the alternative. Neither the lternatives analysis nor the resulting recommendations bind the project sponsor to take a ecommended course of action, but the project sponsor may agree pursuant to subsection (4)(b) o a specific course of action.

(vi) recognize the potential long-range character of environmental impacts in Montana nd, when consistent with the policies of the state, lend appropriate support to initiatives, esolutions, and programs designed to maximize cooperation in anticipating and preventing a lecline in the quality of Montana's environment;

(vii) make available to counties, municipalities, institutions, and individuals advic and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Montana' environment;

(viii) initiate and use ecological information in the planning and development o resource-oriented projects; and

(ix) assist the legislature and the environmental quality council established by 5-16-101;

(c) prior to making any detailed statement as provided in subsection (1)(b)(iv), th responsible state official shall consult with and obtain the comments of any state agency tha has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involve in Montana and with any Montana local government, as defined in 7-12-1103, that may b directly impacted by the project. The responsible state official shall also consult with and obtai comments from any state agency in Montana with respect to any regulation of private propert involved. Copies of the statement and the comments and views of the appropriate state, federal and local agencies that are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards mus be made available to the governor, the environmental quality council, and the public and mus accompany the proposal through the existing agency review processes.

(d) a transfer of an ownership interest in a lease, permit, license, certificate, or othe entitlement for use or permission to act by an agency, either singly or in combination wit other state agencies, does not trigger review under subsection (1)(b)(iv) if there is not a materia change in terms or conditions of the entitlement or unless otherwise provided by law.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), an environmental review conducte pursuant to subsection (1) may not include an evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions an corresponding impacts to the climate in the state or beyond the state's borders.

(b) An environmental review conducted pursuant to subsection (1) may include a evaluation if:

(i) conducted jointly by a state agency and a federal agency to the extent the review i required by the federal agency; or

(ii) the United States congress amends the federal Clean Air Act to include carbon dioxid emissions as a regulated pollutant.

(3) The department of public service regulation, in the exercise of its regulatory authorit over rates and charges of railroads, motor carriers, and public utilities, is exempt from th provisions of parts 1 through 3.

(4) (a) The agency may not withhold, deny, or impose conditions on any permit or othe authority to act based on parts 1 through 3 of this chapter.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (4) prevents a project sponsor and an agency from mutuall developing measures that may, at the request of a project sponsor, be incorporated into a permi or other authority to act.

(c) Parts 1 through 3 of this chapter do not confer authority to an agency that is a projec sponsor to modify a proposed project or action.

(5) (a) (i) A challenge to an agency's environmental review under this part may only b brought against a final agency action decision and may only be brought in district court o in federal court, whichever is appropriate. A challenge may only be brought by a person wh submits formal comments on the agency's environmental review prior to the agency's fina decision, and the challenge must be limited to those issues addressed in those comments.

(ii) Any action or proceeding challenging a final agency action alleging failure to compl with or inadequate compliance with a requirement under this part must be brought within 6 days of the action that is the subject of the challenge.

(iii) For an action taken by the board of land commissioners or the department of natura resources and conservation under Title 77, "final agency action" means the date that the boar of land commissioners or the department of natural resources and conservation issues a fina environmental review document under this part or the date that the board approves the actio that is subject to this part, whichever is later.

(b) Any action or proceeding under subsection (5)(a)(ii) must take precedence over othe cases or matters in the district court unless otherwise provided by law.

(c) Any judicial action or proceeding brought in district court under subsection (5)(a involving an equine slaughter or processing facility must comply with 81-9-240 and 81-9-241.

(6) (a) (i) In an action alleging noncompliance or inadequate compliance with a requirement f parts 1 through 3, including a challenge to an agency's decision that an environmental eview is not required or a claim that the environmental review is inadequate, the agency shall ompile and submit to the court the certified record of its decision at issue. The agency, prior to ubmitting the certified record to the court, shall assess and collect from the person challenging the decision a fee to pay for actual costs to compile and submit the certified record. Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), the person challenging the decision has the burden of proving the claim by clear and convincing evidence contained in the record.

(ii) An action alleging noncompliance or inadequate compliance with a requirement of parts 1 through 3, including a challenge to an agency's decision that an environmental review s not required or a claim that the environmental review is inadequate based in whole or in part upon greenhouse gas emissions and impacts to the climate in Montana or beyond Montana's borders, cannot vacate, void, or delay a lease, permit, license, certificate, authorization, or other ntitlement or authority unless the review is required by a federal agency or the United States ongress amends the federal Clean Air Act to include carbon dioxide as a regulated pollutant.

(iii) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), in a challenge to the agency's decision or the adequacy of an environmental review, a court may not consider any information, including but not limited to an issue, comment, argument, proposed alternative, analysis, or evidence, that was not first presented to the agency for the agency's consideration prior to the agency's decision or within the time allowed for comments to be submitted.

(iv) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), the court shall confine its review to the record ertified by the agency. The court shall affirm the agency's decision or the environmental review unless the court specifically finds that the agency's decision was arbitrary and capricious.

(v) A customer fiscal impact analysis pursuant to 69-2-216 or an allegation that the ustomer fiscal impact analysis is inadequate may not be used as the basis of an action challenging or seeking review of the agency's decision.

(b) (i) When a party challenging the decision or the adequacy of the environmental review r decision presents information not in the record certified by the agency, the challenging party hall certify under oath in an affidavit that the information is new, material, and significant vidence that was not publicly available before the agency's decision and that is relevant to the decision or the adequacy of the agency's environmental review.

(ii) If upon reviewing the affidavit the court finds that the proffered information is new, material, and significant evidence that was not publicly available before the agency's decision nd that is relevant to the decision or to the adequacy of the agency's environmental review, he court shall remand the new evidence to the agency for the agency's consideration and an opportunity to modify its decision or environmental review before the court considers the vidence as a part of the administrative record under review.

(iii) If the court finds that the information in the affidavit does not meet the requirements of ubsection (6)(b)(i), the court may not remand the matter to the agency or consider the proffered information in making its decision.

(c) (i) The remedies provided in this section for successful challenges to a decision of the agency or the adequacy of the statement are exclusive.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of 27-19-201 and 27-19-314, a court having considered he pleadings of parties and intervenors opposing a request for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, permanent injunction, or other equitable relief may not enjoin the ssuance or effectiveness of a license or permit or a part of a license or permit issued pursuant to Title 75 or Title 82 unless the court specifically finds that the party requesting the relief is more likely than not to prevail on the merits of its complaint given the uncontroverted facts in the ecord and applicable law and, in the absence of a temporary restraining order, a preliminary njunction, a permanent injunction, or other equitable relief, that the:

(A) party requesting the relief will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of the relief;

(B) issuance of the relief is in the public interest. In determining whether the grant of the elief is in the public interest, a court:

(I) may not consider the legal nature or character of any party; and

(II) shall consider the implications of the relief on the local and state economy and make written findings with respect to both.

(C) relief is as narrowly tailored as the facts allow to address both the alleged noncomplianc and the irreparable harm the party asking for the relief will suffer. In tailoring the relief, th court shall ensure, to the extent possible, that the project or as much of the project as possibl can go forward while also providing the relief to which the applicant has been determined to b entitled.

(d) The court may issue a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, permanen injunction, or other injunctive relief only if the party seeking the relief provides a writte undertaking to the court in an amount reasonably calculated by the court as adequate to pa the costs and damages sustained by any party that may be found to have been wrongfull enjoined or restrained by a court through a subsequent judicial decision in the case, includin but not limited to lost wages of employees and lost project revenues for 1 year. If the part seeking an injunction or a temporary restraining order objects to the amount of the writte undertaking for any reason, including but not limited to its asserted inability to pay, that part shall file an affidavit with the court that states the party's income, assets, and liabilities i order to facilitate the court's consideration of the amount of the written undertaking that i required. The affidavit must be served on the party enjoined. If a challenge for noncompliance o inadequate compliance with a requirement of parts 1 through 3 seeks to vacate, void, or delay a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement or authority, the party shall, as an initia matter, seek an injunction related to a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement o authority, and an injunction may only be issued if the challenger:

(i) proves there is a likelihood of succeeding on the merits;

(ii) proves there is a violation of an established law or regulation on which the lease permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement or authority is based; and

(iii) subject to the demonstration of the inability to pay, posts the appropriate writte undertaking.

(e) An individual or entity seeking a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlemen or authority to act may intervene in a lawsuit in court challenging a decision or statement b a department or agency of the state as a matter of right if the individual or entity has not bee named as a defendant.

(f) Attorney fees or costs may not be awarded to the prevailing party in an action allegin noncompliance or inadequate compliance with a requirement of parts 1 through 3.

(7) For purposes of judicial review, to the extent that the requirements of this section ar inconsistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the requirement of this section apply to an environmental review or any severable portion of an environmenta review within the state's jurisdiction that is being prepared by a state agency pursuant to thi part in conjunction with a federal agency proceeding pursuant to the National Environmenta Policy Act.

(8) The director of the agency responsible for the determination or recommendation shal endorse in writing any determination of significance made under subsection (1)(b)(iv) or an recommendation that a determination of significance be made.

(9) A project sponsor may request a review of the significance determination o recommendation made under subsection (8) by the appropriate board, if any. The appropriat board may, at its discretion, submit an advisory recommendation to the agency regarding th issue. The period of time between the request for a review and completion of a review under thi subsection may not be included for the purposes of determining compliance with the time limit established for environmental review in 75-1-208.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6504; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 391, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch 473, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 566, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 352, L. 1995; amd. Sec 177, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 2001 amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300 L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 125, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 131, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 469, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3 Ch. 416, L. 2009; amd. Secs. 6, 7, Ch. 396, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 703, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section — Coordination: Section 1, Ch. 450, L. 2023, in (2)(a) at end substitute "an evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions and corresponding impacts to the climate in the state or beyond th state's borders" for "a review of actual or potential impacts beyond Montana's borders. It may not include actual o potential impacts that are regional, national, or global in nature"; in (2)(b) at end of introductory clause substitute "an evaluation if" for "a review of actual or potential impacts beyond Montana's borders if it is conducted by" substituted current (2)(b)(i) concerning environmental review conducted jointly and current (2)(b)(ii) concernin mendment of the federal Clean Air Act for former (2)(b)(i), (2)(b)(ii), and (2)(b)(iii) (see sec. 1, Ch. 450, L. 2023, for rmer text); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 8, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 703, L. 2023, in (5)(a)(i) near beginning of first sentence substituted "agency's environmental eview" for "agency action", near middle of first sentence after "final agency action" inserted "decision", and inserted st sentence regarding limits to challenges; in (6)(a)(i) inserted second sentence regarding assessing and collecting e; inserted (6)(a)(ii) regarding actions alleging noncompliance or inadequate compliance with parts 1 through 3 of EPA; in (6)(a)(iv) at end after "capricious" deleted "or was otherwise not in accordance with law"; in (6)(d) at end first sentence after "in the case" inserted "including but not limited to lost wages of employees and lost project venues for 1 year" and inserted last sentence regarding seeking an injunction; inserted (6)(d)(i), (6)(d)(ii), and)(d)(iii) regarding criteria for issuing an injunction; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 9, 2023.

The amendment to this section made by sec. 1, Ch. 632, L. 2023, was rendered void by sec. 4, Ch. 450, L. 2023, coordination section.

ross-References

Citizens' right to participate satisfied if environmental impact statement filed, 2-3-104.
Statement to contain information regarding heritage properties and paleontological remains, 22-3-433.
Public Service Commission, Title 69, ch. 1, part 1.
Statement under lakeshore protection provisions required, 75-7-213.
Impact statement for facility siting, 75-20-211.
Fees for impact statements concerning water permits, 85-2-124.
Energy emergency provisions — exclusion, 90-4-310.

75-1-202. Agency rules to prescribe fees. Each agency of state government charged ith the responsibility of issuing a lease, permit, contract, license, or certificate under ny provision of state law may adopt rules prescribing fees that must be paid by a person, rporation, partnership, firm, association, or other private entity when an application for a ase, permit, contract, license, or certificate will require an agency to compile an environmental npact statement as prescribed by 75-1-201 and the agency has not made the finding nder 75-1-205(1)(a). An agency shall determine whether it will be necessary to compile an nvironmental impact statement and assess a fee as prescribed by this section within any tatutory timeframe for issuance of the lease, permit, contract, license, or certificate or, if no tatutory timeframe is provided, within 90 days. Except as provided in 85-2-124, the fee assessed nder this section may be used only to gather data and information necessary to compile an nvironmental impact statement as defined in parts 1 through 3. A fee may not be assessed if an gency intends only to file a negative declaration stating that the proposed project will not have significant impact on the human environment.

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 2005.

ross-References

Fees authorized for environmental review of subdivision plats, 76-4-105.
Fees in connection with environmental impact statement required before issuing permits to appropriate water, 5-2-124.

75-1-203. Fee schedule — maximums. (1) In prescribing fees to be assessed against pplicants for a lease, permit, contract, license, or certificate as specified in 75-1-202, an agency ay adopt a fee schedule that may be adjusted depending upon the size and complexity of the roposed project. A fee may not be assessed unless the application for a lease, permit, contract, cense, or certificate will result in the agency incurring expenses in excess of $2,501 to compile n environmental impact statement.

(2) The maximum fee that may be imposed by an agency may not exceed 2% of any stimated cost up to $1 million, plus 1% of any estimated cost over $1 million and up to $20 illion, plus 1/2 of 1% of any estimated cost over $20 million and up to $100 million, plus 1/4 f 1% of any estimated cost over $100 million and up to $300 million, plus 1/8 of 1% of any stimated cost in excess of $300 million.

(3) If an application consists of two or more facilities, the filing fee must be based on the tal estimated cost of the combined facilities. The estimated cost must be determined by the gency and the applicant at the time the application is filed.

(4) Each agency shall review and revise its rules imposing fees as authorized by this part t least every 2 years.

(5) In calculating fees under this section, the agency may not include in the estimated roject cost the project sponsor's property or other interests already owned by the project ponsor at the time the application is submitted. Any fee assessed may be based only on the rojected cost of acquiring all of the information and data needed for the environmental impact tatement.

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(2), (7); amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 112, L. 1991 amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 2011.

75-1-204. Application of administrative procedure act. In adopting rules prescribing fees as authorized by this part, an agency shall comply with the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(4).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-1-205. Collection and use of fees and costs. (1) A person who applies to a state agency for a permit, license, or other authorization that the agency determines requires preparation of an environmental impact statement is responsible for paying:

(a) the agency's costs of preparing the environmental impact statement and conducting the environmental impact statement process if the agency makes a written determination, based on material evidence identified in the determination, that there will be a significant environmental impact or a potential for a significant environmental impact. If a customer fiscal impact analysis is required under 69-2-216, the applicant shall also pay the staff and consultant costs incurred by the office of consumer counsel in preparing the analysis.

(b) a fee as provided in 75-1-202 if the agency does not make the determination provided for in subsection (1)(a).

(2) Costs payable under subsection (1) include:

(a) the costs of generating, gathering, and compiling data and information that is not available from the applicant to prepare the draft environmental impact statement, any supplemental draft environmental impact statement, and the final environmental impact statement;

(b) the costs of writing, reviewing, editing, printing, and distributing a reasonable number of copies of the draft environmental impact statement;

(c) the costs of attending meetings and hearings on the environmental impact statement, including meetings and hearings held to determine the scope of the environmental impact statement; and

(d) the costs of preparing, printing, and distributing a reasonable number of copies of any supplemental draft environmental impact statement and the final environmental impact statement, including the cost of reviewing and preparing responses to public comment.

(3) Costs payable under subsection (1) include:

(a) payments to contractors hired to work on the environmental impact statement;

(b) salaries and expenses of an agency employee who is designated as the agency's coordinator for preparation of the environmental impact statement for time spent performing the activities described in subsection (2) or for managing those activities; and

(c) travel and per diem expenses for other agency personnel for attendance at meetings and hearings on the environmental impact statement.

(4) (a) Whenever the agency makes the determination in subsection (1)(a), it shall notify the applicant of the cost of conducting the process to determine the scope of the environmental impact statement. The applicant shall pay that cost, and the agency shall then conduct the scoping process. The timeframe in 75-1-208(4)(a)(i) and any statutory timeframe for a decision on the application are tolled until the applicant pays the cost of the scoping process.

(b) If the agency decides to hire a third-party contractor to prepare the environmental impact statement, the agency shall prepare a list of no fewer than four contractors acceptable to the agency and shall provide the applicant with a copy of the list. If fewer than four acceptable contractors are available, the agency shall include all acceptable contractors on the list. The applicant shall provide the agency with a list of at least 50% of the contractors from the agency's list. The agency shall select its contractor from the list provided by the applicant.

(c) Upon completion of the scoping process and subject to subsection (1)(d), the agency and the applicant shall negotiate an agreement for the preparation of the environmental impact statement. The agreement must provide that:

(i) the applicant shall pay the cost of the environmental impact statement as determined by the agency after consultation with the applicant. In determining the cost, the agency shall identify and consult with the applicant regarding the data and information that must be gathered and studies that must be conducted.

(ii) the agency shall prepare the environmental impact statement within a reasonable time etermined by the agency after consultation with the applicant and set out in the agreement. his timeframe supersedes any timeframe in statute or rule. If the applicant and the agency nnot agree on a timeframe, the agency shall prepare the environmental impact statement ithin any timeframe provided by statute or rule.

(iii) the applicant shall make periodic advance payments to cover work to be performed;

(iv) the agency may order work on the environmental impact statement to stop if the pplicant fails to make advance payment as required by the agreement. The time for preparation the environmental impact statement is tolled for any period during which a stop-work order in effect for failure to make advance payment.

(v) (A) if the agency determines that the actual cost of preparing the environmental pact statement will exceed the cost set out in the agreement or that more time is necessary to repare the environmental impact statement, the agency shall submit proposed modifications the agreement to the applicant;

(B) if the applicant does not agree to an extension of the time for preparation of the nvironmental impact statement, the agency may initiate the informal review process under ubsection (4)(d). Upon completion of the informal review process, the agreement may be mended only with the consent of the applicant.

(C) if the applicant does not agree with the increased costs proposed by the agency, the pplicant may refuse to agree to the modification and may also provide the agency with a ritten statement providing the reason that payment of the increased cost is not justified or, if pplicable, the reason that a portion of the increased cost is not justified. The applicant may also equest an informal review as provided in subsection (4)(d). If the applicant provides a written atement pursuant to this subsection (4)(c)(v)(C), the agreement must be amended to require he applicant to pay all undisputed increased cost and 75% of the disputed increased cost and provide that the agency is responsible for 25% of the disputed increased cost. If the applicant oes not provide the statement, the agreement must be amended to require the applicant to pay ll increased costs.

(d) If the applicant does not agree with costs determined under subsection (4)(c)(i) or roposed under subsection (4)(c)(v), the applicant may initiate the informal review process ursuant to 75-1-208(3). If the applicant does not agree to a time extension proposed by the gency under subsection (4)(c)(v), the agency may initiate an informal review by an appropriate oard under 75-1-208(3). The period of time for completion of the environmental impact atement provided in the agreement is tolled from the date of submission of a request for a eview by the appropriate board until the date of completion of the review by the appropriate oard. However, the agency shall continue to work on preparation of the environmental impact atement during this period if the applicant has advanced money to pay for this work.

(5) All fees and costs collected under this part must be deposited in the state special evenue fund as provided in 17-2-102. All fees and costs paid pursuant to this part must be sed as provided in this part. Upon completion of the necessary work, each agency shall make n accounting to the applicant of the funds expended and refund all unexpended funds without nterest.

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; nd. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 469, L. 2007.

75-1-206. Multiple applications or combined facility. In cases where a combined acility proposed by an applicant requires action by more than one agency or multiple applications r the same facility, the governor shall designate a lead agency to collect one fee pursuant to his part, to coordinate the preparation of information required for all environmental impact atements which may be required, and to allocate and disburse the necessary funds to the ther agencies which require funds for the completion of the necessary work.

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(6).

75-1-207. Major facility siting applications excepted. (1) Except as provided in ubsection (2), a fee as prescribed by this part may not be assessed against any person, orporation, partnership, firm, association, or other private entity filing an application for a ertificate under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20.

(2) The department of environmental quality may require payment of costs unde 75-1-205(1)(a) by a person who files a petition under 75-20-201(4).

History: En. 69-6518 by Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6518(3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 200 amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 19, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

75-1-208. Environmental review procedure. (1) (a) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4 and subsection (1)(b) of this section, an agency shall comply with this section when completin any environmental review required under this part.

(b) To the extent that the requirements of this section are inconsistent with federa requirements, the requirements of this section do not apply to an environmental review that i being prepared jointly by a state agency pursuant to this part and a federal agency pursuant t the National Environmental Policy Act or to an environmental review that must comply wit the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a project sponsor may, after providing 30-day notice, appear before the environmental quality council at any regularly schedule meeting to discuss issues regarding the agency's environmental review of the project. Th environmental quality council shall ensure that the appropriate agency personnel are availabl to answer questions.

(b) If the primary concern of the agency's environmental review of a project is the qualit or quantity of water, a project sponsor may, after providing a 30-day notice, appear before th water policy committee established in 5-5-231 at any regularly scheduled meeting to discus issues regarding the agency's environmental review of the project. The water policy committe shall ensure that the appropriate agency personnel are available to answer questions.

(3) If a project sponsor experiences problems in dealing with the agency or any consultan hired by the agency regarding an environmental review, the project sponsor may submit written request to the agency director requesting a meeting to discuss the issues. The writte request must sufficiently state the issues to allow the agency to prepare for the meeting. I the issues remain unresolved after the meeting with the agency director, the project sponso may submit a written request to appear before the appropriate board, if any, to discuss th remaining issues. A written request to the appropriate board must sufficiently state the issue to allow the agency and the board to prepare for the meeting.

(4) (a) Subject to the requirements of subsection (5), to ensure a timely completion of th environmental review process, an agency is subject to the time limits listed in this subsectio (4) unless other time limits are provided by law. All time limits are measured from the date th agency receives a complete application. An agency has:

(i) 60 days to complete a public scoping process, if any;

(ii) 90 days to complete an environmental review unless a detailed statement pursuant t 75-1-201(1)(b)(iv) or 75-1-205(4) is required; and

(iii) 180 days to complete a detailed statement pursuant to 75-1-201(1)(b)(iv).

(b) The period of time between the request for a review by a board and the completio of a review by a board under 75-1-201(9) or subsection (10) of this section may not be include for the purposes of determining compliance with the time limits established for conducting a environmental review under this subsection or the time limits established for permitting i 75-2-211, 75-2-218, 75-20-216, 75-20-231, 76-4-114, 82-4-122, 82-4-231, 82-4-337, and 82-4-432

(5) An agency may extend the time limits in subsection (4) by notifying the project sponso in writing that an extension is necessary and stating the basis for the extension. The agenc may extend the time limit one time, and the extension may not exceed 50% of the original tim period as listed in subsection (4). After one extension, the agency may not extend the time limi unless the agency and the project sponsor mutually agree to the extension.

(6) If the project sponsor disagrees with the need for the extension, the project sponso may request that the appropriate board, if any, conduct a review of the agency's decision t extend the time period. The appropriate board may, at its discretion, submit an advisor recommendation to the agency regarding the issue.

(7) (a) Except as provided in subsection (7)(b), if an agency has not completed th environmental review by the expiration of the original or extended time period, the agency ma not withhold a permit or other authority to act unless the agency makes a written finding tha

nere is a likelihood that permit issuance or other approval to act would result in the violation of statutory or regulatory requirement.

(b) Subsection (7)(a) does not apply to a permit granted under Title 75, chapter 2, or under itle 82, chapter 4, parts 1 and 2.

(8) Under this part, an agency may only request information from the project sponsor that relevant to the environmental review required under this part.

(9) An agency shall ensure that the notification for any public scoping process associated ith an environmental review conducted by the agency is presented in an objective and neutral ianner and that the notification does not speculate on the potential impacts of the project.

(10) An agency may not require the project sponsor to provide engineering designs in reater detail than that necessary to fairly evaluate the proposed project. The project sponsor iay request that the appropriate board, if any, review an agency's request regarding the level f design detail information that the agency believes is necessary to conduct the environmental eview. The appropriate board may, at its discretion, submit an advisory recommendation to the gency regarding the issue.

(11) An agency shall, when appropriate, evaluate the cumulative impacts of a proposed roject. However, related future actions may only be considered when these actions are under oncurrent consideration by any agency through preimpact statement studies, separate impact tatement evaluations, or permit processing procedures.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 366, L. 2009; amd. ec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 122, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 2019.

ross-References

Public scoping process defined, 75-1-220.

75-1-209 through 75-1-219 reserved.

75-1-220. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Alternatives analysis" means an evaluation of different parameters, mitigation easures, or control measures that would accomplish the same objectives as those included n the proposed action by the applicant. For a project that is not a state-sponsored project, it oes not include an alternative facility or an alternative to the proposed project itself. The term ncludes alternatives required pursuant to Title 75, chapter 20.

(2) "Appropriate board" means, for administrative actions taken under this part by the:

(a) department of environmental quality, the board of environmental review, as provided or in 2-15-3502;

(b) department of fish, wildlife, and parks, the fish and wildlife commission, as provided or in 2-15-3402, and the state parks and recreation board, as provided for in 2-15-3406;

(c) department of transportation, the transportation commission, as provided for in -15-2502;

(d) department of natural resources and conservation for state trust land issues, the board f land commissioners, as provided for in Article X, section 4, of the Montana constitution;

(e) department of natural resources and conservation for oil and gas issues, the board of il and gas conservation, as provided for in 2-15-3303; and

(f) department of livestock, the board of livestock, as provided for in 2-15-3102.

(3) "Complete application" means, for the purpose of complying with this part, an pplication for a permit, license, or other authorization that contains all data, studies, plans, nformation, forms, fees, and signatures required to be included with the application sufficient or the agency to approve the application under the applicable statutes and rules.

(4) "Cumulative impacts" means the collective impacts on the human environment within he borders of Montana of the proposed action when considered in conjunction with other past, resent, and future actions related to the proposed action by location or generic type.

(5) "Environmental review" means any environmental assessment, environmental impact tatement, or other written analysis required under this part by a state agency of a proposed ction to determine, examine, or document the effects and impacts of the proposed action on he quality of the human and physical environment within the borders of Montana as required nder this part.

(6) "Project sponsor" means any applicant, owner, operator, agency, or other entity that s proposing an action that requires an environmental review. If the action involves state

agency-initiated actions on state trust lands, the term also includes each institutional beneficiar of any trust as described in The Enabling Act of Congress, approved February 22, 1899, 25 Sta 676, as amended, the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 189 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329.

(7) "Public scoping process" means any process to determine the scope of an environmenta review.

(8) (a) "State-sponsored project" means:

(i) a project, program, or activity initiated and directly undertaken by a state agency;

(ii) except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(i), a project or activity supported through contract, grant, subsidy, loan, or other form of funding assistance from a state agency, eithe singly or in combination with one or more other state agencies; or

(iii) except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(i), a project or activity authorized by state agency acting in a land management capacity for a lease, easement, license, or othe authorization to act.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a project or activity undertaken by a private entity that is made possible by the issuanc of permits, licenses, leases, easements, grants, loans, or other authorizations to act by the:

(A) department of environmental quality pursuant to Titles 75, 76, or 82;

(B) department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to Title 87, chapter 4, part 4;

(C) board of oil and gas conservation pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11; or

(D) department of natural resources and conservation or the board of land commissioner pursuant to Titles 76, 77, 82, and 85; or

(ii) a project or activity involving the issuance of a permit, license, certificate, or othe entitlement for permission to act by another agency acting in a regulatory capacity, either singl or in combination with other state agencies.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 2001; en. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 2001; en. Sec. 2, Ch. 299, L. 2001; en. Sec. 2, Ch 300, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15(3), (4), Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 396, L. 2011 amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 235, L. 2013.**

Part 3
Environmental Quality Council

75-1-301. Definition of council. In this part "council" means the environmental qualit council provided for in 5-16-101.

History: **En. by Code Commissioner, 1979.**

Cross-References

Qualifications, 5-16-102.
Term of membership, 5-16-103.
Officers, 5-16-105.

75-1-302. Meetings. The council may determine the time and place of its meeting but shall meet at least once each quarter. Each member of the council is entitled to receiv compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302. Members who are full-time salaried officer or employees of this state may not be compensated for their service as members but shall b reimbursed for their expenses.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 238, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 103, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6510.**

75-1-303 through 75-1-310 reserved.

75-1-311. Examination of records of government agencies. The council shall have the authority to investigate, examine, and inspect all records, books, and files of any department agency, commission, board, or institution of the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6515.**

75-1-312. Hearings — council subpoena power — contempt proceedings. In the discharge of its duties, the council may hold hearings, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of any papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony, and cause depositions of witnesses to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions in the district court. In case of disobedience on the part of a person to comply with a subpoena issued on behalf of the council or a committee of the council o the refusal of a witness to testify on any matters regarding which the witness may be lawfully iterrogated, it is the duty of the district court of any county or the judge of the district court, n application of the council, to compel obedience by proceedings for contempt as in the case of isobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from the court on a refusal to testify in ne court.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6516; amd. Sec. 2488, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

ross-References

Warrant of attachment or commitment for contempt, 3-1-513.
Subpoena — disobedience, 26-2-104 through 26-2-107.
Criminal contempt, 45-7-309.

75-1-313. Consultation with other groups — utilization of services. In exercising its owers, functions, and duties under parts 1 through 3, the council shall:

(1) consult with such representatives of science, industry, agriculture, labor, conservation rganizations, educational institutions, local governments, and other groups as it deems dvisable; and

(2) utilize, to the fullest extent possible, the services, facilities, and information (including atistical information) of public and private agencies and organizations and individuals in rder that duplication of effort and expense may be avoided, thus assuring that the council's ctivities will not unnecessarily overlap or conflict with similar activities authorized by law and erformed by established agencies.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6517.**

75-1-314. Reporting requirements. (1) The departments of environmental quality, griculture, and natural resources and conservation shall report to the council in accordance ith 5-11-210 the following natural resource and environmental compliance and enforcement nformation:

(a) the activities and efforts taking place to promote compliance assistance and education;

(b) the size and description of the regulated community and the estimated proportion of hat community that is in compliance;

(c) the number, description, method of discovery, and significance of noncompliances, ncluding those noncompliances that are pending; and

(d) a description of how the department has addressed the noncompliances identified in ubsection (1)(c) and a list of the noncompliances left unresolved.

(2) When practical, reporting required in subsection (1) should include quantitative trend nformation.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

75-1-315 through 75-1-320 reserved.

75-1-321. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6511.**

75-1-322. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 545, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6513.**

75-1-323. Staff for environmental quality council. The legislative services division hall provide sufficient and appropriate support to the environmental quality council in order hat it may carry out its statutory duties, within the limitations of legislative appropriations. he environmental quality council staff is a principal subdivision within the legislative services ivision. There is within the legislative services division a legislative environmental analyst. he legislative environmental analyst is the primary staff person for the environmental uality council and shall supervise staff assigned to the environmental quality council. The nvironmental quality council shall select the legislative environmental analyst with the oncurrence of the legislative council.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6512; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 545, L. 1995.**

75-1-324. Duties of environmental quality council. The environmental quality council hall:

(1) gather timely and authoritative information concerning the conditions and trends n the quality of the environment, both current and prospective, analyze and interpret the

information for the purpose of determining whether the conditions and trends are interfering o are likely to interfere with the achievement of the policy set forth in 75-1-103, and compile an submit to the governor and the legislature studies relating to the conditions and trends;

(2) review and appraise the various programs and activities of the state agencies, in th light of the policy set forth in 75-1-103, for the purpose of determining the extent to whic the programs and activities are contributing to the achievement of the policy and mak recommendations to the governor and the legislature with respect to the policy;

(3) develop and recommend to the governor and the legislature state policies to foster an promote the improvement of environmental quality to meet the conservation, social, economic health, and other requirements and goals of the state;

(4) conduct investigations, studies, surveys, research, and analyses relating to ecologica systems and environmental quality;

(5) document and define changes in the natural environment, including the plant an animal systems, and accumulate necessary data and other information for a continuing analysi of these changes or trends and an interpretation of their underlying causes;

(6) make and furnish studies, reports on studies, and recommendations with respect t matters of policy and legislation as the legislature requests;

(7) analyze legislative proposals in clearly environmental areas and in other fields i which legislation might have environmental consequences and assist in preparation of report for use by legislative committees, administrative agencies, and the public;

(8) consult with and assist legislators who are preparing environmental legislation t clarify any deficiencies or potential conflicts with an overall ecologic plan;

(9) review and evaluate operating programs in the environmental field in the severa agencies to identify actual or potential conflicts, both among the activities and with a genera ecologic perspective, and suggest legislation to remedy the situations; and

(10) except as provided in 5-5-231, perform the administrative rule review, draft legislatio review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions of an interim committee for the followin executive branch agencies and the entities attached to the agencies for administrative purposes

(a) department of environmental quality;

(b) department of fish, wildlife, and parks; and

(c) department of natural resources and conservation.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 238, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6514; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 69 Ch. 545, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 19, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 210, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 33, L. 2003; amd Sec. 4, Ch. 122, L. 2015.

Parts 4 through 9 reserved

Part 10

Penalties, Fees, and Interest

75-1-1001. Penalty factors. (1) In determining the amount of an administrative or civi penalty to which subsection (4) applies, the department of environmental quality or the distric court, as appropriate, shall take into account the following factors:

(a) the nature, extent, and gravity of the violation;

(b) the circumstances of the violation;

(c) the violator's prior history of any violation, which:

(i) must be a violation of a requirement under the authority of the same chapter and par as the violation for which the penalty is being assessed;

(ii) must be documented in an administrative order or a judicial order or judgment issue within 3 years prior to the date of the occurrence of the violation for which the penalty is bein assessed; and

(iii) may not, at the time that the penalty is being assessed, be undergoing or subject t administrative appeal or judicial review;

(d) the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violator's action;

(e) the violator's good faith and cooperation;

(f) the amounts voluntarily expended by the violator, beyond what is required by law o order, to address or mitigate the violation or impacts of the violation; and

(g) other matters that justice may require.

(2) After the amount of a penalty is determined under subsection (1), the department of nvironmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, may consider the violator's financial bility to pay the penalty and may institute a payment schedule or suspend all or a portion of he penalty.

(3) The department of environmental quality may accept a supplemental environmental roject as mitigation for a portion of the penalty. For purposes of this section, a "supplemental nvironmental project" is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to ndertake in settlement of an enforcement action but which the violator is not otherwise legally equired to perform.

(4) This section applies to penalties assessed by the department of environmental quality r the district court under Title 75, chapters 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 20; Title 75, chapter 10, parts 2, , 5, and 12; and Title 76, chapter 4.

(5) The department of environmental quality may adopt rules to implement this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 320, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-1-1002. Collection of penalties, fees, late fees, and interest. (1) If the department f environmental quality is unable to collect penalties, fees, late fees, or interest assessed ursuant to the provisions of Title 75 or Title 76, chapter 4, the department of environmental uality may assign the debt to a collection service or transfer the debt to the department of evenue pursuant to Title 17, chapter 4, part 1.

(2) (a) The reasonable collection costs of a collection service, if approved by the department f environmental quality, or assistance costs charged the department of environmental quality y the department of revenue pursuant to 17-4-103(3) may be added to the debt for which ollection is being sought.

(b) (i) All money collected by the department of revenue is subject to the provisions of 7-4-106.

(ii) All money collected by a collection service must be paid to the department of nvironmental quality and deposited in the general fund or the accounts specified in statute for he assessed penalties, fees, late fees, or interest, except that the collection service may retain hose collection costs or, if the total debt is not collected, that portion of collection costs that are pproved by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 487, L. 2005.**

Part 11
Environmental Contingency Grant Program

art Cross-References

Resource indemnity trust, Art. IX, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 2-15-3301.
Resource indemnity trust tax, Title 15, ch. 38.
Fund structure, Title 17, ch. 2.
Renewable resource grant and loan program, Title 85, ch. 1, part 6.
Renewable resource development program, Title 90, ch. 2.

75-1-1101. Environmental contingency account objectives. (1) There is an nvironmental contingency account within the state special revenue fund established in 7-2-102. The environmental contingency account is controlled by the governor.

(2) At the beginning of each biennium, $175,000 must be allocated to the environmental ontingency account from the interest income of the resource indemnity trust fund with the ollowing exceptions:

(a) if at the beginning of any biennium the unobligated cash balance in the environmental ontingency account equals or exceeds $750,000, allocation may not be made; and

(b) if at the beginning of any biennium the unobligated cash balance in the environmental ontingency account is less than $750,000, then an amount less than or equal to the difference etween the unobligated cash balance and $750,000, but not to exceed $175,000, must be llocated to the environmental contingency account from the interest income of the resource ndemnity trust fund.

(3) Funds are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, from the environmenta contingency account upon the authorization of the governor to meet unanticipated public need consistent with the following objectives:

(a) to support renewable resource development projects in communities that face a emergency or imminent need for the services or to prevent the physical failure of a project;

(b) to preserve vegetation, water, soil, fish, wildlife, or other renewable resources from a imminent physical threat or during an emergency, not including:

(i) natural disasters adequately covered by other funding sources; or

(ii) fire;

(c) to respond to an emergency or imminent threat to persons, property, or the environmen caused by mineral development;

(d) to respond to an emergency or imminent threat to persons, property, or the environmen caused by a hazardous material; and

(e) to fund the environmental quality protection fund provided for in 75-10-704 or to tak other necessary actions, including the construction of facilities, to respond to actual or potentia threats to persons, property, or the environment caused by hazardous wastes or other hazardou materials.

(4) Interest from funds in the environmental contingency account accrues to the genera fund.

(5) The governor shall submit to the legislative fiscal analyst, as a part of the informatio required by 17-7-111, a complete financial report on the environmental contingency account including a description of all expenditures made since the preceding report. The report mus be provided in an electronic format. The department shall provide a copy of the report to th legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

History: En. Sec. 4, HB 922, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, HB 30, Sp. L. June 1986; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 370, L. 1987 amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 418, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 15, Ch 270, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 263, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 432, L. 2007; amd Sec. 18, Ch. 120, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Resource indemnity trust, Art. IX, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 2-15-3301.
Resource indemnity trust tax, Title 15, ch. 38.
Abatement of environmental emergencies, 82-4-357.

75-1-1102. Repealed. Secs. 16(1), 21(2), Ch. 418, L. 1987.
History: En. Sec. 2, HB 922, L. 1985.

75-1-1103 through 75-1-1110 reserved.

75-1-1111. Repealed. Secs. 16(1), 21(2), Ch. 418, L. 1987.
History: En. Sec. 5, HB 922, L. 1985.

75-1-1112. Repealed. Secs. 16(1), 21(2), Ch. 418, L. 1987.
History: En. Sec. 6, HB 922, L. 1985.

Part 12
Voluntary Environmental Audit Act
(Terminated)

75-1-1201. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

75-1-1202. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

75-1-1203. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

75-1-1204. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

75-1-1205. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

75-1-1206. Terminated. Sec. 10, Ch. 534, L. 1997.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 534, L. 1997.

CHAPTER 2
AIR QUALITY

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75-2-518. Inspections — sampling.
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Chapter Cross-References

Local government smoke abatement programs, Title 7, ch. 31, part 1.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Montana Clean Indoor Air Act of 1979, Title 50, ch. 40.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Energy emergency provisions — exclusion, 90-4-310.

Part 1
General Provisions and Administration

75-2-101. Short title. Parts 1 through 4 of this chapter are known and may be cited as the "Clean Air Act of Montana".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3904; amd. Sec. 264, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

75-2-102. Intent — policy and purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutiona obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Clean Air Act of Montana. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) It is the public policy of this state and the purpose of this chapter to achieve and maintain levels of air quality that will protect human health and safety and, to the greatest degree practicable, prevent injury to plant and animal life and property, foster the comfort and convenience of the people, promote the economic and social development of this state, and facilitate the enjoyment of the natural attractions of this state. This policy must be balanced by the legislature with the policy of protecting the ability of the people to pursue life's basic necessities and to acquire property and to use that property in all lawful ways.

(3) Local and regional air pollution control programs must be supported to the extent practicable as essential instruments for the securing and maintenance of appropriate levels of air quality.

(4) To these ends it is the purpose of this chapter to:

(a) provide for a coordinated statewide program of air pollution prevention, abatement, nd control;

(b) provide for an appropriate distribution of responsibilities among the state and local nits of government;

(c) facilitate cooperation across jurisdictional lines in dealing with problems of air pollution ot confined within single jurisdictions; and

(d) provide a framework within which all values may be balanced in the public interest.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3905; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

ross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-2-103. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter the following efinitions apply:

(1) "Air contaminant" means dust, fumes, mist, smoke, other particulate matter, vapor, as, odorous substances, or any combination of those air contaminants.

(2) "Air pollutants" means one or more air contaminants that are present in the outdoor tmosphere, including those pollutants regulated pursuant to section 7412 and Subchapter V of he federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

(3) "Air pollution" means the presence of air pollutants in a quantity and for a duration hat are or tend to be injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property r that would unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life, property, or the conduct of usiness.

(4) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

(a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

(b) pipeline facilities;

(c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

(d) rail transportation;

(e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

(f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or product roduced at an energy development project; or

(g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by board rule, that is necessary for an nergy development project.

(5) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(6) (a) "Commercial hazardous waste incinerator" means:

(i) an incinerator that burns hazardous waste; or

(ii) a boiler or industrial furnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406.

(b) Commercial hazardous waste incinerator does not include a research and development acility that receives federal or state research funds and that burns hazardous waste primarily o test and evaluate waste treatment remediation technologies.

(7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in -15-3501.

(8) "Emission" means a release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.

(9) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and ssociated developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or apable of:

(a) generating electricity;

(b) producing gas derived from coal;

(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

(e) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a ax incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5; or

(f) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of qual to or greater than 50 kilovolts.

(10) "Environmental protection law" means a law contained in or an administrative rul adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, 10, or 11.

(11) "Hazardous waste" means:

(a) a substance defined as hazardous under 75-10-403 or defined as hazardous i department administrative rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 4; or

(b) a waste containing 2 parts or more per million of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

(12) (a) "Incinerator" means any single- or multiple-chambered combustion device tha burns combustible material, alone or with a supplemental fuel or with catalytic combustio assistance, primarily for the purpose of removal, destruction, disposal, or volume reduction c any portion of the input material.

(b) Incinerator does not include:

(i) safety flares used to combust or dispose of hazardous or toxic gases at industria facilities, such as refineries, gas sweetening plants, oil and gas wells, sulfur recovery plants, o elemental phosphorus plants;

(ii) space heaters that burn used oil;

(iii) wood-fired boilers;

(iv) wood waste burners, such as tepee, wigwam, truncated cone, or silo burners;

(v) air pollution control devices required by state or federal rule or another applicabl requirement; or

(vi) air pollution control devices that are:

(A) operating alone or at a facility where emissions are less than the permitting o registration threshold; and

(B) exempt from the requirements of 75-2-211 or 75-2-234.

(13) "Medical waste" means any waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, o immunization of human beings or animals, in medical research on humans or animals, or in th production or testing of biologicals. The term includes:

(a) cultures and stocks of infectious agents;

(b) human pathological wastes;

(c) waste human blood or products of human blood;

(d) sharps;

(e) contaminated animal carcasses, body parts, and bedding that were known to hav been exposed to infectious agents during research;

(f) laboratory wastes and wastes from autopsy or surgery that were in contact wit infectious agents; and

(g) biological waste and discarded material contaminated with blood, excretion, exudates or secretions from humans or animals.

(14) (a) "Oil or gas well facility" means a well that produces oil or natural gas. The tern includes:

(i) equipment associated with the well and used for the purpose of producing, treating separating, or storing oil, natural gas, or other liquids produced by the well; and

(ii) a group of wells under common ownership or control that produce oil or natural ga and that share common equipment used for the purpose of producing, treating, separating, o storing oil, natural gas, or other liquids produced by the wells.

(b) The equipment referred to in subsection (14)(a) includes but is not limited to wellhea assemblies, amine units, prime mover engines, phase separators, heater treater units dehydrator units, tanks, and connecting tubing.

(c) The term does not include equipment such as compressor engines used for transmissio of oil or natural gas.

(15) "Person" means an individual, a partnership, a firm, an association, a municipality, public or private corporation, the state or a subdivision or agency of the state, a trust, an estate an interstate body, the federal government or an agency of the federal government, or any othe legal entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

(16) "Principal" means a principal of a corporation, including but not limited to a partner associate, officer, parent corporation, or subsidiary corporation.

(17) "Small business stationary source" means a stationary source that:

(a) is owned or operated by a person who employs 100 or fewer individuals;

(b) is a small business concern as defined in the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 631, et seq.;

(c) is not a major stationary source as defined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.;

(d) emits less than 50 tons per year of an air pollutant;

(e) emits less than a total of 75 tons per year of all air pollutants combined; and

(f) is not excluded from this definition under 75-2-108(3).

(18) (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible solid, semisolid, liquid, or gaseous wastes, including but not limited to garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; swill; food wastes; commercial or industrial wastes; medical waste; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air pollution control facilities; construction, demolition, or salvage wastes; dead animals, dead animal parts, offal, animal droppings, or litter; discarded home and industrial appliances; automobile bodies, tires, interiors, or parts thereof; wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials; styrofoam and other plastics; rubber materials; asphalt shingles; tarpaper; electrical equipment, transformers, or insulated wire; oil or petroleum products or oil or petroleum products and inert materials; treated lumber and timbers; and pathogenic or infectious waste.

(b) Solid waste does not include municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department of environmental quality, or slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and conservation.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 308, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3906; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 639, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 178, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 523, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 445, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 417, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 3, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 503, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

75-2-104. Limitations — personal cause of action unabridged — venue. (1) This chapter may not be construed to:

(a) grant to the board any jurisdiction or authority with respect to air contamination existing solely within commercial and industrial plants, works, or shops;

(b) affect the relations between employers and employees with respect to or arising out of any condition of air contamination or air pollution;

(c) supersede or limit the applicability of any law or ordinance relating to sanitation, industrial health, or safety; or

(d) abridge, limit, impair, create, enlarge, or otherwise affect substantively or procedurally the right of a person to damages or other relief on account of injury to persons or property and to maintain an action or other appropriate proceeding.

(2) A judicial challenge to a permit issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the permit applicant or permitholder must include the party to whom the permit was issued unless otherwise agreed to by the permit applicant or permitholder. All judicial challenges of permits for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than $1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.

(3) An action to challenge a permit decision pursuant to this chapter must be brought in the county in which the permitted activity will occur. If an activity will occur in more than one county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity will occur.

(4) A judicial action or proceeding pursuant to this chapter for an equine slaughter or processing facility must comply with 81-9-240 and 81-9-241.

History: (1) thru (3)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 313, L. 1967; Sec. 69-3922, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 18, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-3921, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3921(4), 69-3922; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 416, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Indemnification for damage to air resources, Title 15, ch. 38.
Workers' compensation — liability, Title 39, ch. 71, part 4.
Workers' compensation — claim, Title 39, ch. 71, part 6.

Montana Clean Indoor Air Act of 1979, Title 50, ch. 40.
Occupational safety and health, Title 50, ch. 71.
Mine safety, Title 50, ch. 72.
Mining operation — preventive measures, 82-4-231.

75-2-105. Confidentiality of records. (1) Records or other information concerning air pollutant sources that are furnished to or obtained by the department are a matter of public record and open to public use. However, any information unique to the owner or operator of an air pollutant source that would, if disclosed, reveal methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets must be maintained as confidential if so determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The owner or operator shall file a declaratory judgment action to establish the existence of a trade secret if the owner or operator wishes the information to enjoy confidential status. The department must be served in the action and may intervene as a party in the action. A trade secret not intended to be public when submitted to the department must be submitted in writing and clearly marked as confidential. However, emission data and operating permits issued by the department pursuant to 75-2-217 through 75-2-219 may not be considered confidential for the purposes of this section.

(2) This section does not prevent the use of records or information by the department in compiling or publishing analyses or summaries relating to the general condition of the outdoor atmosphere if the analyses or summaries do not identify an owner or operator or reveal information otherwise made confidential by this section.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 248, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3918; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act — procedure, Title 27, ch. 8, part 3.
Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.

75-2-106. Small business compliance assistance advisory council — duties — secretary — meetings. (1) The small business compliance assistance advisory council, established in 2-15-2110, shall:

(a) render advisory opinions concerning the effectiveness of the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program administered by the department;

(b) make periodic reports to the appropriate federal agency concerning the compliance of the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.;

(c) review information for small business stationary sources to ensure that the information is understandable by the lay person and recommend changes to make the information understandable;

(d) consult with the small business stationary source representative provided for in 75-2-109 regarding problems faced by small business stationary sources concerning the implementation and application of the requirements of this chapter; and

(e) perform other duties necessary to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

(2) The council shall elect a presiding officer from among its membership.

(3) The secretary of the council must be an employee of the department assigned to the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program. The secretary shall keep all records of meetings and actions taken by the council and is responsible for the development and dissemination of any reports and advisory opinions of the council.

(4) The council shall hold at least one regular meeting each calendar year and keep a summary record of its proceedings that is open to the public for inspection. Special meetings may be called by the presiding officer or a majority of the council members. The secretary shall provide advance notice of the time and place for meetings to each member of the council.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 502, L. 1993.

75-2-107. Small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program — duties. (1) The department shall establish a small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program.

(2) The program shall:

(a) provide information to small business stationary sources on compliance methods and echnologies, pollution prevention, and accidental release detection and prevention;

(b) assist small business stationary sources in determining applicable requirements under his chapter and in receiving permits in a timely and efficient manner;

(c) provide small business stationary sources timely notice of their rights and obligations under this chapter;

(d) provide information to small business stationary sources regarding the availability of audit services that are useful for determining compliance status with the requirements of this chapter; and

(e) perform other duties as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 502, L. 1993.

75-2-108. Small business stationary sources — exceptions — waivers. (1) Upon petition, the department may designate a source to be a small business stationary source for purposes of receiving assistance from the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program if the stationary source does not emit more than 100 tons per year of all air pollutants and:

(a) is a major stationary source as defined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.;

(b) emits 50 tons or more per year of an air pollutant; or

(c) emits more than 75 tons per year of all air pollutants.

(2) After notice and an opportunity for public comment, the department may grant a petition submitted under subsection (1) upon finding that the source of air pollutants does not have sufficient technical and financial capabilities to meet the requirements of this chapter without the assistance of the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program.

(3) After notice and opportunity for public comment, the department may exclude from the definition of small business stationary source in 75-2-103 a category or subcategory of sources hat the department determines to have sufficient technical and financial capabilities to meet he requirements of this chapter without the assistance of the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program. The department may make this determination only after consulting with the appropriate federal agencies under Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 502, L. 1993.

75-2-109. Small business stationary source representative — duties. (1) The department shall establish a small business stationary source representative position that is not located in a regulatory program of the department and not subject to direct supervision by a regulatory program of the department.

(2) The small business stationary source representative shall represent the interests of small business stationary sources before the department and other appropriate local, state, and federal agencies concerning the implementation and application of the requirements of this chapter. In addition, the representative shall provide assistance to small business stationary sources in meeting the requirements of this chapter. In carrying out these activities, the representative shall:

(a) monitor the activities of the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program;

(b) review and provide comments and recommendations to the department, local air pollution control programs, and the appropriate federal agencies regarding the development and mplementation of regulations pertaining to air quality that impact small business stationary sources;

(c) facilitate and promote the participation of small business stationary sources in the development of new regulations pertaining to air quality that impact small business stationary sources;

(d) assist in the preparation and dissemination of reports and other information regarding the applicability of the requirements of this chapter to small business stationary sources;

(e) assist in the preparation of guideline documents by the small business stationary source technical and environmental compliance assistance program to ensure that these documents are readily understandable by the lay person;

(f) assist small business stationary sources and their trade associations to encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(g) cooperate with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and private sector financial institutions to assist small business stationary sources in locating financial assistance necessary for compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(h) consult with the small business compliance assistance advisory council regarding problems faced by small business stationary sources concerning the implementation and application of the requirements of this chapter; and

(i) perform other duties as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

(3) Subject to Article II, section 9, of the Montana constitution, the small business stationary source representative may not provide information that the representative obtains from a small business stationary source to the department for use in any administrative or judicial action to enforce the requirements of this chapter, unless the information discloses a violation that constitutes an imminent and substantial danger to human health, safety, or the environment.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 491, L. 2001.**

75-2-110 reserved.

75-2-111. Powers of board. The board shall, subject to the provisions of 75-2-207:

(1) hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this chapter at a place designated by the board. The board may compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence at hearings. The board shall designate an attorney to assist in conducting hearings and shall appoint a reporter who must be present at all hearings and take full stenographic notes of all proceedings, transcripts of which will be available to the public at cost.

(2) issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;

(3) have the power to issue orders under and in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7419.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3909(1) thru (4); amd Sec. 1, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 652, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Board of Environmental Review, 2-15-3502.

75-2-112. Powers and responsibilities of department. (1) The department is responsible for the administration of this chapter.

(2) Subject to the provisions of 75-2-207, the department shall:

(a) adopt, amend, and repeal rules for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of this chapter and for fulfilling the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7420 and regulations adopted pursuant to that section, except that, for purposes other than agricultural open burning the department may not adopt permitting requirements or any other rule relating to:

(i) any agricultural activity or equipment that is associated with the use of agricultural land or the planting, production, processing, harvesting, or storage of agricultural crops by an agricultural producer and that is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a;

(ii) a commercial operation relating to the activities or equipment referred to in subsection (2)(a)(i) that remains in a single location for less than 12 months and is not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a; or

(iii) forestry equipment and its associated engine used for forestry practices that remain in a single location for less than 12 months and are not subject to the requirements of 42 U.S.C 7475, 7503, or 7661a;

(b) issue orders necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter;
(c) by rule require access to records relating to emissions; and
(d) by rule adopt a schedule of fees required for permits, permit applications, and egistrations consistent with this chapter.

(3) The department shall:
(a) by appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings, enforce orders issued by the epartment or the board;
(b) secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative, and operational services, ncluding laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise;
(c) prepare and develop a comprehensive plan for the prevention, abatement, and control f air pollution in this state;
(d) encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected groups to achieve the urposes of this chapter;
(e) encourage local units of government to handle air pollution problems within their espective jurisdictions on a cooperative basis and provide technical and consultative assistance or this. If local programs are financed with public funds, the department may contract with the ocal government to share the cost of the program. However, the state share may not exceed 0% of the total cost.
(f) encourage and conduct studies, investigations, and research relating to air ontamination and air pollution and their causes, effects, prevention, abatement, and control;
(g) determine, by means of field studies and sampling, the degree of air contamination and ir pollution in the state;
(h) make a continuing study of the effects of the emission of air contaminants from motor ehicles on the quality of the outdoor atmosphere of this state and make recommendations to ppropriate public and private bodies with respect to this;
(i) collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs elating to air contamination and air pollution;
(j) advise, consult, contract, and cooperate with other agencies of the state, local overnments, industries, other states, interstate and interlocal agencies, the United States, and ny interested persons or groups;
(k) consult, on request, with any person proposing to construct, install, or otherwise acquire n air contaminant source or device or system for the control thereof concerning the efficacy of his device or system or the air pollution problems which may be related to the source, device, or ystem. Nothing in this consultation relieves a person from compliance with this chapter, rules n force under it, or any other provision of law.
(l) accept, receive, and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private gencies, including the United States, for the purpose of carrying out this chapter. Funds received nder this section shall be deposited in the state treasury to the account of the department.

(4) The department may assess fees to the applicant for the analysis of the environmental mpact of an application to redesignate the classification of any area, except those areas within the exterior boundaries of a reservation of a federally recognized Indian tribe, under he classifications established by 42 U.S.C. 7470 through 7479 (prevention of significant eterioration of air quality). The determination of whether or not a fee will be assessed is to be n a case-by-case basis.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-3907, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 9-3909.1 by Sec. 18, Ch. 349, L. 1974; Sec. 69-3909.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3907, 69-3909.1; (3)En. Sec. , Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

ross-References
Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.
Eligibility for state aid, 75-2-302.
Enforcement by Department, 75-2-401.

75-2-113. Terminated. Sec. 5, Ch. 673, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 673, L. 1989.**

75-2-114. Terminated. Sec. 5, Ch. 673, L. 1989.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 673, L. 1989.**

75-2-115 through 75-2-120 reserved.

75-2-121. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3908(4).

75-2-122. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3908(1), (3); amd. Sec 2489, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

75-2-123. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3908(2); amd. Sec 2490, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Standards, Permits, and Variances

Part Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Energy emergency — power of Governor to suspend pollution control standards, 90-4-310.

75-2-201. Classifying and reporting air contaminant sources. (1) The departmen may classify air contaminant sources that in its judgment may cause or contribute to ai pollution according to levels and types of emissions and other characteristics that relate to ai pollution and may require reporting for any such class or classes. The classifications must b made with special reference to effects on health, economic and social factors, and physical effect on property and may be applied to the state as a whole or to any designated area.

(2) Any person operating or responsible for the operation of air contaminant sources of an class for which the rules of the department may require reporting shall make reports containin any information as may be required concerning location, size and height of contaminant outlets processes employed, fuels used, and the nature and time periods or duration of emissions an any other matter relevant to air pollution that is available or reasonably capable of bein assembled.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 313, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3910; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-2-202. Department to set ambient air quality standards. (1) The department shal establish ambient air quality standards for the state.

(2) Ambient air quality standards for fluorides must be established through limitation upon the concentration of fluorides in forage grasses, hay, and silage.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3909(5); amd. Sec. 1 Ch. 565, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Compliance with air standards for facility siting, 75-20-401.

75-2-203. Department to set emission levels. (1) The department may establish th limitations of the levels, concentrations, or quantities of emissions of various pollutants fro any source necessary to prevent, abate, or control air pollution. Except as otherwise provide in or pursuant to this section, those levels, concentrations, or quantities are controlling, and n emission in excess of those levels is lawful.

(2) In any area where the concentration of air pollution sources or of population or wher the nature of the economy or of land and its uses may require, the department may fix mor stringent requirements governing the emission of air pollutants than those in effect pursuant t subsection (1).

(3) The department may by rule use any widely recognized measuring system fo measuring emission of air contaminants.

(4) Should federal minimum standards of air pollution be set by federal law, th department may, if necessary in some localities of this state, set more stringent standards b rule.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 313, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3913; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-204. Rules relating to construction, installation, alteration, operation, o use. The department may by rule prohibit the construction, installation, alteration, operation or use of a machine, equipment, device, or facility that it finds may directly or indirectly caus or contribute to air pollution or that is intended primarily to prevent or control the emission o ir pollutants, unless the owner or operator obtains a permit under this part or has registered he source of air contaminants with the department if the source is in a category for which only egistration is required by the rules adopted to implement this part.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 947, 69-3911(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-205. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 417, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3917(1); amd. Sec. 3, h. 560, L. 1979.**

75-2-206. Study of effects of sulfur dioxide on health and environment. (1) To the xtent that funds are available, the department shall conduct an ongoing study in areas of ontana where there are major industrial sources of sulfur dioxide. The study must concentrate n the effects on human health and the environment of ambient sulfur dioxide concentrations eparately and in conjunction with particulates.

(2) Notwithstanding other funding sources to pay for the study, the department may ccept funds and grants from private and public sources.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 504, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-2-207. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or uidelines — exceptions — procedure. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in ubsections (2) and (3) or unless required by state law, the department may not adopt a rule o implement this chapter that is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or uidelines that address the same circumstances. The department may incorporate by reference omparable federal regulations or guidelines.

(2) (a) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent han comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if:

(i) a public hearing is held;

(ii) public comment is allowed; and

(iii) the department makes a written finding after the public hearing and comment period hat is based on evidence in the record that the proposed standard or requirement:

(A) protects public health or the environment;

(B) can mitigate harm to the public health or the environment; and

(C) is achievable with current technology.

(b) The written finding required under subsection (2)(a)(iii) must reference information nd peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that form the basis for the epartment's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing ecord regarding costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed tandard or requirement.

(c) (i) A person or entity affected by a rule of the department adopted after January , 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that the person or entity believes is more stringent than omparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the department to review the rule.

(ii) If the department determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal egulations or guidelines, the department shall either revise the rule to conform to the federal egulations or guidelines or follow the process provided in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) within a easonable period of time, not to exceed 6 months after receiving the petition.

(iii) A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with he challenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed 250.

(iv) A person may also petition the department for a rule review under subsection (2)(a) if he department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or uidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations r guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted department rule.

(3) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking rovisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 536, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-2-208 through 75-2-210 reserved.

75-2-211. Permits for construction, installation, alteration, or use. (1) The department shall by rule provide for the issuance, modification, suspension, revocation, and renewal of a permit issued under this part.

(2) (a) Except as provided in 75-1-208(4)(b), 75-2-234, and subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) of this section, not later than 180 days before construction, installation, or alteration begins or as a condition of use of any machine, equipment, device, or facility that the department finds may directly or indirectly cause or contribute to air pollution or that is intended primarily to prevent or control the emission of air pollutants, the owner or operator shall file with the department the appropriate permit application on forms available from the department.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(e), the owner or operator of an oil or gas well facility shall file the permit application with the department no later than January 3, 2006, or 60 days after the initial well completion date, whichever is later. For purposes of this section the initial well completion date for an oil or gas well facility is:

(i) for an oil or gas well facility producing oil, the date when the first oil is produced through wellhead equipment into lease tanks from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run; and

(ii) for an oil or gas well facility producing gas, the date when the oil or gas well facility is capable of producing gas through wellhead equipment from the ultimate producing interval after casing has been run.

(c) An owner or operator who complies with subsection (2)(b) may construct, install, or use equipment necessary to complete or operate an oil or gas well facility without a permit until the department's decision on the application is final. If the owner or operator does not comply with subsection (2)(b), the owner or operator may not operate the oil or gas well facility and is liable for a violation of this section for every day of construction, installation, or operation of the facility.

(d) The department shall adopt rules establishing air emission control requirements applicable to an oil or gas well facility during the time from the initial well completion date until the department's decision on the application is final.

(e) The provisions of subsections (2)(b) and (2)(c) do not apply to an oil or gas well facility subject to the federal air permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475 or 7503.

(3) The permit program administered by the department pursuant to this section must include the following:

(a) requirements and procedures for permit applications, including standard application forms;

(b) requirements and procedures for submittal of information necessary to determine the location, quantity, and type of emissions;

(c) procedures for public notice and opportunity for comment or public hearing, as appropriate;

(d) procedures for providing notice and an opportunity for comment to contiguous states and federal agencies, as appropriate;

(e) requirements for inspection, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting;

(f) procedures for the transfer of permits;

(g) requirements and procedures for suspension, modification, and revocation of permits by the department;

(h) requirements and procedures for appropriate emission limitations and other requirements, including enforceable measures necessary to ensure compliance with those limitations and requirements;

(i) requirements and procedures for permit modification and amendment; and

(j) requirements and procedures for issuing a single permit authorizing emissions from similar operations at multiple temporary locations, which permit may include conditions necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter at all authorized locations and a requirement that the owner or operator notify the department in advance of each change in location.

(4) This section does not restrict the department's authority to adopt regulations providing for a single air quality permit system.

(5) Department approval of an application to transfer a portable emission source from one ocation to another is exempt from the provisions of 75-1-201(1).

(6) The department may, for good cause shown, waive or shorten the time required for ling the appropriate applications.

(7) The department shall require that applications for permits be accompanied by any lans, specifications, and other information that it considers necessary.

(8) An application is not considered filed until the applicant has submitted all fees required nder 75-2-220 and all information and completed application forms required pursuant to ubsections (2), (3), and (7) of this section. If the department fails to notify the applicant in writing ithin 30 days after the purported filing of an application that the application is incomplete nd fails to list the reasons why the application is considered incomplete, the application is onsidered filed as of the date of the purported filing.

(9) (a) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4) and 75-1-208(4)(b), if an application for a ermit requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the Montana nvironmental Policy Act, Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, the department shall notify the pplicant in writing of the approval or denial of the application:

(i) within 180 days after the department's receipt of a filed application, as provided in ubsection (8), if the department prepares the environmental impact statement;

(ii) within 30 days after issuance of the final environmental impact statement by the lead gency if a state agency other than the department has been designated by the governor as lead gency for preparation of the environmental impact statement; or

(iii) if the application is for a machine, equipment, a device, or a facility at an operation hat requires a permit under Title 82, chapter 4, part 1, 2, or 3, within 30 days of issuance of the nal environmental impact statement in accordance with time requirements of Title 82, chapter , part 1, 2, or 3.

(b) If an application does not require the preparation of an environmental impact tatement, is not subject to the provisions of 75-2-215, and is not subject to the federal air uality permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 7661a, the department shall notify he applicant in writing within 60 days after its receipt of a filed application, as provided in ubsection (8), of its approval or denial of the application, except as provided in subsection (14).

(c) If an application does not require the preparation of an environmental impact tatement and is subject to the federal air permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, or 661a, the department shall notify the applicant, in writing, within 75 days after its receipt of a led application, as provided in subsection (8), of its approval or denial of the application.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (9)(e), if an application does not require the reparation of an environmental impact statement and is subject to the provisions of 75-2-215, he department shall notify the applicant of its approval or denial of the application, in writing, ithin 75 days after its receipt of a filed application, as provided in subsection (8).

(e) If an application for a permit is for the construction, installation, alteration, or use of source that is also required to obtain a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit pursuant to 5-10-406, the department shall prepare a single environmental review document pursuant to itle 75, chapter 1, for the permit required under this section and the license or permit required nder 75-10-221 or 75-10-406 and act on the applications within the time period provided for in 5-2-215(3)(e).

(f) The time for notification may be extended for 30 days by written agreement of the lepartment and the applicant. Additional 30-day extensions may be granted by the department upon the request of the applicant. Notification of approval or denial may be served personally or by certified mail on the applicant or the applicant's agent.

(g) Failure by the department to act in a timely manner does not constitute approval or lenial of the application. This does not limit or abridge the right of any person to seek available udicial remedies to require the department to act in a timely manner.

(10) Except as provided in 75-2-213, when the department approves or denies the application for a permit under this section, a person who is directly and adversely affected by he department's decision may request a hearing before the board. The request for hearing must be filed within 15 days after the department renders its decision. An affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request must be filed within 30 days after the department renders its decision.

The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter part 6, apply to a hearing before the board under this subsection.

(11) Except as provided in 75-2-213:

(a) the department's decision on the application is not final until 15 days have elapse from the date of the decision;

(b) the filing of a request for hearing does not stay the department's decision. Howeve the board may order a stay upon receipt of a petition and a finding, after notice and opportunit for hearing, that:

(i) the person requesting the stay is entitled to the relief demanded in the request for hearing; or

(ii) continuation of the permit during the appeal would produce great or irreparable injur to the person requesting the stay.

(c) upon granting a stay, the board may require a written undertaking to be given by th party requesting the stay for the payment of costs and damages incurred by the permit applican and its employees if the board determines that the permit was properly issued. When requirin an undertaking, the board shall use the same procedures and limitations as are provided i 27-19-306(2) through (4) for undertakings on injunctions.

(12) The department shall provide, by rule, a period of 30 days in which the public ma submit comments on draft air quality permits for applications that:

(a) are subject to the federal air quality permitting provisions of 42 U.S.C. 7475, 7503, o 7661a;

(b) are subject to the requirements of 75-2-215; or

(c) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

(13) The department shall provide, by rule, a period of 15 days in which the public ma submit comments on draft air quality permits not subject to subsection (12).

(14) The department shall provide, by rule, the basis upon which the department ma extend by 15 days:

(a) the period as provided in subsection (13) in which the public may submit comments o draft air quality permits not subject to subsection (12); and

(b) the period for notifying an applicant of its final decision on approval or denial of a application, as provided in subsection (9)(b).

(15) (a) The department may adopt rules for issuance, modification, suspension, revocation renewal, or creation of:

(i) general permits covering multiple similar sources; or

(ii) other permits covering multiple similar sources.

(b) Rules adopted pursuant to subsection (15)(a) may provide for construction and operatio under the permit upon authorization by the department or upon notice to the department.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M 1947, 69-3911(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983 amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 652, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 639, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 221, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch 588, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 2005; amd. Sec 2, Ch. 236, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 445, L. 2009 amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Air pollution control equipment — determination of use for tax purposes, 15-6-135.
Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Environmental impact statement, 75-1-201.
Requirement that siting of facility includes air permit — application — decision, 75-20-211, 75-20-401.
Dairy products manufacturing plant — approval of air pollutant control by Department of Environmenta Quality, 81-22-403.

75-2-212. Variances — renewals — filing fees. (1) A person who owns or is in contro of a plant, building, structure, process, or equipment may apply to the department for a exemption or partial exemption from rules governing the quality, nature, duration, or extent o emissions of air pollutants. The application must be accompanied by information and data that the department may require. The department may grant an exemption or partial exemption i it finds that:

(a) the emissions occurring or proposed to occur do not constitute a danger to public health or safety; and

(b) compliance with the rules from which an exemption is sought would produce hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public.

(2) An exemption or partial exemption may not be granted pursuant to this section except after public hearing on due notice and until the department has considered the relative interests of the applicant, other owners or property likely to be affected by the emissions, and the general public.

(3) The exemption or partial exemption may be renewed if a complaint is not made to the department because of it or if, after the complaint has been made and duly considered at a public hearing held by the department on due notice, the department finds that renewal is justified. A enewal may not be granted except on application. An application must be made at least 60 days before the expiration of the exemption or partial exemption. Immediately before application for renewal, the applicant shall give public notice of the application in accordance with rules of the department. A renewal pursuant to this subsection must be on the same grounds and subject to he same limitations and requirements as provided in subsection (1).

(4) An exemption, partial exemption, or renewal is not a right of the applicant or holder but may be granted at the discretion of the department. However, a person adversely affected by an exemption, partial exemption, or renewal granted by the department may obtain judicial review as provided by 75-2-411.

(5) This section and an exemption, partial exemption, or renewal granted pursuant to this section may not be construed to prevent or limit the application of the emergency provisions and procedures of 75-2-402 to a person or the person's property.

(6) A person who owns or is in control of a plant, building, structure, process, or equipment, which are called facilities, who applies to the department for an exemption or partial exemption or a renewal of an exemption or partial exemption from a rule governing the quality, nature, duration, or extent of emissions of air pollutants shall submit with the application for variance a sum of not less than $500 or 2% of the cost of the equipment to bring the facility into compliance with the rule for which a variance is sought, whichever is greater, but not to exceed $80,000. The department shall prepare a statement of actual costs, and funds in excess of this must be returned to the applicant. The person requesting the variance shall describe the facility n sufficient detail, with accompanying estimates of cost and verifying materials, to permit he department to determine with reasonable accuracy the sum of the fee. For a renewal of an exemption or partial exemption, if a public hearing, environmental impact statement, or appreciable investigation by the department is not necessary, the minimum filing fee applies or he fee may be waived by the department. The filing fee must be deposited in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102. It is the intent of the legislature that the revenue derived from the filing fees must be used by the department to:

(a) compile the information required for rendering a decision on the request;

(b) compile the information necessary for any environmental impact statements;

(c) offset the costs of a public hearing, printing, or mailing; and

(d) carry out its other responsibilities under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 186, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 947, 69-3916; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2491, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-2-213. Energy development project — hearing and procedures. (1) (a) When the department approves or denies the application for a permit under 75-2-211 for an energy development project, the applicant or a person who has provided the department with formal comments and who is directly and adversely affected by the department's decision may request a hearing before the board. If the department provided an opportunity for public comment on the application, the request for a hearing must be limited to those issues raised in comments made to the department during the comment period unless the issues are related to a material change in federal or state law made during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningful opportunity to comment. The request for hearing must be filed within

30 days after the department renders its decision. An affidavit setting forth the grounds for th request must be filed with the request for a hearing.

(b) (i) If a hearing is requested by a person other than the applicant for or permittee of a energy development project, the applicant or permittee may, by filing a written election wit the board within 15 days of receipt of the request for hearing, elect to have the matter procee to hearing before the board or to have the matter submitted directly to the district court fo judicial review of the agency decision. The party who requests the hearing may elect to have th matter submitted either to the board for a hearing or to the district court for judicial review b submitting a written election to the board with the request for hearing. If there are conflictin elections between the parties, the matter must proceed to district court.

(ii) If the applicant or permittee is not the person who requested the hearing and ha elected to have the matter submitted to the district court, the person who submitted the reques for a hearing shall file a petition for review of the permit decision within 15 days of receipt o notice from the permittee. If the person who requested the hearing has elected to have th matter proceed to district court, that person shall file a petition in district court within 15 day of filing the request.

(iii) The petition must be limited to matters raised in the request for hearing and must b filed in the county in which the facility is located.

(iv) If a party does not elect to submit the matter directly to district court, the matte must proceed through the contested case process before the board pursuant to the Montan Administrative Procedure Act.

(v) The board or the district court shall apply the laws and rules in place when th department issued its decision, and the board or the district court may not consider any issu that was not presented to the department for the department's consideration during the forma comment period unless the issue is related to a material change in federal or state law mad during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made by th department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningfu opportunity to comment.

(c) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c)(ii), if the person requesting the hearing is no the applicant or permittee of an energy development project, the board or the district court sha require a written undertaking to be given by the party requesting the hearing for the paymen of costs and damages incurred by the permit applicant and its employees if the request for hearing or judicial review was for an improper purpose designed to harass, cause unnecessar delay, or improperly interfere with the issuance of the permit without a reasonable basis in la or fact.

(ii) The board or the district court may not require a written undertaking if the part requesting the hearing is an indigent person.

(d) If grounds for requesting the hearing are based on alleged error in applying bes available control technology requirements, the board or the district court shall give deferenc to the best available control technology determination made by the department. The board o the district court may not reject the best available control technology determination unless th determination was incorrect as a matter of law or the factual basis for the determination wa clearly erroneous.

(2) The board shall issue a final decision within 4 months from the close of the hearing o the merits or, if no hearing is held, within 3 months from the date that briefing by the parties i complete unless the applicant or permittee and the party other than the applicant or permitte agree in writing to an extension of time. The board shall require the parties to prepare the cas for hearing without unreasonable delay.

(3) (a) Any requirement in a permit to commence construction, installation, or alteratio within a certain time period is tolled during a contested case or judicial review proceeding but not by more than 12 months, unless the applicant or permittee in its discretion waives th tolling in writing.

(b) If there are multiple appeals of one permit, tolling under this subsection (3) may no exceed a total of 12 months for all appeals.

(c) The applicant may not engage in construction during the period that the time period is olled under subsection (3)(a).

(4) The department shall, for good cause shown, waive for up to 1 year any requirement hat construction of an energy development project must proceed with due diligence. During the eriod that a waiver is in effect, an air quality permit does not expire because construction of an nergy development project failed to proceed with due diligence.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 2009.**

75-2-214 reserved.

75-2-215. Solid or hazardous waste incineration — additional permit or egistration requirements. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), until the department ssues an air quality permit pursuant to 75-2-211 or a registration in accordance with rules dopted pursuant to 75-2-234 that includes the conditions required by this section, a person ay not construct, install, alter, or use:

(a) a solid or hazardous waste incinerator; or

(b) a boiler or industrial furnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406.

(2) An existing or permitted solid or hazardous waste incinerator or a boiler or industrial urnace subject to the provisions of 75-10-406 is subject to the provisions of subsection (1) only f it incinerates or uses as fuel or would incinerate or use as fuel solid or hazardous waste in n amount, form, kind, or content that changes the nature, character, or composition of its missions from its design or permitted operation.

(3) The department may not issue a permit or registration to a facility described in ubsection (1) until:

(a) the owner or operator provides to the department's satisfaction:

(i) a characterization of emissions and ambient concentrations of air pollutants, including azardous air pollutants, from any existing emission source at the facility; and

(ii) an estimate of emissions and ambient concentrations of air pollutants, including azardous air pollutants, from the incineration of solid or hazardous waste or the use of azardous waste as fuel for a boiler or industrial furnace, as proposed in the registration, permit pplication, or permit modification;

(b) if a license is required pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit is required pursuant to 5-10-406, the applicant has published, in the county where the project is proposed, at least hree notices, in accordance with the procedures identified in 7-1-4127, describing the proposed roject;

(c) if a license is required pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit is required pursuant to 5-10-406, the department has conducted a public hearing on an environmental review prepared ursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, and, as appropriate, provided additional opportunities for the ublic to review and comment on the permit application or permit modification;

(d) except as provided in subsection (7), the department reaches a determination that the rojected emissions and ambient concentrations will constitute a negligible risk to the public ealth, safety, and welfare and to the environment; and

(e) the department issues a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit pursuant to 5-10-406, if a license or permit is required. The decision to issue, deny, or alter a permit ursuant to 75-2-211 and this section must be made within 30 days from when the department ssues a license pursuant to 75-10-221 or a permit pursuant to 75-10-406 or within 90 days after he receipt of a complete application for a permit or a permit alteration under 75-2-211 and this ection, whichever is later.

(4) The department shall require the application of air pollution control equipment, ngineering, or other operating procedures as necessary to provide reductions of air pollutants, ncluding hazardous air pollutants, equivalent to or more stringent than those achieved through he best available control technology.

(5) The department may by rule provide for general air quality permits under the rovisions of 75-2-211 and this section. The rules must cover numerous similar classes or ategories of incinerators and boilers or industrial furnaces.

(6) This section does not relieve an owner or operator of a solid or hazardous waste ncinerator or a boiler or industrial furnace that is not included under subsection (1) from the

obligation to obtain any permit otherwise required under this chapter or rules implementin this chapter.

(7) An animal or human crematorium eligible for registration under 75-2-234 is exemp from the determination requirement established in subsection (3)(d).

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 605, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1993; amd. Se 3, Ch. 639, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 354, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 2023

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 142, L. 2023. Amendment effectiv April 18, 2023.

75-2-216. Adoption of rules for solid or hazardous waste incinerator permits. Th department shall proceed in a reasonable and timely manner in adopting rules implementin 75-2-215.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 16, Sp. L. July 1992; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-2-217. Operating permit program — exemptions — general requirements – duration. (1) The department shall provide by rule for the issuance, expiration, modification amendment, suspension, revocation, and renewal of operating permits as part of an operatin permit program to be administered by the department under this chapter. The departmen shall promulgate rules that are consistent with the operating permit framework and guideline outlined in Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act and implementing regulations.

(2) This section applies to all sources of air pollutants that are subject to the provisions o Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.

(3) A person may not violate any requirement of an operating permit issued unde 75-2-218 and this section or operate any source required to have a permit under this sectio without having complied with the requirements of the operating permit program administere by the department pursuant to 75-2-218, 75-2-219, and this section.

(4) The department may by rule provide for the exemption of one or more source categories in whole or in part, from all or part of the requirements of this section if the departmen determines that compliance with the requirements of this section is impracticable, infeasible or unnecessarily burdensome for the sources. The department may premise this determinatio upon a similar determination by the appropriate federal agency acting pursuant to the federa Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.

(5) The department may by rule provide for general operating permits covering numerou similar sources.

(6) An operating permit issued by the department under 75-2-218 and this section i effective for a period not to exceed 5 years and may be renewed.

(7) The operating permit program administered by the department pursuant to thi section must include the following:

(a) adequate procedures that are streamlined and reasonable for:

(i) expeditiously determining when applications are complete;

(ii) processing applications; and

(iii) expeditiously reviewing permit actions, including application renewals or revisions;

(b) requirements and procedures for submittal of information necessary to determine th location, quantity, and type of emissions;

(c) procedures for public notice and opportunity for comment or public hearing, a appropriate;

(d) procedures for providing notice and an opportunity for comment to contiguous state and federal agencies, as appropriate;

(e) requirements for inspection, monitoring, recordkeeping, compliance certification, an reporting;

(f) deadlines for submitting permit applications and compliance plans that are not late than 12 months after the source becomes subject to the operating permit requirement;

(g) deadlines for submitting permit renewal applications that are not later than 6 month before expiration of the existing operating permit;

(h) requirements for compliance plans that must be submitted with permit and renewa applications, including schedules of compliance and progress reports;

(i) requirements and procedures for periodic certification of source compliance with permit requirements, including the prompt reporting of any deviations from permit requirements;

(j) requirements for submission of any plans, specifications, or other information that the department considers necessary under this section;

(k) conditions and procedures for the transfer of operating permits;

(l) requirements and procedures for suspension, modification, amendment, and revocation of permits by the department for cause, including the modification or amendment of permits before renewal or termination to incorporate applicable limitations or requirements effective after permit issuance;

(m) requirements and procedures for incorporating into permits and permit renewals all applicable emission limitations and other requirements, including enforceable measures necessary to ensure compliance with those limitations and requirements;

(n) requirements and procedures for permit modification and amendment;

(o) procedures for tracking activities conducted under general permits;

(p) requirements and procedures for issuing a single operating permit authorizing emissions from similar operations at multiple temporary locations, which permit may include conditions necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this chapter at all authorized locations and a requirement that the owner or operator notify the department in advance of each change in location;

(q) requirements and procedures for allowing changes within a permitted facility without requiring a permit amendment if the changes are not prohibited under this chapter and do not exceed the emissions allowable under the permit; and

(r) other requirements necessary for the department to obtain the authorization to administer an operating permit program under the provisions of Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-218. Permits for operation — application completeness — action by department — application shield — review by board. (1) An application for an operating permit or renewal is not considered filed until the department has determined that it is complete. An application is complete if all fees required under 75-2-220 and all information and completed application forms required under 75-2-217 have been submitted. A complete application must contain all of the information required for the department to begin processing the application. If the department fails to notify the applicant in writing within 60 days after submittal of an application that the application is incomplete and fails to list the reasons why the application is considered incomplete, the application is considered filed on the date of the department's receipt of the application. The department may request additional information after a completeness determination has been made. The department shall adopt rules that contain criteria for use in determining both when an application is complete and when additional information is required after a completeness determination has been made.

(2) Except as provided in 75-1-208(4)(b) and subsection (3) of this section, the department shall, consistent with the procedures established under 75-2-217, approve or disapprove a complete application for an operating permit or renewal and shall issue or deny the permit or renewal within 18 months after the date of filing. Failure of the department to act in a timely manner does not constitute approval or denial of the application. This does not limit or abridge the right of any person to seek available judicial remedies to require the department to act in a timely manner.

(3) The department may by rule provide for a transition schedule for both the submittal to the department of initial applications for operating permits by existing sources and action by the department on these initial permit applications. The department may require that one-third of all operating permit applications required for existing sources be submitted within the first calendar year after the adoption of rules implementing an operating permit program under 75-2-217.

(4) If an applicant submits a timely and complete application for an operating permit, the applicant's failure to hold a valid operating permit is not a violation of 75-2-217. If an applicant

submits a timely and complete application for an operating permit renewal, the expiration of th applicant's existing operating permit is not a violation of 75-2-217. The applicant shall continu to be subject to the terms and conditions of the expired operating permit until the operatin permit is renewed and is subject to the application of 75-2-217. The applicant is not entitled t the protection of this subsection if the delay in final action by the department on the applicatio results from the applicant's failure to submit in a timely manner information requested by th department to process the application.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (8), if the department approves or denies an applicatio for an operating permit or the renewal, modification, or amendment of a permit under 75-2-21 and this section, any person that participated in the public comment process required unde 75-2-217(7) may request a hearing before the board. The request for a hearing must be file within 30 days after the department renders its decision and must include an affidavit settin forth the grounds for the request. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrativ Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under this subsection.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8), the department's decision on any application i not final until 30 days have elapsed from the date of the decision.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (8), the filing of a request for hearing does not sta the department's decision. However, the board may order a stay upon receipt of a petition and finding, after notice and opportunity for an informal hearing, that:

(i) the person requesting the hearing is entitled to the relief demanded in the request fo a hearing; or

(ii) continuation of the permit during the appeal would produce great or irreparable injur to the person requesting the hearing.

(c) Upon granting a stay, the board may require a written undertaking to be given by th party requesting the stay for the payment of costs and damages incurred by the permit applican and its employees if the board determines that the permit was properly issued. When requirin an undertaking, the board shall use the same procedures and limitations as are provided i 27-19-306(2) through (4) for undertakings on injunctions.

(7) The requirements of subsections (5) and (6) also apply to any action initiated by th department to suspend, revoke, modify, or amend an operating permit issued under this section

(8) The denial by the department of an application under 75-2-217 and this section is no subject to review by the board or judicial review if the basis for denial is the written objection o the appropriate federal agency acting pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401, e seq.

(9) Compliance with an operating permit granted or renewed under 75-2-217 and thi section is considered to be compliance with the requirements of this chapter only if the permi expressly includes those requirements or an express determination that those requirements ar not applicable. This subsection does not apply to general permits provided for under 75-2-217.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 491, L. 2001; amd. Se 4, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-219. Permits for operation — limitations. Sections 75-2-217 and 75-2-218 ma not be construed to:

(1) affect the department's issuance of a permit for the construction, installation alteration, or use of a source of air pollutants pursuant to 75-2-211 or 75-2-215;

(2) restrict the department's authority to adopt regulations providing for a single ai quality permit system; or

(3) affect permits, allowances, phase II compliance schedules, or other acid rain provision under Subchapter IV of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7651, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-220. Fees — special assessments — late payment assessments — credit. (1) A person required to obtain a permit or to register a facility pursuant to this chapter shall submi to the department fees set pursuant to 75-2-112 that are sufficient to cover the reasonable costs irect and indirect, of developing and administering the permitting or registration requirements n this chapter, including:

(a) reviewing and acting upon a permit application or a registration or modifying, mending, or updating a permit or registration;

(b) implementing and enforcing the terms and conditions of a permit issued pursuant to his chapter or an administrative rule or other regulatory requirement adopted pursuant to this hapter. This does not include any court costs or other costs associated with an enforcement ction. If the permit is not issued, the department shall return this portion of the fee to the pplicant.

(c) emissions and ambient monitoring;

(d) preparing generally applicable rules or guidance;

(e) modeling, analysis, and demonstrations;

(f) preparing inventories and tracking emissions;

(g) providing support to sources under the small business stationary source technical and nvironmental compliance assistance program; and

(h) all other costs required to be recovered pursuant to Subchapter V of the federal Clean ir Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.

(2) For a permit or registration fee based on emissions, the fee must be based on emissions f air pollutants regulated under this chapter, including but not limited to volatile organic ompounds, each air pollutant regulated under section 7411 or 7412 of the federal Clean Air ct, 42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq., and each air pollutant subject to a national primary ambient air uality standard.

(3) The department shall by rule provide for the annual review of all fees assessed for ersons holding an operating permit issued under 75-2-217 and 75-2-218 to ensure the collection f revenue sufficient to cover the costs of administering the operating permit requirements of his chapter, as required by Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act.

(4) In addition to the fees required under subsection (1), the department may order he assessment of additional fees required to fund specific activities of the department that re directed at a particular geographic area if the legislature authorizes the activities and ppropriates funds for the activities, including emissions or ambient monitoring, modeling nalysis or demonstrations, and emissions inventories or tracking. Additional assessments nay be levied only on those sources that are within or are believed by the department to e impacting the geographic area. Before the department may require the fees, it shall first etermine, after opportunity for hearing, that the activities to be funded are necessary for the dministration or implementation of this chapter, that the amount of the requested fees is ppropriate, that the assessments apportion the required funding in an equitable manner, and hat the department has obtained the necessary appropriation. The contested case provisions of he Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before he department under this subsection.

(5) (a) If the permitholder or registrant fails to pay in a timely manner a fee required nder subsection (1), in addition to the fee, the department may:

(i) impose a penalty not to exceed 50% of the fee, plus interest on the required fee computed s provided in 15-1-216; or

(ii) revoke the permit or registration consistent with those procedures established under his chapter for permit revocation.

(b) Within 1 year of revocation, the department may reissue the revoked permit or registration after the permitholder or registrant has paid all outstanding fees required under subsections (1) and (4), including all penalties and interest provided for under this subsection (5). In reissuing the revoked permit, the department may modify the terms and conditions of the permit as necessary to account for changes in air quality occurring since revocation.

(c) The department shall by rule provide for the implementation of this subsection (5), including criteria for imposition of the sanctions described in this subsection (5).

(6) The department may by rule allow the reduction of a fee required under this section for an operating permit or permit renewal to account for the financial resources of a category of small business stationary sources.

(7) As a condition of the continuing validity of a permit issued by the department unde this chapter prior to October 1, 1993, the department may by rule require the permitholder t pay the fees under subsections (1) and (4).

(8) For an existing source of air pollutants that is subject to Subchapter V of the federa Clean Air Act and that is not required to hold an air quality permit from the department as o October 1, 1993, the department may, as a condition of continued operation, require by rule tha the owner or operator of the source pay the fees under subsections (1) and (4).

(9) (a) The department shall give written notice of the fee to be assessed and the basis fo the department's fee assessment under this section to the owner or operator of the air pollutan source. The owner or operator may appeal the department's fee assessment to the board withi 20 days after receipt of the written notice.

(b) An appeal must be based upon the allegation that the fee assessment is erroneou or excessive. An appeal may not be based on the amount of the fee contained in the schedul adopted by the department.

(c) If any part of the fee assessment is not appealed, it must be paid to the departmen upon receipt of the notice required in subsection (9)(a).

(d) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2 chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board under this subsection (9).

(10) The total of the fees charged to an applicant under subsections (1) and (4) of thi section must be reduced by the amount of any credit accruing to the applicant under 75-2-225 The department may not increase fee assessments beyond legislative appropriation levels t adjust for any credit claimed under 75-2-225. The credit applied under 75-2-225 may not limi the department's ability to collect fees sufficient to cover the reasonable costs, both direct an indirect, of developing and administering the permitting and registration requirements of thi chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 51, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 427, L. 1999; amd. Sec 5, Ch. 516, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Uniform penalty and interest assessments for violation of tax provisions, 15-1-216.

75-2-221. Deposit of air quality permitting and registration fees. (1) All money collected by the department pursuant to 75-2-112 and 75-2-220 must be deposited in an accoun in the state special revenue fund to be appropriated by the legislature to the department fo the development and administration of the permitting and registration requirements of thi chapter.

(2) Upon request, the expenditure by the department of funds in this account may b audited by a qualified auditor at the end of each fiscal year. The cost of the audit must be pai by the person requesting the audit.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec 2, Ch. 339, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-2-222 and 75-2-223 reserved.

75-2-224. Definitions. For the purposes of 75-2-224 through 75-2-227, unless otherwis required by the context, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Applicant" means a person submitting a permit application for which the person i required to pay a fee under 75-2-220 and includes a permitholder who pays an annual fee.

(2) "Postconsumer glass" means glass or glass-like material that has:

(a) served its final intended use;

(b) been discarded by an individual, commercial enterprise, or other entity after having fulfilled its intended application or use in Montana;

(c) useful physical or chemical properties remaining after having served a specific purpose and that would normally be disposed of as solid waste, as defined in 75-10-203, by a consumer processor, or manufacturer.

(3) (a) "Recycled material" means a substance, compound, conglomeration, mixture, or the like that is composed, in whole or in part, of postconsumer glass.

(b) Material that contains postconsumer glass is recycled material for the purposes of this section if the postconsumer glass is used as or is a component of:

(i) fill, aggregate, or surface material used in construction or road construction;
(ii) sandblasting material;
(iii) landscaping material; or
(iv) a sandstone replacement in the manufacture of cement.

(c) The uses included in subsection (3)(b) are not exclusive, and other uses of postconsumer lass as a substitute for the use or consumption of new material may also be considered by the epartment as recycled material.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 2001.**

75-2-225. Amount and duration of credit — how claimed. (1) An applicant may eceive a credit against the fees imposed in 75-2-220 for using postconsumer glass in recycled aterial if the applicant qualifies under 75-2-226.

(2) An applicant qualifying for a credit under 75-2-226 is entitled to claim a credit, as rovided in subsection (3) of this section, for using postconsumer glass in recycled material in he calendar year subsequent to the calendar year in which the postconsumer glass was used in ecycled material.

(3) (a) The amount of the credit that may be claimed under this section is $8 for each ton of ostconsumer glass that was used as a substitute for nonrecycled material in the calendar year rior to the calendar year for which the applicant is paying fees for permits under 75-2-220.

(b) The maximum credit allowable in any calendar year for fees payable under 75-2-220 is 2,000 or the total amount of fees due, whichever is less.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2009.**

75-2-226. Credit for use of postconsumer glass. (1) The following requirements must e met for an applicant to be entitled to a credit for the use of postconsumer glass:

(a) The postconsumer glass must have been used in recycled material in the calendar year rior to the calendar year in which the applicant is applying for and paying for permits under 5-2-220.

(b) (i) The applicant claiming a credit must be a person who, as an owner, including contract purchaser or lessee, or who pursuant to an agreement owns, leases, or has a eneficial interest in a business that uses postconsumer glass in recycled materials. The use f postconsumer glass as recycled material may be a minor or nonprofit part of a business therwise engaged in a business activity.

(ii) The applicant may but need not operate or conduct a business that uses postconsumer lass as recycled material. If more than one person has an interest in a business with qualifying ses of postconsumer glass, they may allocate all or any part of the allowable credit among hemselves and their successors or assigns.

(c) The business must have been owned or leased by the applicant claiming the credit uring the calendar year prior to the calendar year for which the permit fees are due under 5-2-220, except as otherwise provided in subsection (1)(b), and must have used postconsumer lass in recycled material during the calendar year prior to the calendar year for which the redit is claimed.

(d) The postconsumer glass used in recycled material may not be an industrial waste enerated by the person claiming the credit unless:

(i) the person generating the waste historically has disposed of the waste onsite or in a icensed landfill; and

(ii) standard industrial practice has not generally included the reuse of the waste in the anufacturing process.

(2) The credit provided by this section is not in lieu of any other incentive to which the pplicant otherwise may be entitled under Title 15 or this chapter.

(3) A credit otherwise allowable under this section that is not used by the applicant in the alendar year for which the permits are applied may not be:

(a) carried forward to offset an applicant's permit fees for any succeeding calendar year; or

(b) carried back to offset an applicant's permit fees for any preceding calendar year.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 2009.**

75-2-227. Postconsumer glass qualifying for credit — rulemaking. (1) Th department shall adopt rules describing postconsumer glass and recycled material that qualif for the credit authorized by 75-2-226.

(2) In addition to the public participation provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, the departmen shall maintain a register of interested persons and experts in the field of recycling postconsume glass. The department shall mail a notice to the interested persons identified under thi subsection of the department's contemplated actions, soliciting their views on possible solution or courses of action.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Interested persons' rulemaking notice, 2-4-302.

75-2-228 and 75-2-229 reserved.

75-2-230. Commercial hazardous waste incinerators — additional permi requirements. (1) In addition to the requirements under 75-2-231, the department shal require the owner or operator of an existing commercial hazardous waste incinerator or a applicant for an air quality permit for a commercial hazardous waste incinerator to submit plan that requires the cessation of the burning of hazardous waste if site-specific monitorin determines that inversion conditions, as defined by department rule, exist. The departmen shall consider the proximity of the commercial hazardous waste incinerator to populated area when determining the appropriate plan content. The plan must include a site-specific ambien air quality and meteorological monitoring program in order to establish the conditions unde which the burning of commercial hazardous waste must be halted and conditions under whicl the burning of commercial hazardous waste may be resumed. Conditions of the plan must b incorporated as a condition of the facility's permit.

(2) When, because of the proximity of a commercial hazardous waste incinerator t populated areas, the department determines that continuing monitoring is appropriate, th department shall require the owner or operator of an existing commercial hazardous wast incinerator or an applicant for an air quality permit for a commercial hazardous wast incinerator to provide telemetering service to the department with an immediate notificatio system activated when emissions approach or exceed permitted limits.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 1995.

75-2-231. Medical waste and hazardous waste incineration — additional permi requirements. (1) Because of the potential emission of chlorinated dioxins, furans, heav metals, and carcinogens as a result of the incineration of medical waste and hazardous wast and the potential health risk these chemicals pose, the department shall adopt rules establishin additional permit requirements for commercial medical waste and commercial hazardous wast incinerators. For the purposes of this section, the term "commercial medical waste incinerator does not include hospital or medical facility incinerators that primarily incinerate medical wast generated onsite. The department shall adopt rules that:

(a) regulate the type and amount of plastic and other materials in the medical wast stream and hazardous waste stream that may be a source of chlorine, in order to minimize th potential emission of chlorinated dioxins, furans, and carcinogens;

(b) require commercial medical waste and commercial hazardous waste incinerators t achieve the lowest achievable emission rate to prevent the public health risk from air emission or ambient concentrations from exceeding the negligible risk standard required by 75-2-215 an any applicable federal allowable intake standards, as determined pursuant to subsection (3), fo dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other hazardous air pollutants;

(c) implement the requirements of subsection (2), including establishing procedures an standards for the collection of high-quality scientific information and for the submission of th information by the applicant;

(d) establish procedures for the monitoring, testing, and inspection of:

(i) the medical waste stream and hazardous waste stream, including heavy metals an possible precursors to the formation of chlorinated dioxins, furans, and carcinogens;

(ii) combustion, including destruction and removal efficiencies; and

(iii) emissions, including continuous emission monitoring and air pollution control devices; and

(e) are necessary to implement the provisions of this section and to coordinate the requirements under this section with the requirements contained in 75-2-211 and 75-2-215.

(2) A person who applies for an air quality permit or alteration pursuant to 75-2-211 and 75-2-215 for a commercial medical waste incinerator or commercial hazardous waste incinerator shall provide, to the satisfaction of the department, the following information:

(a) a dispersion model of emissions, using approved methods, and those studies that are necessary to identify the potential community exposure;

(b) an analysis of the potential pathways for human exposure to air contaminants, particularly chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other carcinogens, including the potential for inhalation, ingestion, and physical contact by the affected communities; and

(c) a quantitative analysis of the estimated total possible human exposure to chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and carcinogens for the affected communities.

(3) The department may not issue or alter an air quality permit pursuant to this chapter until the department has determined, based upon an analysis of the information provided by the applicant pursuant to subsection (2) and other necessary and relevant data, that the public health risk from air emissions or ambient concentrations of chlorinated dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other hazardous air pollutants will not exceed the negligible risk standard required by 75-2-215 and any applicable federal standards for allowable intake, as determined by the department after a review of established and relevant federal standards and guidelines.

(4) This section may not be construed in any way to:

(a) require the department to promulgate standards for the allowable intake of any substances for which the federal government has not established standards;

(b) allow the department to promulgate standards for the allowable intake of any substances for which the federal government has established standards that are more stringent than the federal standards; or

(c) limit or otherwise impair the duty of the department under 75-2-215 to determine that emissions and ambient concentrations will constitute a negligible risk as required by 75-2-215(3)(d), including emissions and ambient concentrations of dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and carcinogens, before issuing an air quality permit pursuant to 75-2-211 and 75-2-215.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 639, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-232. Disclosure statement required. (1) An air quality permit for a commercial medical waste or commercial hazardous waste incinerator may not be issued, transferred, or altered pursuant to 75-2-211 and 75-2-215 without an application under this section. Before an application for the issuance, transfer, or alteration of a permit under 75-2-211 and 75-2-215 for a commercial medical waste or commercial hazardous waste incinerator may be approved, the applicant and each principal with respect to the applicant shall submit to the department a disclosure statement containing the following information:

(a) the name, business address, and social security number of the applicant and each principal;

(b) a description of any civil and administrative complaint filed within 5 years before the date of the application against the applicant or a principal for the violation of an environmental protection law and whether the complaint resulted in a civil or administrative penalty;

(c) a description of all judgments of criminal conviction entered against the applicant or a principal for the violation of an environmental protection law within 5 years before the date of the application; and

(d) a description of all judgments of criminal conviction entered against the applicant or a principal for the violation of an environmental protection law within 5 years before the date of the application in another state that resulted from the operation of a medical waste incinerator or a commercial hazardous waste incinerator. For the purposes of this subsection (d), an environmental protection law of another state means a law or administrative rule adopted pursuant to a law regulating solid or hazardous waste or underground storage tanks or protecting the air or water resource.

(2) A disclosure statement, as required in subsection (1), must be executed under oath or affirmation and is subject to the penalty for perjury. The department may verify and investigate the information contained in a statement required under this section.

(3) A person required to file a disclosure statement under this section shall provide assistance or information requested by the department that is related to the statement and shall cooperate in an inquiry or investigation conducted by the department under subsection (2).

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 639, L. 1993.**

75-2-233. Denial or modification of permit — mitigating factors. (1) The department may deny an application for the issuance, transfer, or alteration of a permit under 75-2-211 and 75-2-215 for a commercial medical waste or commercial hazardous waste incinerator or impose additional conditions on a permit pursuant to subsection (2) if within 5 years before the date of the application:

(a) a judgment of criminal conviction of an environmental protection law has been entered against the applicant or a principal;

(b) a civil or administrative complaint for a violation of an environmental protection law has resulted in the assessment of a penalty against the applicant or a principal;

(c) the applicant or a principal has a history of repeated violations of environmental protection laws; or

(d) a judgment or criminal conviction for a violation described in 75-2-232(1)(d) has been entered against the applicant or a principal.

(2) As provided under subsection (1), the department may impose additional conditions on a permit related to permit length, inspections, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

(3) In making the decision to deny an application or to impose conditions on a permit pursuant to subsection (1), the department shall consider the following mitigating factors:

(a) the nature and gravity of the violation of environmental protection laws or violations described in 75-2-232(1)(d);

(b) the degree of culpability of the applicant or a principal;

(c) the applicant's or principal's cooperation with the state or federal agencies involved in the complaints and convictions referred to in 75-2-232; and

(d) the applicant's or principal's dissociation from other persons or entities convicted of acts referred to in 75-2-232.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 639, L. 1993.**

75-2-234. Registration. (1) The department may adopt rules for the registration of certain classes of sources of air contaminants in lieu of a permit application required under 75-2-211(2).

(2) Rules adopted for the registration of animal or human crematoriums must include requirements for:

(a) public notification prior to registration; and

(b) the inclusion of documentation through a registration process that provides projected emissions and ambient concentrations will constitute a negligible risk for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 142, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 142, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Part 3
Local Air Pollution Control

75-2-301. Local air pollution control programs — consistency with state and federal regulations — procedure for public notice and comment required. (1) After public hearing, a municipality or county may establish and administer a local air pollution control program if the program is consistent with this chapter and is approved by the department.

(2) If a local air pollution control program established by a county encompasses all or part of a municipality, the county and each municipality shall approve the program in accordance with subsection (1).

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5), the department by order may approve a local air pollution control program that:

(i) subject to subsection (4), provides by rule, ordinance, or local law for requirements ompatible with, more stringent than, or more extensive than those imposed by 75-2-203, 5-2-204, 75-2-211, 75-2-212, 75-2-215, 75-2-217 through 75-2-219, and 75-2-402 and rules dopted under these sections;

(ii) provides for the enforcement of requirements established under subsection (3)(a)(i) by ppropriate administrative and judicial processes; and

(iii) provides for administrative organization, staff, financial resources, and other resources ecessary to effectively and efficiently carry out the program. As part of meeting these equirements, a local air pollution control program may administer the permit or registration ee provisions of 75-2-220. The permit or registration fees collected by a local air pollution ontrol program must be deposited in a county special revenue fund to be used by the local air ollution control program for administration of local air pollution control program permitting or egistration activities.

(b) Department approval of a rule, ordinance, or local law that is more stringent than the omparable state law is subject to the provisions of subsection (4).

(4) (a) A local air pollution control program may, subject to approval by the department, dopt a rule, ordinance, or local law to implement this chapter that is more stringent than omparable state or federal regulations or guidelines only if:

(i) a public hearing is held;

(ii) public comment is allowed; and

(iii) the department or the local air pollution control program makes a written finding after he public hearing and comment period that is based on evidence in the record that the proposed ocal standard or requirement:

(A) protects public health or the environment of the area;

(B) can mitigate harm to the public health or the environment; and

(C) is achievable with current technology.

(b) The written finding required under subsection (4)(a)(iii) must reference information nd peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that form the basis for the epartment's or the local air pollution control program's conclusion. The written finding must lso include information from the hearing record regarding costs to the regulated community hat are directly attributable to the proposed local standard or requirement.

(c) (i) A person or entity affected by a rule, ordinance, or local law approved or adopted after anuary 1, 1996, and before May 1, 2001, that the person or entity believes is more stringent han comparable state or federal regulations or guidelines may petition the department or the ocal air pollution control program to review the rule, ordinance, or local law.

(ii) If the department or local air pollution control program determines that the rule, rdinance, or local law is more stringent than state or federal regulations or guidelines, the epartment or local air pollution control program shall either revise the rule, ordinance, or local aw to conform to the state or federal regulations or guidelines or follow the process provided n subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 6 months after eceiving the petition.

(5) Except for those emergency powers provided for in 75-2-402, the department may not elegate to a local air pollution control program the authority to control any air pollutant source hat:

(a) requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement in accordance with Title 75, chapter 1, part 2;

(b) is subject to regulation under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, as provided in Title 75, chapter 20; or

(c) has the potential to emit 250 tons a year or more of any pollutant subject to regulation nder this chapter, including fugitive emissions, unless the authority to control the source was elegated to a local air pollution control program prior to January 1, 1991.

(6) If the department finds that the location, character, or extent of particular concentrations f population, air pollutant sources, or geographic, topographic, or meteorological considerations r any combination of these makes impracticable the maintenance of appropriate levels of air uality without an areawide air pollution control program, the department may determine he boundaries within which the program is necessary and require it as the only acceptable lternative to direct state administration.

(7) If the department has reason to believe that any part of an air pollution contro program in force under this section is either inadequate to prevent and control air pollution i the jurisdiction to which the program relates or is being administered in a manner inconsisten with this chapter, the department shall, on notice, conduct a hearing on the matter.

(8) If, after the hearing, the department determines that any part of the program i inadequate to prevent and control air pollution in the jurisdiction to which it relates or tha it is not accomplishing the purposes of this chapter, it shall require that necessary correctiv measures be taken within a reasonable time, not to exceed 60 days.

(9) If the jurisdiction fails to take these measures within the time required, the departmen shall administer within that jurisdiction all of the provisions of this chapter, including the term contained in any applicable department order, that are necessary to correct the deficiencie found by the department. The department's control program supersedes all municipal or count air pollution laws, rules, ordinances, and requirements in the affected jurisdiction. The cost o the department's action is a charge on the jurisdiction.

(10) If the department finds that the control of a particular air pollutant source because o its complexity or magnitude is beyond the reasonable capability of the local jurisdiction or ma be more efficiently and economically performed at the state level, it may assume and retai control over that air pollutant source. A charge may not be assessed against the jurisdiction Findings made under this subsection may be either on the basis of the nature of the source involved or on the basis of their relationship to the size of the communities in which they ar located.

(11) A jurisdiction in which the department administers all or part of its air pollutio control program under subsection (9) may establish or resume an air pollution control progra that meets the requirements of subsection (3).

(12) A municipality or county may administer all or part of its air pollution control progra in cooperation with one or more municipalities or counties of this state or of other states.

(13) Local air pollution control programs established under this section shall provid procedures for public notice, public hearing, public comment, and appeal for any proposed ne or revised rules, ordinances, or local laws adopted pursuant to this section. The procedures mus comply with the following requirements:

(a) The local air pollution control program shall create and maintain a list of intereste persons who wish to be informed of actions related to rules, ordinances, or local laws adopted b the local air pollution control program.

(b) At least 30 days prior to the adoption, revision, or repeal of a rule, ordinance, or law the local air pollution control program shall give written notice of its intended action.

(c) The notice required under subsection (13)(b) must include:

(i) a statement of the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of th subjects and issues affected by the intended action;

(ii) an explanation of the procedure for a person to be included on the list of intereste persons established pursuant to subsection (13)(a);

(iii) an explanation of the procedures and deadlines for presentation of oral or writte comments related to the intended action;

(iv) an explanation of the process for requesting a public hearing as provided in subsectio (13)(f); and

(v) the rationale for the intended action. The rationale must:

(A) include an explanation of why the intended action is reasonably necessary to implemen the goals and purposes of the local air pollution control program;

(B) specifically address those intended actions for which there are no similar state o federal regulations or guidelines; and

(C) be written in plain, easily understood language.

(d) For the purposes of subsection (13)(c)(v), a statement of authority to adopt a rule ordinance, or local law does not, standing alone, constitute a showing of reasonable necessity fo the intended action.

(e) The local air pollution control program shall mail a copy of the proposed rule, ordinance or local law to all interested persons on the list established pursuant to subsection (13)(a) wh have made timely requests to be included on the list.

(f) If at least 10 of the persons who will be directly affected by the proposed rule, ordinance, r local law request a public hearing, the local air pollution control program shall hold a hearing o hear comments from the public on the intended action.

(g) The local air pollution control program shall prepare a written response to all comments ubmitted in writing or presented at the public hearing for consideration prior to adoption, evision, or repeal of the proposed rule, ordinance, or local law.

(h) A person who submits a written comment on a proposed action or who attends a public earing in regard to a proposed action must be informed of the final action.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3919; amd. Sec. 5, h. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. ec. 2, Ch. 536, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — legislative review of rules — application, Title 2, ch. 4.
State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines, 75-2-207.

75-2-302. State and federal aid. (1) Any local air pollution control program meeting the equirements of this chapter and rules made pursuant to this chapter is eligible for state aid in n amount up to 30% of the locally funded annual operating cost of the program.

(2) Federal aid granted to the state for developing or maintaining a local air pollution ontrol program that is subsequently granted to a local program is not considered state aid.

(3) Subdivisions of the state may make application for, receive, administer, and expend any ederal aid for the control of air pollution or the development and administration of programs elated to air pollution control, provided the program is currently approved by the department nder 75-2-301.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 313, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3920; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 26, h. 324, L. 2021.

Part 4
Enforcement, Appeal, and Penalties

75-2-401. Enforcement — notice — order for corrective action — administrative enalty. (1) When the department believes that a violation of this chapter, a rule adopted nder this chapter, or a condition or limitation imposed by a permit issued pursuant to this hapter has occurred, it may cause written notice to be served personally or by certified mail on he alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this chapter, he rule, or the permit condition or limitation alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to onstitute a violation. The notice may include an order to take necessary corrective action within reasonable period of time stated in the order or an order to pay an administrative penalty, or oth. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is received, the person amed requests in writing a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request, the board shall chedule a hearing.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that violations have ccurred, it shall issue an appropriate order for the prevention, abatement, or control of the missions involved or for the taking of other corrective action or assess an administrative penalty, r both. As appropriate, an order issued as part of a notice or after a hearing may prescribe the ate by which the violation must cease; time limits for particular action in preventing, abating, r controlling the emissions; or the date by which the administrative penalty must be paid. f, after a hearing on an order contained in a notice, the board finds that a violation has not ccurred or is not occurring, it shall rescind the order.

(3) (a) An action initiated under this section may include an administrative civil penalty of ot more than $10,000 for each day of each violation, not to exceed a total of $80,000. If an order ssued by the board under this section requires the payment of an administrative civil penalty, he board shall state findings and conclusions describing the basis for its penalty assessment.

(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the lternative energy revolving loan account established in 75-25-101.

(c) Penalties imposed by an administrative order under this section may not be assessed or any day of violation that occurred more than 2 years prior to the issuance of the initial notice nd order by the department under subsection (1).

(d) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed for an alleged violation under thi section, the department or board, as appropriate, shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001

(e) The department may bring a judicial action to enforce a final administrative orde issued pursuant to this section. The action must be filed in the district court of the county i which the violation occurred.

(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2 chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section.

(5) Instead of issuing the order provided for in subsection (1), the department may either

(a) require that the alleged violators appear before the board for a hearing at a time an place specified in the notice and answer the charges complained of; or

(b) initiate action under 75-2-412 or 75-2-413.

(6) This chapter does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtai voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

(7) In connection with a hearing held under this section, the board may and on applicatio by a party shall compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence on behalf o the parties.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M 1947, 69-3914; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd Sec. 21, Ch. 591, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases — application, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review of agency action, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

75-2-402. Emergency procedure. (1) Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, i the department finds that a generalized condition of air pollution exists and that it creates a emergency requiring immediate action to protect human health or safety, the department shal order persons causing or contributing to the air pollution to immediately reduce or discontinu the emission of air contaminants. Upon issuance of this order, the department shall fix a plac and time within 24 hours for a hearing to be held before the board. Within 24 hours after th start of the hearing and without adjournment, the board shall confirm, modify, or set aside th order of the department.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1), if the department finds that emissions fro the operation of one or more air contaminant sources are causing imminent danger to huma health or safety, it may order the person responsible for the operation in question to reduce o discontinue emissions immediately, without regard for 75-2-401. In this event, the requirement for hearing and confirmation, modification, or setting aside of orders as provided in subsectio (1) apply.

(3) This section does not limit any power that the governor or any other officer may hav to declare an emergency and act on the basis of this declaration, whether the power is conferre by statute or the constitution or is inherent to the office.

History: **(1) thru (3)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 140, L 1977; Sec. 69-3915, R.C.M. 1947; (4)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 140, L. 1977; Sec. 69-3917 R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3915, 69-3917(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 417, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Declaration of emergency — authority of Governor, 10-3-104.
Local emergency — declaration, 10-3-402.
Energy emergencies — suspension of controls by Governor, 90-4-310.

75-2-403. Inspections. (1) The department or an authorized representative, for th purpose of ascertaining the state of compliance with this chapter or a rule, order, or permit i force under this chapter, may enter and inspect, at any reasonable time, any property, premises or place, except a private residence, on or at which:

(a) an air contaminant source is located or is being constructed or installed;

(b) an emissions-related activity is conducted, such as air contaminant emissions o ambient concentration sampling, testing, or monitoring, or an activity in which samples ar gathered, processed, or stored; or

(c) records are kept as required under this chapter or a rule, order, or permit made o issued under this chapter, for the purpose of inspecting those records. The authority grante under this subsection (c) does not limit the department's right to inspect any property, premises r place, except a private residence, under subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) if records are also kept at hose sites.

(2) A person may not refuse entry or access to an authorized representative of the epartment who presents appropriate credentials when the department requests entry for urposes of inspection. A person may not obstruct, hamper, or interfere with an inspection.

(3) The department or an authorized representative must be provided access and must be llowed to copy, at reasonable times, any record that is required to be kept under this chapter or rule, order, or permit made or issued under this chapter.

(4) The department or an authorized representative may inspect, at reasonable times, any acility, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required under this chapter or a rule, rder, or permit made or issued under this chapter.

(5) The department or an authorized representative must be allowed to sample or monitor, t reasonable times, substances or parameters for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the rovisions of this chapter or a rule, order, or permit made or issued under this chapter.

(6) At the owner's or operator's request, the owner or operator of the premises shall receive report stating all facts found that relate to compliance status.

(7) Inspections under this section must be conducted in compliance with all applicable ederal or state rules or requirements for workplace safety and with all source-specific facility orkplace safety rules or requirements. The source shall inform the inspector of all applicable orkplace safety rules or requirements at the time of the inspection.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 947, 69-3912; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 85, L. 1995.

ross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individuals to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

75-2-404 through 75-2-410 reserved.

75-2-411. Judicial review. (1) A person aggrieved by an order of the board or local control uthority may apply for rehearing upon one or more of the following grounds and upon no other rounds:

(a) the board or local control authority acted without or in excess of its powers;

(b) the order was procured by fraud;

(c) the order is contrary to the evidence;

(d) the applicant has discovered new evidence, material to the applicant, that the applicant ould not with reasonable diligence have discovered and produced at the hearing; or

(e) competent evidence was excluded to the prejudice of the applicant.

(2) The petition must be in a form and filed at a time that the board prescribes.

(3) (a) Within 30 days after the application for rehearing is denied or, if the application is ranted, within 30 days after the decision on the rehearing, an aggrieved party may appeal to he district court of the judicial district of the state that is the situs of property affected by the rder.

(b) The appeal must be taken by serving a written notice of appeal upon the presiding fficer of the board. Service must be made by the delivery of a copy of the notice to the presiding fficer and by filing the original with the clerk of the court to which the appeal is taken. mmediately after service upon the board, the board shall certify to the district court the entire ecord and proceedings, including all testimony and evidence taken by the board. Immediately pon receiving the certified record, the district court shall fix a day for filing of briefs and hearing rguments on the cause and shall cause a notice of the dates to be served upon the board and he appellant.

(c) The court shall hear and decide the cause upon the record of the board. The court shall etermine whether or not the board regularly pursued its authority, whether or not the findings f the board were supported by substantial competent evidence, and whether or not the board ade errors of law prejudicial to the appellant.

(4) Either the board or the person aggrieved may appeal from the decision of the district ourt to the supreme court. The proceedings before the supreme court must be limited to a eview of the record of the hearing before the board and of the district court's review of that ecord.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3917(3) thru (5); amd Sec. 2492, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

75-2-412. Criminal penalties — injunction preserved. (1) A person is guilty of a offense under this section if that person knowingly:

(a) violates a provision of this chapter or a rule, order, or permit made or issued under thi chapter;

(b) makes a false material statement, representation, or certification on a form require under this chapter or in a notice or report required by a permit under this chapter; or

(c) renders inaccurate a monitoring device or method required under this chapter.

(2) A person guilty of an offense under subsection (1) is subject to a fine of not more tha $10,000 per violation or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 2 years, or both. This offens must be classified as a misdemeanor. Each day of each violation constitutes a separate violation

(3) Fines collected under this section, except fines collected by an approved local ai pollution control program, must be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) Action under this section is not a bar to enforcement of this chapter or of a rule, order or permit made or issued under it by injunction or other appropriate civil or administrativ remedy. The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcemen proceedings.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 313, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3921(1) thru (3), (5) amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 502, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Injunctions — Supreme Court jurisdiction, 3-2-205.
Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Execution of fine, 46-19-102.

75-2-413. Civil penalties — venue — effect of action — presumption of continuin violation under certain circumstances. (1) (a) A person who violates any provision o this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, or any order or permit made or issued unde this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each violation. Each day o each violation constitutes a separate violation. The department may institute and maintai in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings under this section. Upon request of th department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county of violation shall petitio the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. The civil penalty is in lie of the criminal penalty provided for in 75-2-412, except for civil penalties for violation of th operating permit program required by Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance wit the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) (a) Action under subsection (1) is not a bar to enforcement of this chapter or of a rule order, or permit made or issued under this chapter by injunction or other appropriate civi remedies.

(b) An action under subsection (1) or to enforce this chapter or a rule, order, or permi made or issued under this chapter may be brought in the district court of any county where violation occurs or is threatened.

(3) If the department has notified a person operating a commercial hazardous wast incinerator of a violation and if the department makes a prima facie showing that the conduc or events giving rise to the violations are likely to have continued or recurred past the dat of notice, the days of violation are presumed to include the date of the notice and every da after the notice until the person establishes that continuous compliance has been achieved. Thi presumption may be overcome to the extent that the person operating a commercial hazardou waste incinerator can prove by a preponderance of evidence that there were intervening day when a violation did not occur, that the violation was not continuing in nature, or that th telemetering device was compromised or otherwise tampered with.

(4) Money collected under this section must be deposited in the alternative energy revolvin loan account established in 75-25-101. This subsection does not apply to money collected by a approved local air pollution control program.

History: En. 69-3921.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 98, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 308, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-3921.1; md. Sec. 16, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 218, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 502, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 85, . 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 591, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

ross-References

Duties related to state matters, 7-4-2716.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-2-414 through 75-2-420 reserved.

75-2-421. Persons subject to noncompliance penalties — exemptions. (1) Except as rovided in subsection (2), the department may assess and collect a noncompliance penalty from ny person who owns or operates:

(a) a stationary source (other than a primary nonferrous smelter that has received a onferrous smelter order under 42 U.S.C. 7419) that is not in compliance with any emission mitation specified in an order of the board, emission standard, or compliance schedule under he state implementation plan approved by the federal environmental protection agency;

(b) a stationary source that is not in compliance with an emission limitation, emission tandard, standard of performance, or other requirement under this chapter or 42 U.S.C. 7411, 412, 7477, or 7603;

(c) a stationary source that is not in compliance with any other requirement under this hapter or any requirement of Subchapter V of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7661, et seq.; r

(d) any source referred to in subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c) that has been granted an xemption, extension, or suspension under subsection (2) or that is covered by a compliance rder, or a primary nonferrous smelter that has received a primary nonferrous smelter order nder 42 U.S.C. 7419, if that source is not in compliance with any interim emission control equirement or schedule of compliance under the extension, order, or suspension.

(2) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1), the department may, after notice nd opportunity for a public hearing, exempt any source from the requirements of 75-2-421 hrough 75-2-429 with respect to a particular instance of noncompliance that:

(a) the department finds is de minimis in nature and in duration;

(b) is caused by conditions beyond the reasonable control of the source and is of no emonstrable advantage to the source; or

(c) is exempt under 42 U.S.C. 7420(a)(2)(B) of the federal Clean Air Act.

(3) Any person who is jointly or severally adversely affected by the department's decision ay request, within 15 days after the department renders its decision, upon affidavit setting rth the grounds for it, a hearing before the board. A hearing must be held under the provisions f the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 502, L. 1993.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — hearing, 2-4-612.

75-2-422. Amount of noncompliance penalty — late charge. (1) The amount of he penalty that is assessed and collected with respect to any source under 75-2-421 through 5-2-429 must be equal to:

(a) the amount determined in accordance with the rules adopted by the department, hich must be no less than the economic value that a delay in compliance after July 1, 1979, ay have for the owner of the source, including the quarterly equivalent of the capital costs of ompliance and debt service over a normal amortization period not to exceed 10 years, operation nd maintenance costs foregone as a result of noncompliance, and any additional economic alue that the delay may have for the owner or operator of such source; minus

(b) the amount of any expenditure made by the owner or operator of that source during he quarter for the purpose of bringing that source into and maintaining compliance with he requirement, to the extent that the expenditures have not been taken into account in the alculation of the penalty under subsection (1)(a).

(2) To the extent that any expenditure under subsection (1)(b) made during any quarter s not subtracted for the quarter from the costs under subsection (1)(a), the expenditure may be ubtracted for any subsequent quarter from the costs. In no event may the amount paid be less han the quarterly payment minus the amount attributed to actual cost of construction.

(3) If the owner or operator of any stationary source to whom notice is issued unde 75-2-425 does not submit a timely petition under 75-2-425(2)(b) or submits a petition that i denied and if the owner or operator fails to submit a calculation of the penalty assessment, schedule for payment, and the information necessary for independent verification thereof, th department may enter into a contract with any person who has no financial interest in th matter to assist in determining the amount of the penalty assessment or payment schedule wit respect to the source. The cost of carrying out the contract may be added to the penalty to b assessed against the owner or operator of the source.

(4) Any person who fails to pay the amount of any penalty with respect to any sourc under 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 on a timely basis shall pay in addition a quarterly nonpaymen penalty for each quarter during which the failure to pay persists. The nonpayment penalty i equal to 20% of the aggregate amount of the person's penalties and nonpayment penalties wit respect to the source that are unpaid as of the beginning of the quarter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — rulemaking, Title 2, ch. 4, part 2.

75-2-423. Manner of making payment. (1) The assessed penalty required unde 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 shall be paid in quarterly installments for the period of covere noncompliance. All quarterly payments, determined without regard to any adjustment or an subtraction under 75-2-422(1)(b), after the first payment shall be equal.

(2) The first payment shall be due on the date 6 months after the date of issuance of th notice of noncompliance under 75-2-425 with respect to any source. Such first payment shall b in the amount of the quarterly installment for the upcoming quarter, plus the amount owed fo any preceding period within the period of covered noncompliance for such source.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the term "period of covered noncompliance" means th period which begins on the date of issuance of the notice of noncompliance under 75-2-425 an ends on the date on which such source comes into or, for the purpose of establishing the schedul of payments, is estimated to come into compliance with such requirement.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 560, L. 1979.

75-2-424. Adjustment of fee. (1) The department shall adjust from time to time th amount of the penalty assessment calculated or the payment schedule proposed by such owne or operator under 75-2-425(2)(a) if the department finds after notice and opportunity for hearing on the record that the penalty or schedule does not meet the requirements of 75-2-42 through 75-2-429.

(2) Upon making a determination that a source with respect to which a penalty has bee paid under 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 is in compliance and is maintaining compliance wit the applicable requirement, the department shall review the actual expenditures made by th owner or operator of such source for the purpose of attaining and maintaining compliance an shall make a final adjustment within 180 days after such source comes into compliance and:

(a) provide reimbursement with interest to be paid by the state at appropriate prevailin rates for overpayment by such person; or

(b) assess and collect an additional payment with interest at appropriate prevailing rate for any underpayment by such person.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 560, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases — hearing procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-2-425. Notice of noncompliance — challenge. (1) The department shall give a brie but reasonably specific notice of noncompliance to each person who owns or operates a sourc subject to 75-2-421(1) which is not in compliance as provided in that subsection, within 30 day after the department has discovered the noncompliance.

(2) Each person to whom notice has been given pursuant to subsection (1) shall:

(a) calculate the amount of penalty owed (determined in accordance with 75-2-422(1)) an the schedule of payments (determined in accordance with 75-2-423) for each source and, withi 45 days after issuance of the notice of noncompliance, submit that calculation and propose schedule, together with the information necessary for an independent verification thereof, to th department; or

(b) submit to the board a petition within 45 days after the issuance of such notice, hallenging such notice of noncompliance or alleging entitlement to an exemption under 5-2-421(2) with respect to a particular source.

(3) Each person to whom notice of noncompliance is given shall pay the department the mount determined under 75-2-422 as the appropriate penalty unless there has been a final etermination granting a petition filed pursuant to subsection (2)(b).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 560, L. 1979.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases — hearing procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-2-426. Hearing on challenge. (1) The board shall provide a hearing on the record and ake a decision (including findings of fact and conclusions of law) not later than 90 days after e receipt of any petition under 75-2-425(2)(b) with respect to such source.

(2) If the petition is denied, the petitioner shall submit the material required by 5-2-425(2)(a) to the department within 45 days of the date of decision.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 560, L. 1979.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases — applicability, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-2-427. Deposit of noncompliance penalty fees. All noncompliance penalties ollected by the department pursuant to 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 shall be deposited in the tate special revenue fund until a final determination and adjustment have been made as rovided in 75-2-424 and amounts have been deducted by the department for costs attributable o implementation of 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 and for contract costs incurred pursuant to 5-2-422(3), if any. After a final determination has been made and additional payments or efunds have been made, the penalty money remaining shall be transferred to the state general und.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

ross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

75-2-428. Effect of new standards on noncompliance penalty. In the case of any mission limitation, emission standard, or other requirement approved or adopted by the epartment under this chapter after July 1, 1979, and approved by the federal environmental rotection agency as an amendment to the state implementation plan, which is more stringent han the emission limitation or requirement for the source in effect prior to such approval r promulgation, if any, or where there was no emission limitation, emission standard, or ther requirement approved or adopted before July 1, 1979, the date for imposition of the oncompliance penalty under 75-2-421 through 75-2-429 shall be the date on which the source s required to be in full compliance with such emission limitation, emission standard, or other equirement or 3 years after the approval or promulgation of such emission limitation or equirement, whichever is sooner.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 560, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-2-429. Effect of noncompliance penalty on other remedies. (1) Any orders, ayments, sanctions, or other requirements under 75-2-421 through 75-2-428 shall be in ddition to any other permits, orders, payments, sanctions, or other requirements established nder this chapter and shall in no way affect any civil or criminal enforcement proceedings rought under 75-2-412 or 75-2-413.

(2) The noncompliance penalties collected pursuant to 75-2-421 through 75-2-428 are ntended to be cumulative and in addition to any other remedies, procedures, and requirements uthorized by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 560, L. 1979.

Part 5
Asbestos Control

75-2-501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Asbestos Control Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 1989.

75-2-502. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, th following definitions apply:

(1) "Accreditation" means a certificate issued by the department that permits a person t work in an asbestos-related occupation.

(2) "Asbestos" means asbestiform varieties of chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, anthophyllite tremolite, or actinolite.

(3) "Asbestos project" means the encapsulation, enclosure, removal, repair, renovation placement in new construction, demolition of asbestos in a building or other structure, or th transportation or disposal of asbestos-containing waste. The term does not include a project tha involves less than 10 square feet in surface area or 3 linear feet of pipe.

(4) "Asbestos-related occupation" means an inspector, management planner, projec designer, contractor, supervisor, or worker for an asbestos project.

(5) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for i 2-15-3501.

(6) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, firm enterprise, franchise, association, state or municipal agency, political subdivision of the state, o any other entity.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 581, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 179, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 2015.

75-2-503. Rulemaking authority — issuance of permits. (1) The department shall subject to the provisions of 75-2-207, adopt rules establishing standards and procedures fo accreditation of asbestos-related occupations and control of the work performed by persons i asbestos-related occupations. The rules must be consistent with federal law and include but ar not limited to:

(a) standards for training course review and approval;

(b) standards for accreditation of applicants for asbestos-related occupations;

(c) examination requirements for accreditation of applicants for asbestos-relate occupations;

(d) requirements for renewal of accreditation, including periodic refresher courses;

(e) revocation of accreditation;

(f) inspection requirements for asbestos projects and asbestos-related occupation credentials;

(g) criteria to determine whether and what type of control measures are necessary fo an asbestos project and whether a project is completed in a manner sufficient to protect publi health, including criteria setting allowable limits on indoor airborne asbestos. A determinatio of whether asbestos abatement of a structure is necessary may not be based solely upon th results of airborne asbestos testing.

(h) requirements for issuance of asbestos project permits and conditions that permitholder shall meet;

(i) standards for seeking injunctions, criminal and civil penalties, or emergency actions;

(j) advance notification procedures and issuance of permits for asbestos projects; and

(k) fees, which must be commensurate with costs, for:

(i) review and approval of training courses;

(ii) application for and renewal of accreditation by a person seeking to pursue a asbestos-related occupation;

(iii) issuance and administration of asbestos project permits, including annual asbesto project permits for facilities; and

(iv) requested inspections of asbestos projects.

(2) For asbestos projects having a cost of $3,000 or less, the department shall issu asbestos project permits within 7 calendar days following the receipt of a properly complete permit application and the appropriate fee.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 581, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec 1, Ch. 25, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-2-504. Facility permits. The department shall provide by rule a procedure for th issuance of an annual asbestos project permit to any facility that has an asbestos health an afety program meeting department criteria and that continuously employs accredited asbestos orkers. This permit allows a facility to conduct asbestos projects within the confines of the acility's controlled area during the period for which the permit is in force. The provisions of this ermit may not preclude state and federal requirements for asbestos project notification.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 25, L. 2003.

75-2-505. Small project review requirement. The department shall review a permit pplication within 5 working days of receipt of a complete application and an appropriate fee for n asbestos project that:

(1) involves more than 10 square feet but less than 160 square feet in surface area;
(2) involves more than 3 linear feet but less than 260 linear feet of pipe; or
(3) involves more than 3 cubic feet but less than 35 cubic feet of volume.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 2015.

75-2-506 and 75-2-507 reserved.

75-2-508. Asbestos control account. (1) There is an asbestos control account in the tate special revenue fund. There must be deposited in the account all money received from fees ollected under this part.

(2) Funds in the account are allocated to the department for the purpose of funding the osts of implementing and operating the asbestos control program established under this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1999.

75-2-509 and 75-2-510 reserved.

75-2-511. Accreditation requirements — restrictions. (1) To qualify for accreditation n a particular asbestos-related occupation, a person must:

(a) (i) successfully complete an asbestos-related training course for that occupation pproved by the department or the United States environmental protection agency; and

(ii) pass an examination approved by the department;

(b) satisfactorily demonstrate equivalent previous training or experience in the occupation s prescribed by department rule; or

(c) have successfully completed an asbestos-related training course for that occupation, pproved by the United States environmental protection agency, during the time period mmediately following the passage of this part and ending on December 31, 1989.

(2) After January 1, 1990, a person may not:

(a) engage in an asbestos-related occupation unless accredited in that occupation by the epartment;

(b) conduct an asbestos project without a permit from the department or violate the onditions of a permit;

(c) contract with or employ in an asbestos-related occupation a person not accredited in hat occupation by the department; or

(d) offer a training course for an asbestos-related occupation to meet the accreditation equirements of this section unless the department approves the course.

(3) A person who applies for accreditation shall submit the fees and follow procedures rescribed by department rule.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 581, L. 1989.

75-2-512. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 596, L. 1991.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 581, L. 1989.

75-2-513. Records. A person engaged in an asbestos project shall maintain the records equired by department rule concerning the nature of project activities.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 581, L. 1989.

75-2-514. Civil penalties — venue for actions to recover. (1) (a) A district court may ssess a civil penalty of not more than $25,000 a day upon a person that violates any provision f this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under this part. In the ase of a continuing violation, each day the violation continues constitutes a separate violation.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with he penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) An action under this section is not a bar to enforcement by injunction or othe appropriate civil or administrative remedies.

(3) Penalties provided for in subsection (1) are recoverable in an action brought by th department. The action must be filed in the district court of the county in which the violatio occurred.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 581, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 596, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 1999; amd. Se 7, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

75-2-515. Administrative enforcement. (1) The department may deny, suspend, o revoke the accreditation of a person that:

(a) fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain accreditation;

(b) fails to meet the qualifications for accreditation or fails to comply with the requirement of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under this part; or

(c) fails to meet an applicable federal or state standard for asbestos projects.

(2) When the department believes that a violation of this part, a rule adopted under thi part, or a permit or order issued under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice o the violation personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. Th notice must specify the provision of this part or the rule, permit, or order alleged to be violate and the facts alleged to constitute a violation. The notice may include an order to take necessar corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order, an order to pay a administrative civil penalty, or both. An order becomes final unless, within 30 days after th order is received, the person that has been named requests, in writing, a hearing before th board.

(3) On receipt of a hearing request, the board shall schedule a hearing. The contested cas provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to an hearing conducted under this section. If, after a hearing, the board finds that a violation has no occurred or is not occurring, it shall rescind the order.

(4) (a) An action initiated under this section may include an administrative civil penalt of not more than $10,000 for each day of each violation, not to exceed a total of $80,000. An order issued by the department under this section requiring payment of an administrative civi penalty must specify the basis for the penalty assessment.

(b) A penalty may not be assessed under this section for any day of violation that occurre more than 3 years prior to the department issuing the order requiring payment of the penalty.

(c) In determining the amount of a penalty assessed to a person under this section, th department shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(5) In addition to or instead of issuing an order under subsection (2), the department may

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board for a hearing at a time and plac specified in the notice of hearing to answer the charges complained of; or

(b) initiate action under 75-2-514.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 293, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 487, L. 2005.

75-2-516. Criminal penalties. (1) A person convicted of purposely or knowingly violatin any provision of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under thi part is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A prosecution under this section is not a bar to enforcement by injunction or othe appropriate civil or administrative remedies.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 293, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Misdemeanor penalty when none specified, 46-18-212.

75-2-517. Injunctions. The department may institute and maintain in the name of th state, actions for injunctive relief, as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

(1) immediately restrain a person from engaging in an unauthorized activity that i endangering or causing damage to public health or the environment;

(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order issued unde this part, or a permit issued under this part, without the necessity of prior revocation of th permit; or

(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 293, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Remedies for public nuisances, 27-30-202.

75-2-518. Inspections — sampling. (1) (a) At any reasonable time and upon presentation of credentials, an employee or agent of the department may enter upon and inspect any place at which:

(i) an asbestos project is being conducted;

(ii) asbestos-containing material from an asbestos project is stored; or

(iii) records pertinent to an asbestos project are maintained.

(b) The employee or agent of the department may have access to and may copy any records relating to an asbestos project for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this part, rules adopted under this part, or a permit or order issued under this part.

(2) During an inspection under this section, the employee or agent of the department may take samples of any suspected asbestos-containing material, including samples from any vehicle in which asbestos-containing waste materials are transported. If the employee or agent of the department takes a sample of any suspected asbestos-containing material, prior to leaving the premises, the employee or agent shall give to the person in charge of the asbestos project a receipt describing the sample taken and, if requested, a portion of each sample equal in volume or weight to the portion retained. If an analysis is made of the samples, a copy of the results of the analysis must be furnished to the person in charge of the asbestos project.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 293, L. 1999.**

75-2-519. Cleanup orders. The department may issue a cleanup order to any person that has deposited asbestos-containing material or that has disturbed asbestos-containing material or that owns any property where the asbestos-containing material is located when the material poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment or is likely to pose a threat to public health or the environment in the immediate future. The order may direct the person to clean up and transport the asbestos-containing material to an authorized disposal facility, to treat the material so as to render it nonhazardous, or to take other necessary actions.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 293, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

CHAPTER 3
RADON CONTROL

Part 1 — General Provisions (Renumbered)

Part 2 — Control of Radioactive Substances (Renumbered)

Part 3 — Disposal of Large Quantities of Radioactive Material (Renumbered)

Part 4 — Enforcement, Appeal, and Penalties (Renumbered)

Part 5 — Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management (Renumbered)

Part 6 — Montana Radon Control Act

75-3-601. Short title.
75-3-602. Definitions.
75-3-603. Radon testing and mitigation proficiency listing requirements.
75-3-604. Voluntary disclosure of information to department.
75-3-605. Public information and education.
75-3-606. Radon disclosure statement on real estate documents — disclosure of prior radon testing — immunity from liability.
75-3-607. Radon control account.

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General Provisions
(Renumbered)

75-3-101. Renumbered 50-79-101. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-102. Renumbered 50-79-102. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-103. Renumbered 50-79-103. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-104. Renumbered 50-79-104. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-105. Renumbered 50-79-105. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-106. Renumbered 50-79-106. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-107. Renumbered 50-79-107. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-108. Renumbered 50-79-108. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 2
Control of Radioactive Substances
(Renumbered)

75-3-201. Renumbered 50-79-201. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-202. Renumbered 50-79-202. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-203. Renumbered 50-79-203. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-204. Renumbered 50-79-204. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 3
Disposal of Large Quantities of Radioactive Material
(Renumbered)

75-3-301. Renumbered 50-79-301. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-302. Renumbered 50-79-302. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-303. Renumbered 50-79-303. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-304. Renumbered 50-79-304. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 4
Enforcement, Appeal, and Penalties
(Renumbered)

75-3-401. Renumbered 50-79-401. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-402. Renumbered 50-79-402. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-403. Renumbered 50-79-403. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-404. Renumbered 50-79-404. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-405. Renumbered 50-79-405. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-406. Renumbered 50-79-406. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-407. Renumbered 50-79-407. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-408 and 75-3-409 reserved.

75-3-410. Renumbered 50-79-410. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 5
Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management (Renumbered)

75-3-501. Renumbered 50-79-501. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

75-3-502. Renumbered 50-79-502. Sec. 13, Ch. 73, L. 1997.

Part 6
Montana Radon Control Act

75-3-601. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Radon Control Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 1993.

75-3-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality.

(2) "Inhabitable real property" means any real property that includes a building affixed to and. The building must be designed to be primarily occupied by humans, either as a dwelling or as a place of business.

(3) "Mitigation project" means to repair or alter a building or design for the purpose, in whole or in part, of reducing the concentration of radon in the indoor atmosphere.

(4) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, consultant, state or municipal agency, political subdivision of the state, or any other entity.

(5) "Radon" means any of the gaseous radioactive decay products of uranium or thorium.

(6) "Radon progeny" means any of the radioactive decay products of radon.

(7) "Radon-related occupation" means the occupation of any person who performs radon gas or radon progeny measurements, including sample collection, analysis, or interpretation of those measurements, or who performs radon gas or radon progeny mitigation.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 183, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

75-3-603. Radon testing and mitigation proficiency listing requirements. In order to be publicly listed as proficient by the department in a radon-related occupation, a person shall pass a United States environmental protection agency proficiency examination approved by the department.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 527, L. 1993.

75-3-604. Voluntary disclosure of information to department. (1) The results of measurements of radon gas or radon progeny performed by a person may be reported to the department. The report may include the radon levels detected and the location and description of the building.

(2) Except for use in conducting legitimate scientific studies, as determined by the department, data and information relating to radon gas and radon progeny contamination at nonpublic properties, including residential dwellings, gathered under this part must be considered confidential by the department. The department shall provide the bureau of mines and geology with all information received by the department under subsection (1) for conducting legitimate scientific studies. The department may not release the data or information in its possession to anyone other than the owner or occupant of the property.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 1993.

Cross-References
Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

75-3-605. Public information and education. The department shall initiate and administer a program designed to educate and inform the public concerning radon gas and radon progeny. The program must include but is not limited to:

(1) public presentations to interested parties;

(2) developing, reproducing, and distributing printed materials to home owners and other interested groups;

(3) responding to telephone inquiries on a maintained toll-free telephone number;

(4) providing technical and training information for radon measurement and mitigation;

(5) maintaining and distributing lists of qualified persons who perform measurement an mitigation services;

(6) developing and implementing an effective communication strategy to encourage al home owners to test for radon; and

(7) encouraging cooperative partnerships to promote radon testing of buildings and homes

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 527, L. 1993.**

75-3-606. Radon disclosure statement on real estate documents — disclosure o prior radon testing — immunity from liability. (1) A radon disclosure statement must b provided on at least one document, form, or application executed prior to or contemporaneousl with an offer for the purchase and sale of inhabitable real property. The seller or seller's agen shall provide the following disclosure statement to the buyer, and the buyer shall acknowledg receipt of this disclosure statement by signing a copy of the disclosure statement:

"RADON GAS: RADON IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING RADIOACTIVE GAS THAT WHEN IT HAS ACCUMULATED IN A BUILDING IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES, MA PRESENT HEALTH RISKS TO PERSONS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO IT OVER TIME LEVELS OF RADON THAT EXCEED FEDERAL GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN FOUND I BUILDINGS IN MONTANA. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RADON AN RADON TESTING MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR COUNTY OR STATE PUBLI HEALTH UNIT."

(2) Whenever a seller knows that a building has been tested for radon gas and rado progeny, the seller shall provide to the buyer, prior to or upon entry into a contract for th purchase of that building, a copy of the results of that test and evidence of any subsequen mitigation or treatment. A prospective buyer who contracts for the testing may receive th results of that testing. The furnishing of test results and evidence of mitigation or treatmen is not to be construed as a promise, warranty, or representation of any sort by the seller or th seller's agent that the test results are accurate or that the mitigation or treatment is effective This section does not create a contingency on the purchase of the property or any right to rescin a contract for purchase unless the contingency or right to rescind is an express term of th applicable contract.

(3) A seller or seller's agent who complies with subsections (1) and (2) is not liable in an action based on the presence of radon gas or radon progeny in the building.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 527, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1995.**

75-3-607. Radon control account. (1) There is a radon control account in the stat special revenue fund. There must be deposited in the account all money received from any loans grants, or other funds or gifts, conditional or otherwise, in furtherance of this part that ar received from public or private sources, except for money received from the federal government

(2) Funds in the account are allocated to the department for the purpose of funding th costs of implementing and operating the program established under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 527, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 2003.**

CHAPTER 4
RESERVED

CHAPTER 5
WATER QUALITY

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hapter Cross-References

The Municipal Revenue Bond Act of 1939, Title 7, ch. 7, part 44.
Metropolitan sanitary and storm sewer district, Title 7, ch. 13, part 1.
County water and sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, part 22.
Public sewer systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 42.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Water treatment plant operators, Title 37, ch. 42.
Water well contractors, 37-43-101.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Public water supply, Title 75, ch. 6, part 1.
Watershed protection — when construction prohibited, 75-6-112.
Protection of lake areas, Title 75, ch. 7, part 2.
Sanitation in subdivisions, Title 76, ch. 4, part 1.
Floodway management and regulation, Title 76, ch. 5.
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Water resources — administration, Title 85, ch. 1, part 2.
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Water conservancy districts, Title 85, ch. 9.
Energy emergency provisions — exclusion, 90-4-310.

Part 1
General Provisions

75-5-101. Policy. It is the public policy of this state to:

(1) conserve water by protecting, maintaining, and improving the quality and potability of water for public water supplies, wildlife, fish and aquatic life, agriculture, industry, recreation, and other beneficial uses;

(2) provide a comprehensive program for the prevention, abatement, and control of water pollution; and

(3) balance the inalienable rights to pursue life's basic necessities and possess and use property in lawful ways with the policy of preventing, abating, and controlling water pollution in implementing the program referred to in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 121, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4801(1); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-5-102. Intent — purpose — rights of action not abridged. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted this chapter. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this chapter provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources. A purpose of this chapter is to provide additional and cumulative remedies to prevent, abate, and control the pollution of state waters.

(2) This chapter does not abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in equity or under the common law or statutory law, criminal or civil, nor does this chapter or an act done under it estop the state or a municipality or person, as owner of water rights or otherwise, in the exercise of the person's rights in equity or under the common law or statutory law to suppress nuisances or to abate pollution.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(4); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Indemnification against loss to environment, Title 15, ch. 38.

75-5-103. *(Temporary)* **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

(a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

(b) pipeline facilities;

(c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

(d) rail transportation;

(e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

(f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or produc produced at an energy development project; or

(g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by department rule, that is necessary fo an energy development project.

(2) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(3) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industria wastes, or other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

(4) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107

(5) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department a the time a decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodie that are threatened or impaired.

(b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

(6) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-qualit waters for a parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined t be nonsignificant pursuant to 75-5-301(5)(c).

(7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for i 2-15-3501.

(8) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes and includes sewage systems and treatment works.

(9) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and concentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged int state waters.

(10) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and associated developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for o capable of:

(a) generating electricity;

(b) producing gas derived from coal;

(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

(e) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a tax incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5; or

(f) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of equal to or greater than 50 kilovolts.

(11) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 1971, whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

(12) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

(a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications established by the department's classification rules; and

(b) surface waters that:

(i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

(ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

(13) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient credible data shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards.

(14) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or from the development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

(15) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, or an economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's preliminary decision regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term includes a person who has requested authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

(16) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is allocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

(17) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate without a violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms f mass, it means the maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a surface water without causing a violation of the surface water quality standards.

(18) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a county, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(19) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arsenic, beryllium, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc.

(20) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradation issued by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to conditions hat are imposed by the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by the department.

(21) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department, epresenting publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources of pollution, and other interested parties that will advise the department on nutrient standards, he implementation of those standards, and associated economic impacts.

(22) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, bark, lime, sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, wrecked or discarded equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances that may pollute state waters.

(23) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

(a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

(b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the department under the provisions of 75-5-316 and approved by the legislature.

(24) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervises a point source.

(25) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when a value of that property affects the quality of the state water.

(26) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm, corporation, partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

(27) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

(28) (a) "Pollution" means:

(i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of state waters that exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including but not limited to standards relating to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

(ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or render the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under the pollution discharge permit rules adopted by the department under this chapter;

(ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by the department in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

(iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine using in situ coal gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221.

(c) Contamination referred to in subsections (28)(b)(iii) and (28)(b)(iv) does not require a mixing zone.

(29) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, nstitutions, or other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, together with ground water infiltration and surface water present.

(30) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

(31) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the department for the contro of the discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievabl through application of the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operatin methods, or other alternatives, including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharg of pollutants.

(32) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, eithe surface or underground.

(b) The term does not apply to:

(i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

(ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used u within the irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned t state waters.

(33) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data alone or in combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether water body is achieving compliance with applicable water quality standards.

(34) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficien credible data and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment i fully supporting its designated uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

(a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control action required by a discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, an water conservation practices; or

(b) documented adverse pollution trends.

(35) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual wast load allocations for point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natura background sources established at a level necessary to achieve compliance with applicabl surface water quality standards.

(36) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating o holding sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

(37) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity tha is allocated to one of its existing or future point sources.

(38) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenanc procedures, or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed t protect, maintain, and improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practice include but are not limited to treatment requirements, standards of performance, effluen standards, and operating procedures and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludg or water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

(39) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug jetted, or otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, o acquisition of ground water.

(40) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in a advisory capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-70 and in the development of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individual requested by the department to participate in an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704.

75-5-103. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter the following definitions apply:

(1) "Associated supporting infrastructure" means:

(a) electric transmission and distribution facilities;

(b) pipeline facilities;

(c) aboveground ponds and reservoirs and underground storage reservoirs;

(d) rail transportation;

(e) aqueducts and diversion dams;

(f) devices or equipment associated with the delivery of an energy form or produc produced at an energy development project; or

(g) other supporting infrastructure, as defined by department rule, that is necessary for n energy development project.

(2) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(3) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial astes, or other wastes, creating a hazard to human health.

(4) "Council" means the water pollution control advisory council provided for in 2-15-2107.

(5) (a) "Currently available data" means data that is readily available to the department at he time a decision is made, including information supporting its previous lists of water bodies hat are threatened or impaired.

(b) The term does not mean new data to be obtained as a result of department efforts.

(6) "Degradation" means a change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality aters for a parameter. The term does not include those changes in water quality determined to e nonsignificant pursuant to 75-5-301(5)(c).

(7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in -15-3501.

(8) "Disposal system" means a system for disposing of sewage, industrial, or other wastes nd includes sewage systems and treatment works.

(9) "Effluent standard" means a restriction or prohibition on quantities, rates, and oncentrations of chemical, physical, biological, and other constituents that are discharged into tate waters.

(10) "Energy development project" means each plant, unit, or other development and ssociated developments, including any associated supporting infrastructure, designed for or apable of:

(a) generating electricity;

(b) producing gas derived from coal;

(c) producing liquid hydrocarbon products;

(d) refining crude oil or natural gas;

(e) producing alcohol to be blended for ethanol-blended gasoline and that are eligible for a ax incentive pursuant to Title 15, chapter 70, part 5; or

(f) transmitting electricity through an electric transmission line with a design capacity of qual to or greater than 50 kilovolts.

(11) "Existing uses" means those uses actually attained in state waters on or after July 1, 971, whether or not those uses are included in the water quality standards.

(12) "High-quality waters" means all state waters, except:

(a) ground water classified as of January 1, 1995, within the "III" or "IV" classifications stablished by the department's classification rules; and

(b) surface waters that:

(i) are not capable of supporting any one of the designated uses for their classification; or

(ii) have zero flow or surface expression for more than 270 days during most years.

(13) "Impaired water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient redible data shows that the water body or stream segment is failing to achieve compliance with pplicable water quality standards.

(14) "Industrial waste" means a waste substance from the process of business or industry or rom the development of any natural resource, together with any sewage that may be present.

(15) "Interested person" means a person who has a real property interest, a water right, r an economic interest that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the department's reliminary decision regarding degradation of state waters, pursuant to 75-5-303. The term ncludes a person who has requested authorization to degrade high-quality waters.

(16) "Load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that is llocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources or to natural background sources.

(17) "Loading capacity" means the mass of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate ithout a violation of water quality standards. For pollutants that cannot be measured in terms f mass, it means the maximum change that can occur from the best practicable condition in a urface water without causing a violation of the surface water quality standards.

(18) "Local department of health" means the staff, including health officers, employed by a ounty, city, city-county, or district board of health.

(19) "Metal parameters" includes but is not limited to aluminum, antimony, arseni beryllium, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, manganese, mercur nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc.

(20) "Mixing zone" means an area established in a permit or final decision on nondegradatio issued by the department where water quality standards may be exceeded, subject to condition that are imposed by the department and that are consistent with the rules adopted by th department.

(21) "Nutrient work group" means an advisory work group, convened by the department representing publicly owned and privately owned point sources of pollution, nonpoint sources o pollution, and other interested parties that will advise the department on nutrient standards the implementation of those standards, and associated economic impacts.

(22) "Other wastes" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings bark, lime, sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment wrecked or discarded equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substance that may pollute state waters.

(23) "Outstanding resource waters" means:

(a) state surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated a national parks or national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995; or

(b) other surface waters or ground waters classified by the department under th provisions of 75-5-316 and approved by the legislature.

(24) "Owner or operator" means a person who owns, leases, operates, controls, or supervise a point source.

(25) "Parameter" means a physical, biological, or chemical property of state water when value of that property affects the quality of the state water.

(26) "Person" means the state, a political subdivision of the state, institution, firm corporation, partnership, individual, or other entity and includes persons resident in Canada.

(27) "Point source" means a discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including bu not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rollin stock, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

(28) (a) "Pollution" means:

(i) contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties o state waters that exceeds that permitted by Montana water quality standards, including bu not limited to standards relating to change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor; or

(ii) the discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow of liquid, gaseous, solid radioactive, or other substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance o render the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, recreation, safety, o welfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) a discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow that is authorized under th pollution discharge permit rules adopted by the department under this chapter;

(ii) activities conducted under this chapter that comply with the conditions imposed by th department in short-term authorizations pursuant to 75-5-308;

(iii) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of a geologic storage reservoir as defined in 82-11-101, by a carbon dioxide injection well in accordance with a permit issue pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11, part 1;

(iv) contamination of ground water within the boundaries of an underground mine usin in situ coal gasification and operating in accordance with a permit issued under 82-4-221;

(c) Contamination referred to in subsections (28)(b)(iii) and (28)(b)(iv) does not require mixing zone.

(29) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings institutions, or other buildings, including discharge from human beings or animals, togethe with ground water infiltration and surface water present.

(30) "Sewage system" means a device for collecting or conducting sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to an ultimate disposal point.

(31) "Standard of performance" means a standard adopted by the department for the contro of the discharge of pollutants that reflects the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievabl

hrough application of the best available demonstrated control technology, processes, operating ethods, or other alternatives, including, when practicable, a standard permitting no discharge f pollutants.

(32) (a) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either urface or underground.

(b) The term does not apply to:

(i) ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants; or

(ii) irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up ithin the irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to tate waters.

(33) "Sufficient credible data" means chemical, physical, or biological monitoring data, lone or in combination with narrative information, that supports a finding as to whether a ater body is achieving compliance with applicable water quality standards.

(34) "Threatened water body" means a water body or stream segment for which sufficient redible data and calculated increases in loads show that the water body or stream segment is lly supporting its designated uses but threatened for a particular designated use because of:

(a) proposed sources that are not subject to pollution prevention or control actions equired by a discharge permit, the nondegradation provisions, or reasonable land, soil, and ater conservation practices; or

(b) documented adverse pollution trends.

(35) "Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual waste oad allocations for point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural ackground sources established at a level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable urface water quality standards.

(36) "Treatment works" means works, including sewage lagoons, installed for treating or olding sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes.

(37) "Waste load allocation" means the portion of a receiving water's loading capacity that s allocated to one of its existing or future point sources.

(38) "Water quality protection practices" means those activities, prohibitions, maintenance rocedures, or other management practices applied to point and nonpoint sources designed to rotect, maintain, and improve the quality of state waters. Water quality protection practices nclude but are not limited to treatment requirements, standards of performance, effluent tandards, and operating procedures and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge r water disposal, or drainage from material storage.

(39) "Water well" means an excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, etted, or otherwise constructed and intended for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, or cquisition of ground water.

(40) "Watershed advisory group" means a group of individuals who wish to participate in an dvisory capacity in revising and reprioritizing the list of water bodies developed under 75-5-702 nd in the development of TMDLs under 75-5-703, including those groups or individuals equested by the department to participate in an advisory capacity as provided in 75-5-704.

History: **En. Sec. 122, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. ec. 59, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 308, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 444, L. 977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4802; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 595, 1993; amd. Sec. 184, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 495, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. Ch. 501, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 524, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 445, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 474, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 267, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 98, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 342, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 2021; amd. ec. 61, Ch. 503, L. 2021.**

ompiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 31(1), Ch. 474, L. 2009, provided that this section is effective on the date that e board of oil and gas conservation is granted primacy to administer activities at carbon dioxide sequestration ells by the United States environmental protection agency.

75-5-104. Special applicability. This chapter applies to drainage or seepage from all ources, including that from artificial, privately owned ponds or lagoons, if such drainage or eepage may reach other state waters in a condition which may pollute the other state waters.

History: **En. Sec. 124, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 21, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4804.**

ross-References

Waters property of state, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

75-5-105. Confidentiality of records. Except as provided in 80-15-108, any informatio concerning sources of pollution that is furnished to the board or department or that is obtaine by either of them is a matter of public record and open to public use. However, any informatio unique to the owner or operator of a source of pollution that would, if disclosed, reveal method or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets must be maintained as confidential if s determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. The owner or operator shall file a declarator judgment action to establish the existence of a trade secret if the owner or operator wishe the information to remain confidential. The department must be served in the action an may intervene as a party. Any information not intended to be public when submitted to th board or department must be submitted in writing and clearly marked as confidential. Th data describing physical and chemical characteristics of a waste discharged to state waters ma not be considered confidential. The board may use any information in compiling or publishin analyses or summaries relating to water pollution if the analyses or summaries do not identif any owner or operator of a source of pollution or reveal any information that is otherwise mad confidential by this section.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4822; amd. Sec. 25 Ch. 668, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2493, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 342, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act, Title 27, ch. 8.
Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.

75-5-106. Interagency cooperation — enforcement authorization. (1) The council the board and the department may require the use of records of all state agencies and may see the assistance of the agencies. When the department's review of a permit application submitte under another chapter or title is required or requested, the department shall coordinate th review under this chapter with the review conducted by the agency or unit under the othe chapter, following the time schedule for that review. State, county, and municipal officers an employees, including sanitarians and other employees of local departments of health, shal cooperate with the council, the board and the department in furthering the purposes of thi chapter, so far as is practicable and consistent with their other duties.

(2) The department may authorize a local water quality district established according t the provisions of Title 7, chapter 13, part 45, to enforce the provisions of this chapter and rule adopted under this chapter on a case-by-case basis. If a local water quality district request the authorization, the local water quality district shall present appropriate documentation t the department that a person is violating permit requirements established by the departmen or may be causing pollution, as defined in 75-5-103, of state waters or placing or causing t be placed wastes in a location where they are likely to cause pollution of state waters. Th department may adopt rules regarding the granting of enforcement authority to local wate quality districts.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 21, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4827; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 357, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-5-107. Venue generally. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, any challeng to an action taken by the department or to a decision issued by the board pursuant to thi chapter must be brought in the district court in the county where the activity that is the subjec of the challenge is proposed to occur. If an activity is proposed to occur or will occur in more tha one county, the challenge may be brought in the district court in any of the counties where th activity is proposed to occur or will occur.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Administrative Agencies

75-5-201. Rules authorized. (1) (a) The department shall, except as provided in 75-5-41 and subject to the provisions of 75-5-203, adopt rules for the administration of this chapter.

(b) The department shall adopt rules that describe the location and the times of the yea when suction dredging is permissible. These rules may be adopted only after consultation wit the local conservation districts in the areas subject to the rule.

(2) The department's rules may include a fee schedule or system for assessment of dministrative penalties as provided under 75-5-611.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(g); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 504, L. 1993; md. Sec. 11, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 327, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 24, L. 2021.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Local boards of health — powers and duties, 50-2-116.

75-5-202. Board hearings. The board shall hold hearings necessary for the proper dministration of this chapter or, in the case of permit issuance hearings, delegate this function the department.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(f).

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested case hearings, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-5-203. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or uidelines. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state w, the department may not adopt a rule to implement 75-5-301, 75-5-302, 75-5-303, or 5-5-310 that is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that ddress the same circumstances. The department may incorporate by reference comparable ederal regulations or guidelines.

(2) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent han comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the department makes a written nding after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

(a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment f the state; and

(b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health r environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference pertinent, ascertainable, and peer-reviewed cientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the department's conclusion. he written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed state standard or equirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a rule that the person believes to be more stringent than mparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the board to review the rule. If he board determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or uidelines, the department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform the federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under ubsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 8 months after receiving the etition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with he challenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed 250.

(b) A person may also petition the board for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the epartment adopts a rule in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and he federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are ess stringent than the previously adopted department rule.

(5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking rovisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-204 through 75-5-210 reserved.

75-5-211. Department to administer chapter. (1) Except as otherwise provided, the epartment is responsible for administration of this chapter.

(2) The department may use its personnel and those of the local departments of health as ecessary to administer this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 125, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 947, 69-4805.

Cross-References

Department of Public Health and Human Services — rules regarding water and sewage requirements fo hotels, 50-51-103.

75-5-212. Department research and information. (1) The department shall:

(a) collect and furnish information relating to the prevention and control of water pollution

(b) conduct or encourage necessary research and demonstrations concerning wate pollution;

(c) encourage and provide for the use of appropriate new methods, materials, and model in evaluation, design, and construction as they relate to water quality.

(2) (a) In the implementation of subsection (1)(a), the department shall, at intervals no to exceed 5 years, compile and when necessary, update department organizational information statutes, rules, permitting information, standards, and bulletins related to water quality. Th first compilation must be complete and made available in hard copy and for electronic access b January 31, 2000.

(b) The department may charge a reasonable fee for purchase of the hard-copy compilation not to exceed the department's costs for copying, assembly, and distribution of the compilation.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(1)(d), (1)(e); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 511 L. 1999.

75-5-213. Comprehensive plan for prevention and control of water pollution The department shall advise, consult, and cooperate with other states, other state an federal agencies, affected groups, political subdivisions, and industries in the formulation of comprehensive plan to prevent and control pollution.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Se 6, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(1)(h).

75-5-214. Pipeline reporting requirements. (1) By January 1, 2016, the departmen of environmental quality shall compile information in accordance with subsection (2) for al pipelines that intersect or cross a navigable river in Montana.

(2) The compilation, at a minimum, should include to the extent the data is available from the federal government or another source:

(a) standard pipeline identification information, as determined by the department;

(b) a pipeline's size;

(c) the commodity transported by the pipeline;

(d) navigable rivers intersected or crossed by the pipeline;

(e) the distance between shutoff valves that isolate the segment of a pipeline that crosse a navigable river from the balance of the pipeline;

(f) the county in which a pipeline crosses a navigable river; and

(g) the depth of coverage when the pipeline was installed.

(3) (a) The department of environmental quality shall make the information collected i accordance with subsection (2) available to the public on the agency's website.

(b) The department of natural resources and conservation shall provide a link on it website to the information provided by the department of environmental quality in accordanc with subsection (3)(a).

(4) For the purposes of this section, "pipeline" means a pipeline greater than or equal to inches in inside diameter that transports oil, gas, or liquid.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 2015.

75-5-215 through 75-5-220 reserved.

75-5-221. Water pollution control advisory council — general. (1) The counci provided for in 2-15-2107 shall select a presiding officer from among its members. The directo of the department of environmental quality shall designate a member of the staff of th department to act as secretary to the council. The secretary shall keep records of all action taken by the council.

(2) Meetings must be held at the call of the presiding officer or on written request of two o more members.

(3) Each member may, by filing with the secretary, designate a deputy or alternate to erform the member's duties.

(4) The council shall act only in an advisory capacity to the department on matters relating water pollution.

(5) The director of the department may designate other persons to participate with council embers in evaluating particular issues arising under this chapter that are brought before the uncil.

History: **En. Sec. 132, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 947, 69-4812; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 185, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

75-5-222. State regulation for natural conditions. (1) The department may not apply standard to a water body for water quality that is more stringent than the nonanthropogenic ondition of the water body. For the parameters for which the applicable standards are more tringent than the nonanthropogenic condition, the standard is the nonanthropogenic condition f the parameter in the water body. The department shall implement the standard in a manner at provides for the water quality standards for downstream waters to be attained and aintained.

(2) (a) For water bodies where the standard is more stringent than the condition of the ater body but subsection (1) is not applicable, the department shall adopt rules consistent with omparable federal rules and guidelines providing criteria and procedures for the department to ssue variances from standards if:

(i) the condition cannot reasonably be expected to be remediated during the permit term r which the application for variance has been received; and

(ii) the discharge to which the variance applies would not materially contribute to the ondition.

(b) A variance issued pursuant to subsection (2)(a) must be reviewed every 5 years and ay be modified or terminated as a result of the review.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Part 3
Classification and Standards

art Cross-References

Energy emergency — power of Governor to suspend pollution control standards, 90-4-310.

75-5-301. Classification and standards for state waters. Consistent with the rovisions of 80-15-201 and this chapter, the department shall:

(1) establish the classification of all state waters in accordance with their present and ture most beneficial uses, creating an appropriate classification for streams that, due to poradic flow, do not support an aquatic ecosystem that includes salmonid or nonsalmonid fish;

(2) formulate and adopt standards of water quality, considering the economics of waste reatment and prevention. When rules are adopted regarding temporary standards, they must onform with the requirements of 75-5-312. Standards must meet the following requirements:

(a) for carcinogens, the water quality standard for protection of human health must be he value associated with an excess lifetime cancer risk level, assuming continuous lifetime xposure, not to exceed 1 x 10^{-3} in the case of arsenic and 1 x 10^{-5} for other carcinogens. However, a standard established at a risk level of 1 x 10^{-3} for arsenic or 1 x 10^{-5} for other carcinogens iolates the maximum contaminant level obtained from 40 CFR, part 141, then the maximum ontaminant level must be adopted as the standard for that carcinogen.

(b) standards for the protection of aquatic life do not apply to ground water.

(3) review, from time to time at intervals of not more than 3 years and, to the extent ermitted by this chapter, revise established classifications of waters and adopted standards of ater quality;

(4) adopt rules governing the granting of mixing zones, requiring that mixing zones ranted by the department be specifically identified and requiring that mixing zones have:

(a) the smallest practicable size;

(b) a minimum practicable effect on water uses; and

(c) definable boundaries;

(5) adopt rules implementing the nondegradation policy established in 75-5-303, including but not limited to rules that:

(a) provide a procedure for department review and authorization of degradation;

(b) establish criteria for the following:

(i) determining important economic or social development; and

(ii) weighing the social and economic importance to the public of allowing the proposed project against the cost to society associated with a loss of water quality;

(c) establish criteria for determining whether a proposed activity or class of activities, in addition to those activities identified in 75-5-317, will result in nonsignificant changes in water quality for any parameter in order that those activities are not required to undergo review under 75-5-303(3). These criteria must be established in a manner that generally:

(i) equates significance with the potential for harm to human health, a beneficial use, or the environment;

(ii) considers both the quantity and the strength of the pollutant;

(iii) considers the length of time the degradation will occur;

(iv) considers the character of the pollutant so that greater significance is associated with carcinogens and toxins that bioaccumulate or biomagnify and lesser significance is associated with substances that are less harmful or less persistent.

(d) provide that changes of nitrate as nitrogen in ground water are nonsignificant if the discharge will not cause degradation of surface water and the predicted concentration of nitrate as nitrogen at the boundary of the ground water mixing zone does not exceed:

(i) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sources other than sewage;

(ii) 5.0 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system that does not use level two treatment in an area where the ground water nitrate as nitrogen is 5.0 milligrams per liter or less;

(iii) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system using level two treatment, which must be defined in the rules; or

(iv) 7.5 milligrams per liter from sewage discharged from a system in areas where the ground water nitrate as nitrogen level exceeds 5.0 milligrams per liter primarily from sources other than human waste; and

(e) for septic system discharges that are not subject to ground water permitting requirements under 75-5-401, establish criteria to determine when the discharges result in nonsignificant changes in surface water quality in order that those discharges are not required to undergo review under 75-5-303(3) and no further analysis under law or rule is required. The criteria must:

(i) be adopted by rule before July 1, 2024; and

(ii) be developed in a manner that generally considers soil type, mixing zone dilution and nitrogen credits, horizontal distance between the discharge and the surface water in the direction of ground water flow, and elevation, including:

(A) adopt surface water impacts for low flow conditions based on mixing zone dilution concentrations and other credits for nitrogen;

(B) credit nitrogen degradation at the drainfield and riparian zone attenuation based on soil type;

(C) exempt surface water body impacts when drainfield is lower in elevation than the waterbody;

(D) limit the adjacent to surface water trigger analysis to a maximum of 1/4 or 1/2 mile from the drainfield to a surface water, depending on soil type; and

(E) create nonsignificant surface water impact categories of 500 or more feet from the surface water that consider soil texture, ground water depths and other pertinent information.

(6) to the extent practicable, ensure that the rules adopted under subsection (5) establish objective and quantifiable criteria for various parameters. These criteria must, to the extent practicable, constitute guidelines for granting or denying applications for authorization to degrade high-quality waters under the policy established in 75-5-303(2) and (3).

(7) adopt rules to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(part); amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 668, L. 1989 amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 595, L. 1993; (7)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 595, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 501

. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 539, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 195, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

ompiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 752, L. 2023. Amendment effective lay 22, 2023.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-5-302. Revising classifications in accordance with existing, present, and uture most beneficial uses of water bodies. When the department is presented with facts ndicating that a body of water is not properly classified in accordance with its existing, present, nd future most beneficial uses, the department shall, within 90 days, evaluate the facts. If the epartment determines that the water body is not properly classified, the department shall itiate rulemaking to properly classify the water body in accordance with its existing, present, nd future most beneficial uses. Action pursuant to this section is subject to 75-5-307.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. , Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(c)(i); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 497, L. 1995; md. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 131, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-303. Nondegradation policy. (1) Existing uses of state waters and the level of water uality necessary to protect those uses must be maintained and protected.

(2) Unless authorized by the department under subsection (3) or exempted from review nder 75-5-317, the quality of high-quality waters must be maintained.

(3) The department may not authorize degradation of high-quality waters unless it has een affirmatively demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence to the department that:

(a) degradation is necessary because there are no economically, environmentally, and echnologically feasible modifications to the proposed project that would result in no degradation;

(b) the proposed project will result in important economic or social development and that he benefit of the development exceeds the costs to society of allowing degradation of high-quality aters;

(c) existing and anticipated use of state waters will be fully protected; and

(d) the least degrading water quality protection practices determined by the department o be economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible will be fully implemented by he applicant prior to and during the proposed activity.

(4) The department shall issue a preliminary decision either denying or authorizing egradation and shall provide public notice and a 30-day comment period prior to issuing a final ecision. The department's preliminary and final decisions must include:

(a) a statement of the basis for the decision; and

(b) a detailed description of all conditions applied to any authorization to degrade state aters, including, when applicable, monitoring requirements, required water protection ractices, reporting requirements, effluent limits, designation of the mixing zones, the limits f degradation authorized, and methods of determining compliance with the authorization for egradation.

(5) An interested person wishing to challenge a final department decision may request a earing before the board within 30 days of the final department decision. The contested case rocedures of Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under this section.

(6) Periodically, but not more often than every 5 years, the department may review uthorizations to degrade state waters. Following the review, the department may, after timely otice and opportunity for hearing, modify the authorization if the department determines that n economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible modification to the development xists. The decision by the department to modify an authorization may be appealed to the board.

(7) The department may not issue an authorization to degrade state waters that are lassified as outstanding resource waters.

(8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. , Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(c)(ii), (1)(c)(iii); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 595, . 1993; (7)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 595, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 495, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 501, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

ross-References

Outstanding resource water classification, 75-5-316.

Nonsignificant activities, 75-5-317.

Action for damage to water supply caused by metal mining operation, 82-4-355.

75-5-304. Adoption of standards — pretreatment, effluent, performance. (1) Th department shall:

(a) adopt pretreatment standards for wastewater discharged into a municipal disposa system;

(b) adopt effluent standards as defined in 75-5-103;

(c) adopt toxic effluent standards and prohibitions;

(d) establish standards of performance for new point source discharges; and

(e) adopt rules necessary to ensure the primacy of the department to regulate coolin water intake structures under 33 U.S.C. 1326(b).

(2) In taking action under subsection (1), the department shall ensure that the standard are cost-effective and economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec 5, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(h); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-305. Adoption of requirements for treatment of wastes — varianc procedure — appeals. (1) The department may establish minimum requirements for th treatment of wastes. For cases in which the federal government has adopted technology-base treatment requirements for a particular industry or activity in 40 CFR, chapter I, subchapte N, the department shall adopt those requirements by reference. To the extent that the federa government has not adopted minimum treatment requirements for a particular industry o activity, the department may do so, through rulemaking, for parameters likely to affect beneficia uses, ensuring that the requirements are cost-effective and economically, environmentally and technologically feasible. Except for the technology-based treatment requirements set fort in 40 CFR, chapter I, subchapter N, minimum treatment may not be required to address th discharge of a parameter when the discharge is considered nonsignificant under rules adopte pursuant to 75-5-301.

(2) (a) The department shall establish minimum requirements for the control and disposa of sewage from private and public buildings, including standards and procedures for variance from the requirements.

(b) For gray water reuse systems, the department shall establish rules that:

(i) allow the diversion of gray water from wastewater treatment systems and limit th amount of gray water flow allowed by permit;

(ii) address the uses of gray water, including when and how gray water may be applied t land; and

(iii) include any other provisions that the department considers necessary to ensure tha gray water reuse systems comply with laws and regulations and protect public health and th environment.

(3) An applicant for a variance from minimum requirements adopted by a local boar of health pursuant to 50-2-116 may appeal the local board of health's final decision to th department by submitting a written request for a hearing within 30 days after the decision. Th written request must describe the activity for which the variance is requested, include copies o all documents submitted to the local board of health in support of the variance, and specify th reasons for the appeal of the local board of health's final decision.

(4) The department shall conduct a hearing on the request pursuant to Title 2, chapte 4, part 6. Within 30 days after the hearing, the department shall grant, conditionally grant, o deny the variance. The department shall base its decision on the department's standards for variance.

(5) A decision of the department pursuant to subsection (4) is appealable to district cour under the provisions of Title 2, chapter 4, part 7.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec 5, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(2)(b); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 479, L. 1991 amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 312, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73 L. 2009; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Compiler's Comments

Direction to Department of Environmental Quality: Section 1, Ch. 518, L. 2023, provided: "The department o environmental quality, under its authority to promulgate rules pursuant to 75-5-305 and 76-4-104, shall amend th technical standards found in DEQ4 and all necessary administrative rules to allow for a new subsurface wastewate treatment system in an area that has been cut or filled.

(2) The amendments to DEQ4 and all necessary administrative rules required in subsection (1) must provide hat soil testing conditions and 4 feet of natural soil separation to a limiting layer are required. Cut or fill may not e used to provide the required vertical or horizontal separation under rule or circular." Effective May 18, 2023.

75-5-306. Purer than natural unnecessary — dams — definition. (1) It is not necessary that wastes be treated to a purer condition than the natural condition of the receiving tream as long as the minimum treatment requirements established under this chapter are met.

(2) "Natural" refers to conditions or material present from runoff or percolation over which humans have no control or from developed land where all reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices have been applied. Conditions resulting from the reasonable operation of dams on July 1, 1971, are natural.

History: **En. Sec. 121, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 947, 69-4801(2); amd. Sec. 2494, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

75-5-307. Hearings required for classification, formulation of standards, and rulemaking. (1) Before streams are classified or standards established or modified or rules made, revoked, or modified, the department shall hold a public hearing. Notice of the hearing specifying the waters concerned and the classification, standards, or modification of them and any rules proposed to be made, revoked, or modified must be published at least once a week for 3 consecutive weeks in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected. Notice must be mailed directly to persons the department believes may be affected by the proposed action. The council must be given not less than 30 days prior to first publication to comment on the proposed action.

(2) At a hearing held under this section, the department shall give all interested persons reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing. The department may make rules for the orderly conduct of the hearing but need not require compliance with the rules of evidence or procedure applicable to hearings held under 75-5-611.

History: **En. Sec. 134, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 21, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4814; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — rulemaking, 2-4-302.

75-5-308. Short-term water authorizations — water quality standards. (1) Because these activities promote the public interest, the department may, if necessary, authorize short-term exemptions from the water quality standards for the following activities:

(a) emergency remediation activities that have been approved, authorized, or required by the department; and

(b) application of a pesticide that is registered by the United States environmental protection agency pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136(a) when it is used to control nuisance aquatic organisms or to eliminate undesirable and nonnative aquatic species.

(2) An authorization must include conditions that minimize, to the extent practicable, the magnitude of any change in the concentration of the parameters affected by the activity and the length of time during which any change may occur. The authorization must also include conditions that prevent significant risk to public health and that ensure that existing and designated uses of state water are protected and maintained upon completion of the activity. Authorizations issued under this section may include conditions that require water quality or quantity monitoring and reporting. In the performance of its responsibilities under this section, the department may negotiate operating agreements with other departments of state government that are intended to minimize duplication in review of activities eligible for authorizations under this section.

(3) An authorization to use a pesticide does not relieve a person from the duty to comply with Title 80, chapters 8 and 15. The department may not authorize an exemption from water quality standards for an activity that requires a discharge permit under rules adopted pursuant to 75-5-401.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 588, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-5-309. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 1995.**

75-5-310. Site-specific standards of water quality for aquatic life. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter and except as provided in subsection (2), the department upon application by a permit applicant, permittee, or person potentially liable under any state or federal environmental remediation statute, shall adopt site-specific standards of water quality for aquatic life, both acute and chronic, as the standards of water quality required under 75-5-301(2) and (3). The site-specific standards of water quality must be developed in accordance with the procedures set forth in draft or final federal regulations, guidelines, or criteria.

(2) If the department, based upon its review of an application submitted under subsection (1) and sound scientific, technical, and available site-specific evidence, determines that the development of site-specific criteria in accordance with draft or final federal regulations guidelines, or criteria would not be protective of beneficial uses, the department, within 90 days of the submission of an application under subsection (1), shall notify the applicant in writing of its determination and of all additional procedures that the applicant is required to comply with in the development of site-specific standards of water quality under this section. If there is a dispute between the department and the applicant as to the additional procedures, the board shall, on the request of the department or the applicant, hear and determine the dispute The board's decision must be based on sound scientific, technical, and available site-specific evidence.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-311. Local water quality districts — department approval — local water quality programs. (1) A county that establishes a local water quality district according to the procedures specified in Title 7, chapter 13, part 45, shall, in consultation with the department undertake planning and information-gathering activities necessary to develop a proposed local water quality program.

(2) A county may implement a local water quality program in a local water quality district if the program is approved by the department after a hearing conducted under 75-5-202.

(3) In approving a local water quality program, the department shall determine that the program is consistent with the purposes and requirements of Title 75, chapter 5, and that the program will be effective in protecting, preserving, and improving the quality of surface water and ground water, considering the administrative organization, staff, and financial and other resources available to implement the program.

(4) Subject to department approval, the commissioners and the governing bodies of cities and towns that participate in a local water quality district may adopt local ordinances to regulate the following specific facilities and sources of pollution:

(a) onsite wastewater disposal facilities;

(b) storm water runoff from paved surfaces;

(c) service connections between buildings and publicly owned sewer mains;

(d) facilities that use or store halogenated and nonhalogenated solvents, including hazardous substances that are referenced in 40 CFR 261.31, United States environmental protection agency hazardous waste numbers F001 through F005, as amended; and

(e) internal combustion engine lubricants.

(5) (a) For the facilities and sources of pollution included in subsection (4) and consistent with the provisions of subsection (6), the local ordinances may:

(i) be compatible with or more stringent or more extensive than the requirements imposed by 75-5-304, 75-5-305, and 75-5-401 through 75-5-404 and rules adopted under those sections to protect water quality, establish waste discharge permit requirements, and establish best management practices for substances that have the potential to pollute state waters;

(ii) provide for administrative procedures, administrative orders and actions, and civil enforcement actions that are consistent with 75-5-601 through 75-5-604, 75-5-611 through 75-5-616, 75-5-621, and 75-5-622 and rules adopted under those sections; and

(iii) provide for civil penalties not to exceed $1,000 per violation, provided that each day of violation of a local ordinance constitutes a separate violation, and criminal penalties not to exceed $500 per day of violation or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

(b) Department approval of an ordinance or local law that is more stringent than the comparable state law is subject to the provisions of 75-5-203.

(6) The local ordinances authorized by this section may not:

(a) duplicate the department's requirements and procedures relating to permitting of aste discharge sources and enforcement of water quality standards;

(b) regulate any facility or source of pollution to the extent that the facility or source is:

(i) required to obtain a permit or other approval from the department or federal overnment or is the subject of an administrative order, a consent decree, or an enforcement ction pursuant to Title 75, chapter 5, part 4; Title 75, chapter 6; Title 75, chapter 10; the ederal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 .S.C. 9601 through 9675, as amended; or federal environmental, safety, or health statutes and egulations;

(ii) exempted from obtaining a permit or other approval from the department because the acility or source is required to obtain a permit or other approval from another state agency or is he subject of an enforcement action by another state agency; or

(iii) subject to the provisions of Title 80, chapter 8 or chapter 15.

(7) If the boundaries of a district are changed after the department has approved the local ater quality program for the district, the board of directors of the local water quality district hall submit a program amendment to the department and obtain department approval of the rogram amendment before implementing the local water quality program in areas that have een added to the district.

(8) The department shall monitor the implementation of local water quality programs to nsure that the programs are adequate to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of the urface water and ground water and are being administered in a manner consistent with the urposes and requirements of Title 75, chapter 5.

(9) If the department determines that a local water quality program is inadequate to rotect, preserve, and improve the quality of the surface water and ground water in the local ater quality district or that the program is being administered in a manner inconsistent with itle 75, chapter 5, the department shall give notice and conduct a hearing on the matter.

(10) If after the hearing the department determines that the program is inadequate to rotect, preserve, and improve the quality of the surface water and ground water in the local ater quality district or that it is not being administered in a manner consistent with the urposes of Title 75, chapter 5, the department shall require that necessary corrective measures e taken within a reasonable time, not to exceed 60 days.

(11) If an ordinance adopted under this section conflicts with a requirement imposed by he department's water quality program, the department's requirement supersedes the local rdinance.

(12) If the department finds that, because of the complexity or magnitude of a particular ater pollution source, the control of the source is beyond the reasonable capability of a local ater quality district or may be more efficiently and economically performed at the state level, he department may assume and retain control over the source. A charge may not be assessed gainst the local water quality district for that source. Findings made under this subsection ay be based on the nature of the source involved or on the source's relationship to the size of he community in which it is located.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 357, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

ross-References

Pesticides, Title 80, ch. 8.

Montana Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection Act, Title 80, ch. 15.

75-5-312. Temporary water quality standards. (1) The department may, on its own ccord or upon a petition for rulemaking, as provided in 2-4-315, by a person, including a ermit applicant or permittee, temporarily modify a water quality standard for a specific water ody or segment on a parameter-by-parameter basis in those instances in which substantive nformation indicates that the water body or segment is not supporting its designated uses. When the department adopts temporary standards, the goal is to improve water quality to the oint at which all the beneficial uses designated for that water body or segment are supported.

(2) As a condition for establishing temporary water quality standards for a particular water body or segment, the department or the petitioner, as applicable, shall prepare a support ocument and a preliminary implementation plan for use by the department in determining

whether to adopt the proposed temporary water quality standards. A person shall submit support document and a preliminary implementation plan to the department for its review a least 60 days prior to filing a petition with the department requesting the adoption of temporar water quality standards.

(3) The support document prepared by the department or the petitioner, as applicable must describe:

(a) the chemical, biological, and physical condition of the water body or segment;

(b) the specific water quality limiting factors affecting the water body or segment;

(c) the existing water quality standards that are not being achieved;

(d) the temporary modifications to the existing water quality standards being requested;

(e) existing beneficial uses; and

(f) the designated uses considered attainable in the absence of the water quality limiting factors.

(4) The preliminary implementation plan prepared by the department or the petitioner as applicable, must contain:

(a) a description of the proposed actions that will eliminate the water quality limiting factors identified in subsection (3)(b) to the extent considered achievable; and

(b) a schedule for implementing the proposed actions that ensures that the existing wate quality standards for the parameter or parameters at issue are met as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) Within 30 days after the department's adoption of temporary water quality standards the department or the petitioner, as applicable, shall:

(a) modify the preliminary implementation plan and schedule to reflect the requirements and timeframe adopted by the department for the temporary standards; and

(b) develop a detailed work plan describing the implementation activities that will be conducted during the first field season of the temporary standards. The work plan must be approved by the director of the department.

(6) By March 1 of each year that the temporary water quality standards are in effect, the department or the petitioner, as applicable, shall submit a detailed work plan describing the implementation activities that will be conducted during that season. The annual work plans must be approved by the director of the department. The department shall maintain copies o the implementation plan, schedule, and annual work plans and any modifications to those plans and schedule.

(7) Upon the department's adoption of a temporary water quality standard, the department shall ensure that reasonable conditions and limitations designed to achieve compliance with the implementation plan are established in appropriate discharge permits.

(8) (a) A temporary modification of a water quality standard may not result in adverse impacts to existing beneficial uses or be established for a total period longer than 20 years.

(b) During the period of the temporary modification, the department may not allow a discharge that will cause overall water quality to become worse than the overall quality of the water body or segment prior to the discharge.

(9) If a state water is designated as having temporary standards, the department shal report at least every 3 years regarding whether adequate efforts have been made to implement the plans submitted as the basis for the temporary standards.

(10) The department shall review the temporary standards and implementation plan at least every 3 years at a public hearing for which notice and an opportunity for comment have been provided. During this review, the department shall consider the progress made in restoring water quality to a level that achieves the goal of the temporary water quality standards. The department may terminate or modify the temporary standards based on information submitted at the time of review.

(11) The department shall terminate a temporary standard for a parameter if:

(a) values for the modified parameter or parameters improve to conditions that support all designated uses for that classification;

(b) the state water for which the temporary standard is adopted is reclassified as provided for in 75-5-302; or

(c) the plan submitted in support of the temporary water quality standard is not being nplemented according to the plan's schedule or modifications to that plan or schedule made by the department.

(12) The department may modify the implementation plan if there is convincing evidence that the plan needs modification.

(13) If a temporary standard for a parameter in a particular state water is terminated ecause the plan submitted in support of the temporary water quality standard is not being nplemented according to the plan's schedule or modifications to that schedule made by the epartment, a person may request a new temporary standard by submitting both a petition or rulemaking and an implementation plan that meet the requirements of subsection (4). However, the department may not adopt another temporary standard for the parameter in the tate water that would cumulatively be in effect for a total period longer than 20 years for the parameter in the state water.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 539, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-5-313. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 342, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 267, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 267, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 122, L. 2015.**

75-5-314. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 342, L. 2021.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 267, L. 2011.**

75-5-315. Outstanding resource waters — statement of purpose. (1) The legislature, understanding the requirements of applicable federal law and the uniqueness of Montana's water resource, recognizes that certain state waters are of such environmental, ecological, or economic value that the state should, upon a showing of necessity, prohibit, to the greatest extent practicable, changes to the existing water quality of those waters. Outstanding resource waters must be afforded the greatest protection feasible under state law, after thorough examination.

(2) The purpose of 75-5-316 and this section is to provide this protection, when necessary, and to provide guidance to the department in establishing rules to accomplish that level of protection.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 501, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-5-316. Outstanding resource water classification — rules — criteria — limitations — procedure — definition. (1) As provided under the provisions of 75-5-301 and this section, the department may adopt rules regarding the classification of waters as outstanding resource waters.

(2) The department may not:

(a) grant an authorization to degrade under 75-5-303 in outstanding resource waters; or

(b) allow a new or increased point source discharge that would result in a permanent change in the water quality of an outstanding resource water.

(3) (a) A person may petition the department for rulemaking to classify state waters as outstanding resource waters. The department shall initially review a petition against the criteria identified in subsection (3)(c) to determine whether the petition contains sufficient credible information for the department to accept the petition.

(b) The department may reject a petition without further review if it determines that the petition does not contain the sufficient credible information required by subsection (3)(a). If the department rejects a petition under this subsection (3)(b), it shall specify in writing the reasons for the rejection and the petition's deficiencies.

(c) The department may not adopt a rule classifying state waters as outstanding resource waters until it accepts a petition and makes a written finding containing the provisions enumerated in subsection (3)(d) that, based on a preponderance of the evidence:

(i) the waters identified in the petition constitute an outstanding resource based on the criteria provided in subsection (4);

(ii) the increased protection under the classification is necessary to protect the outstanding resource identified under subsection (3)(a) because of a finding that the outstanding resource is at risk of having one or more of the criteria provided in subsection (4) compromised as a result of pollution; and

(iii) classification as an outstanding resource water is necessary because of a finding that there is no other effective process available that will achieve the necessary protection.

(d) The written finding provided for in subsection (3)(c) must:

(i) identify the criteria provided in subsection (4) that serve as justification for th determination that the water is an outstanding resource;

(ii) specifically identify the criteria that are at risk and explain why those criteria are a risk; and

(iii) specifically explain why other available processes, including the requirements o 75-5-303, will not achieve the necessary protection.

(4) The department shall consider the following criteria in determining whether certai state waters are outstanding resource waters. However, the department may determine tha compliance with one or more of these criteria is insufficient to warrant classification of the wate as an outstanding resource water. The department shall consider:

(a) whether the waters have been designated as wild and scenic;

(b) the presence of endangered or threatened species in the waters;

(c) the presence of an outstanding recreational fishery in the waters;

(d) whether the waters provide the only source of suitable water for a municipality o industry;

(e) whether the waters provide the only source of suitable water for domestic water supply and

(f) other factors that indicate outstanding environmental or economic values no specifically mentioned in this subsection (4).

(5) Before accepting a petition, the department shall:

(a) publish a notice and brief description of the petition in a daily newspaper of genera circulation in the area affected and make copies of the proposal available to the public. The cos of publication must be paid by the petitioner.

(b) provide for a 30-day written public comment period regarding whether the petitio contains sufficient credible information, as provided in subsection (3)(b), prior to the hearin required in subsection (5)(c);

(c) hold a public hearing regarding the petition and its contents and allow further writte and oral testimony at the hearing;

(d) issue a proposed decision, including:

(i) the written finding provided for in subsection (3)(c); and

(ii) the department's acceptance or rejection of the petition;

(e) provide for a 30-day public comment period regarding the department's propose decision; and

(f) issue a final decision on acceptance or rejection of the petition, which must include response to comments received by the department, and make copies of this decision available t the public.

(6) (a) After acceptance of a petition, the department shall prepare an environmenta impact statement, as provided under Title 75, chapter 1, part 2, and this section.

(b) (i) The petitioner is responsible for all of the costs associated with gathering an compiling data and information, and completing the environmental impact statement.

(ii) Before the department may initiate work on the environmental impact statement, th petitioner shall pay the estimated cost of completing the environmental impact statement, a determined by the department.

(iii) Upon completion of the environmental impact statement, the petitioner shall pa the department any costs that exceeded the estimated cost. If the cost of the environmenta impact statement was less than the estimated cost paid by the petitioner, the department shal reimburse the difference to the petitioner.

(iv) The department may not grant or deny a petition until full payment for the environmental impact statement is received.

(7) The department shall consult with other relevant state agencies and county governments when reviewing outstanding resource water classification petitions.

(8) (a) After completion of an environmental impact statement and consultation with state agencies and local governments, the department may deny an accepted outstanding resource water classification petition if it finds that:

(i) the requirements of subsection (3)(c) have not been met; or

(ii) based on information available to the department from the environmental impact statement or otherwise, approving the outstanding resource waters classification petition would cause significant adverse environmental, social, or economic impacts.

(b) If the department denies the petition, it shall identify its reasons for petition denial.

(c) If the department grants the petition, the department shall initiate rulemaking to classify the waters as outstanding resource waters.

(9) A rule classifying state waters as outstanding resource waters under this section may be adopted but is not effective until approved by the legislature.

(10) The department may not postpone or deny an application for an authorization to degrade state waters under 75-5-303 based on pending:

(a) department action on an outstanding resource water classification petition regarding those waters; or

(b) legislative approval of department action designating those waters as outstanding resource waters.

(11) As used in this section, "petitioner" means an individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, or other private or public entity that petitions the department to adopt rules to classify waters as outstanding resource waters.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 501, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 588, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 208, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Nondegradation policy, 75-5-303.

75-5-317. Nonsignificant activities. (1) The categories or classes of activities identified in subsection (2) cause changes in water quality that are nonsignificant because of their low potential for harm to human health or the environment and their conformance with the guidance found in 75-5-301(5)(c).

(2) The following categories or classes of activities are not subject to the provisions of 75-5-303:

(a) existing activities that are nonpoint sources of pollution as of April 29, 1993;

(b) activities that are nonpoint sources of pollution initiated after April 29, 1993, when reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices are applied and existing and anticipated beneficial uses will be fully protected;

(c) use of agricultural chemicals in accordance with a specific agricultural chemical ground water management plan promulgated under 80-15-212, if applicable, or in accordance with an environmental protection agency-approved label and when existing and anticipated uses will be fully protected;

(d) changes in existing water quality resulting from an emergency or remedial activity that is designed to protect public health or the environment and is approved, authorized, or required by the department;

(e) changes in existing ground water quality resulting from treatment of a public water supply system, as defined in 75-6-102, or a public sewage system, as defined in 75-6-102, by chlorination or other similar means that is designed to protect the public health or the environment and that is approved, authorized, or required by the department;

(f) the use of drilling fluids, sealants, additives, disinfectants, and rehabilitation chemicals in water well or monitoring well drilling, development, or abandonment, if used according to department-approved water quality protection practices and if no discharge to surface water will occur;

(g) short-term changes in existing water quality resulting from activities authorized by the department pursuant to 75-5-308;

(h) land application of animal waste, domestic septage, or waste from public sewage treatment systems containing nutrients when the wastes are applied to the land in a beneficial manner, application rates are based on agronomic uptake of applied nutrients, and other parameters will not cause degradation;

(i) use of gray water, as defined in 75-5-325, from nonpublic gray water reuse systems for irrigation during the growing season in accordance with gray water reuse rules adopted pursuant to 75-5-305;

(j) incidental leakage of water from a public water supply system, as defined in 75-6-102 or from a public sewage system, as defined in 75-6-102, utilizing best practicable contro technology designed and constructed in accordance with Title 75, chapter 6;

(k) discharges of water to ground water from water well or monitoring well tests hydrostatic pressure and leakage tests, or wastewater from the disinfection or flushing of water mains and storage reservoirs, conducted in accordance with department-approved water quality protection practices;

(l) oil and gas drilling, production, abandonment, plugging, and restoration activities that do not result in discharges to surface water and that are performed in accordance with Title 82, chapter 10, or Title 82, chapter 11;

(m) short-term changes in existing water quality resulting from ordinary and everyday activities of humans or domesticated animals, including but not limited to:

(i) such recreational activities as boating, hiking, hunting, fishing, wading, swimming, and camping;

(ii) fording of streams or other bodies of water by vehicular or other means; and

(iii) drinking from or fording of streams or other bodies of water by livestock and other domesticated animals;

(n) coal and uranium prospecting that does not result in a discharge to surface water, that does not involve a test pit located in surface water or that may affect surface water, and that is performed in accordance with Title 82, chapter 4;

(o) solid waste management systems, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, and county motor vehicle graveyards licensed and operating in accordance with Title 75, chapter 10, part 2, or Title 75, chapter 10, part 5;

(p) hazardous waste management facilities permitted and operated in accordance with Title 75, chapter 10, part 4;

(q) metallic and nonmetallic mineral exploration that does not result in a discharge to surface water and that is permitted under and performed in accordance with Title 82, chapter 4, parts 3 and 4;

(r) stream-related construction projects or stream enhancement projects that result in temporary changes to water quality but do not result in long-term detrimental effects and that have been authorized pursuant to 75-5-318;

(s) diversions or withdrawals of water established and recognized under Title 85, chapter 2;

(t) the maintenance, repair, or replacement of dams, diversions, weirs, or other constructed works that are related to existing water rights and that are within wilderness areas so long as existing and anticipated beneficial uses are protected and as long as the changes in existing water quality relative to the project are short term;

(u) discharges of total phosphorus or total nitrogen that do not:

(i) create conditions that are toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant, and aquatic life;

(ii) create conditions that produce undesirable aquatic life; or

(iii) cause measurable changes in aquatic life; and

(v) any other activity that is nonsignficant because of its low potential for harm to human health or to the environment and its conformance with the guidance found in 75-5-301(5)(c).

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 501, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 588, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 342, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Nondegradation policy, 75-5-303.

75-5-318. Short-term water quality standards for turbidity. (1) Upon authorization by the department or the department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to subsection (4), the short-term water quality standards for total suspended sediment and turbidity resulting from stream-related construction activities or stream enhancement projects are the narrative standards for total suspended sediment adopted by the department under 75-5-301. If a short-term narrative standard is authorized under this section, the numeric standard for turbidity adopted by the department under 75-5-301 does not apply to the affected water body during the term of the narrative standard.

(2) The department shall review each application for short-term standards on a ase-by-case basis to determine whether there are reasonable alternatives that preclude the leed for a narrative standard. If the department determines that the numeric standard for urbidity adopted under 75-5-301 cannot be achieved during the term of the activity and that here are no reasonable alternatives to achieve the numeric standard, the department may uthorize the use of a narrative standard for a specified term.

(3) Each authorization issued by the department must include conditions that minimize, o the extent practicable, the magnitude of any change in water quality and the length of time luring which any change may occur. The authorization must also include site-specific conditions hat ensure that the activity is not harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health and he uses of state waters and that ensure that existing and designated beneficial uses of state vater are protected and maintained upon completion of the activity. The department may not uthorize short-term narrative standards for activities requiring a discharge permit under rules idopted pursuant to 75-5-401. Authorizations issued under this section may include conditions hat require water quality or quantity monitoring and reporting.

(4) In the performance of its responsibilities under this section, the department may legotiate operating agreements with other departments of state government that are intended o minimize duplication in review of activities eligible for authorizations under this section. The department of fish, wildlife, and parks may, in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and 3), authorize short-term water quality standards for total suspended sediment and turbidity or any stream construction project that it reviews under Title 75, chapter 7, part 1, or Title 87, hapter 5, part 5.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 588, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-5-319. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 342, L. 2021.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 2015.**

75-5-320. Temporary water quality standards variances. (1) Except as provided n 75-5-222(2), the department may adopt rules providing criteria and procedures for the lepartment to issue a temporary variance to water quality standards if:

(a) a variance will not result in a lowering of currently attained, ambient water quality;

(b) the department rules are consistent, as necessary, with federal rules that authorize tates to adopt variances from standards, including but not limited to 40 CFR 131.14; and

(c) (i) a permittee cannot reasonably expect to meet a water quality standard during the ermit term for which the variance is approved; and

(ii) a permit compliance schedule is not feasible to preclude the need for a variance during he permit term for which the variance is approved.

(2) In order to receive a temporary variance, a permittee shall evaluate facility operations nd infrastructure to maximize pollutant reduction through an optimization study. The variance nust require the implementation of optimization study actions as terms and conditions of the lischarge permit.

(3) The department shall review a temporary variance issued pursuant to this section at east once every 5 years and may continue, modify, or terminate the temporary variance as a esult of the review.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 342, L. 2021.**

75-5-321. Transition for nutrient standards. (1) By March 1, 2022, the department of environmental quality shall adopt rules related to narrative nutrient standards in consultation with the nutrient work group.

(2) The rules shall provide for the development of an adaptive management program that provides for an incremental watershed approach for protecting and maintaining water quality and that:

(a) reasonably balances all factors impacting a water body;

(b) prioritizes the minimization of phosphorus, taking into account site-specific conditions; and

(c) identifies the appropriate response variables affected by nutrients and associated mpact thresholds in accordance with the beneficial uses of the water body.

(3) In developing the rules in subsection (2), the department shall consider options pertaining to whether the point source is new or existing and whether the receiving water body is considered impaired or unimpaired.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2021.**

75-5-322 through 75-5-324 reserved.

75-5-325. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Gray water" means wastewater that is collected separately from a sewage flow and that does not contain industrial chemicals, hazardous wastes, or wastewater from toilets.

(2) "Gray water reuse system" means a plumbing system that collects gray water.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 2009.**

75-5-326. Gray water reuse — restrictions. (1) Gray water may not be used to irrigate plants to be consumed by humans.

(2) Gray water reuse systems may not be located within a flood plain, as defined in 76-5-103.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 2007.**

75-5-327. Local gray water regulations. The requirements of 75-5-305 and 75-5-326 are minimum requirements and do not restrict a local governing body from adopting stricter or additional regulations for gray water reuse systems.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 312, L. 2007.**

Part 4
Permits

75-5-401. *(Temporary)* **Rules for permits — ground water exclusions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the department shall adopt rules:

(a) governing application for permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state waters, including rules requiring the filing of plans and specifications relating to the construction, modification, or operation of disposal systems;

(b) governing the issuance, denial, modification, or revocation of permits. The department may not require a permit for a water conveyance structure or for a natural spring if the water discharged to state waters does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes. Discharge to surface water of ground water that is not altered from its ambient quality does not constitute a discharge requiring a permit under this part if:

(i) the discharge does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes;

(ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards for any parameters; and

(iii) to the extent that the receiving waters in their ambient state exceed standards for any parameters, the discharge does not increase the concentration of the parameters.

(c) governing authorization to discharge under a general permit for storm water associated with construction activity. These rules must allow an owner or operator to notify the department of the intent to be covered under the general permit. This notice of intent must include a signed pollution prevention plan that requires the applicant to implement best management practices in accordance with the general permit. The rules must authorize the owner or operator to discharge under the general permit on receipt of the notice and plan by the department.

(2) The rules must allow the issuance or continuance of a permit only if the department finds that operation consistent with the limitations of the permit will not result in pollution of any state waters, except that the rules may allow the issuance of a temporary permit under which pollution may result if the department ensures that the permit contains a compliance schedule designed to meet all applicable effluent standards and water quality standards in the shortest reasonable period of time.

(3) The rules must provide that the department may revoke a permit if the department finds that the holder of the permit has violated its terms, unless the department also finds that the violation was accidental and unforeseeable and that the holder of the permit corrected the condition resulting in the violation as soon as was reasonably possible.

(4) The department may adopt rules governing reclamation of sites disturbed by onstruction, modification, or operation of permitted activities for which a bond is voluntarily led by a permittee pursuant to 75-5-405, including rules for the establishment of criteria and rocedures governing release of the bond or other surety and release of portions of a bond or ther surety.

(5) Discharges of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters from ne following activities or operations are not subject to the ground water permit requirements dopted under subsections (1) through (4):

(a) discharges or activities at wells injecting fluids associated with oil and gas exploration nd production regulated under the federal underground injection control program;

(b) disposal by solid waste management systems licensed pursuant to 75-10-221;

(c) individuals disposing of their own normal household wastes on their own property;

(d) hazardous waste management facilities permitted pursuant to 75-10-406;

(e) water injection wells, reserve pits, and produced water pits used in oil and gas field perations and approved pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11;

(f) agricultural irrigation facilities;

(g) storm water disposal or storm water detention facilities;

(h) subsurface disposal systems for sanitary wastes serving individual residences;

(i) in situ mining of uranium facilities controlled under Title 82, chapter 4, part 2;

(j) mining operations subject to operating permits or exploration licenses in compliance ith The Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, or the metal ine reclamation laws, Title 82, chapter 4, part 3; or

(k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 5, chapter 20.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of 75-5-301(4), mixing zones for activities excluded om permit requirements under subsection (5) of this section must be established by the ermitting agency for those activities in accordance with 75-5-301(4)(a) through (4)(c).

(7) Notwithstanding the exclusions set forth in subsection (5), any excluded source that he department determines may be causing or is likely to cause violations of ground water uality standards may be required to submit monitoring information pursuant to 75-5-602.

(8) The department may adopt rules identifying other activities or operations from which discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters is not subject the ground water permit requirements adopted under subsections (1) through (4).

(9) The department may adopt rules authorizing general permits for categories of oint source discharges. The rules may authorize discharge upon issuance of an individual uthorization by the department or upon receipt of a notice of intent to be covered under the eneral permit.

75-5-401. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Rules for permits — ground water xclusions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5), the department shall adopt rules:

(a) governing application for permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other astes into state waters, including rules requiring the filing of plans and specifications relating o the construction, modification, or operation of disposal systems;

(b) governing the issuance, denial, modification, or revocation of permits. The department ay not require a permit for a water conveyance structure or for a natural spring if the water ischarged to state waters does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes. Discharge o surface water of ground water that is not altered from its ambient quality does not constitute discharge requiring a permit under this part if:

(i) the discharge does not contain industrial waste, sewage, or other wastes;

(ii) the water discharged does not cause the receiving waters to exceed applicable standards r any parameters; and

(iii) to the extent that the receiving waters in their ambient state exceed standards for any arameters, the discharge does not increase the concentration of the parameters.

(c) governing authorization to discharge under a general permit for storm water associated ith construction activity. These rules must allow an owner or operator to notify the department f the intent to be covered under the general permit. This notice of intent must include a signed ollution prevention plan that requires the applicant to implement best management practices in accordance with the general permit. The rules must authorize the owner or operator t discharge under the general permit on receipt of the notice and plan by the department.

(2) The rules must allow the issuance or continuance of a permit only if the departmen finds that operation consistent with the limitations of the permit will not result in pollution o any state waters, except that the rules may allow the issuance of a temporary permit unde which pollution may result if the department ensures that the permit contains a complianc schedule designed to meet all applicable effluent standards and water quality standards in th shortest reasonable period of time.

(3) The rules must provide that the department may revoke a permit if the departmen finds that the holder of the permit has violated its terms, unless the department also finds tha the violation was accidental and unforeseeable and that the holder of the permit corrected th condition resulting in the violation as soon as was reasonably possible.

(4) The department may adopt rules governing reclamation of sites disturbed b construction, modification, or operation of permitted activities for which a bond is voluntaril filed by a permittee pursuant to 75-5-405, including rules for the establishment of criteria an procedures governing release of the bond or other surety and release of portions of a bond o other surety.

(5) Discharges of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters from the following activities or operations are not subject to the ground water permit requirement adopted under subsections (1) through (4):

(a) discharges or activities at wells injecting fluids associated with oil and gas exploratio and production regulated under the federal underground injection control program;

(b) disposal by solid waste management systems licensed pursuant to 75-10-221;

(c) individuals disposing of their own normal household wastes on their own property;

(d) hazardous waste management facilities permitted pursuant to 75-10-406;

(e) water injection wells, reserve pits, and produced water pits used in oil and gas field operations and approved pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11;

(f) agricultural irrigation facilities;

(g) storm water disposal or storm water detention facilities;

(h) subsurface disposal systems for sanitary wastes serving individual residences;

(i) in situ mining of uranium facilities controlled under Title 82, chapter 4, part 2;

(j) mining operations subject to operating permits or exploration licenses in complianc with The Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, chapter 4, part 2, or the metal mine reclamation laws, Title 82, chapter 4, part 3;

(k) projects reviewed under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20; or

(l) a carbon dioxide injection well for which a permit has been issued pursuant to Title 82 chapter 11, part 1.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of 75-5-301(4), mixing zones for activities excluded from permit requirements under subsection (5) of this section must be established by the permitting agency for those activities in accordance with 75-5-301(4)(a) through (4)(c).

(7) Notwithstanding the exclusions set forth in subsection (5), any excluded source that the department determines may be causing or is likely to cause violations of ground wate quality standards may be required to submit monitoring information pursuant to 75-5-602.

(8) The department may adopt rules identifying other activities or operations from which a discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into state ground waters is not subject to the ground water permit requirements adopted under subsections (1) through (4).

(9) The department may adopt rules authorizing general permits for categories o point source discharges. The rules may authorize discharge upon issuance of an individual authorization by the department or upon receipt of a notice of intent to be covered under the general permit.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(1)(d), (1)(e); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412 L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 582, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6 Ch. 588, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 231, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 474, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

ompiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 31(1), Ch. 474, L. 2009, provided that this section is effective on the date that e board of oil and gas conservation is granted primacy to administer activities at carbon dioxide sequestration ells by the United States environmental protection agency.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Department and Board permits required for facility siting, 75-20-211.

Dairy products manufacturing plant — approval of air pollutant control by Department of Environmental uality, 81-22-403.

Mining permit denied if water pollution not prevented, 82-4-227.

Mining reclamation plan to include water pollution control, 82-4-231.

75-5-402. Duties of department. The department shall:

(1) issue, suspend, revoke, modify, or deny permits to discharge sewage, industrial wastes, r other wastes into state waters, consistently with rules made by the department;

(2) examine plans and other information needed to determine whether a permit should be ssued or suggest changes in plans as a condition to the issuance of a permit;

(3) clearly specify in any permit any limitations imposed as to the volume, strength, and ther significant characteristics of the waste to be discharged; and

(4) establish as conditions to the issuance of permits for which a performance bond or other urety is filed under 75-5-405 certain reclamation requirements sufficient to prevent pollution of tate waters during and after operation of the project or activity for which a permit is issued.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. , Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(1)(a) thru (1)(c); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, . 1991; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-403. Denial, issuance, or modification of permit — time for review of permit pplication and hearing. (1) The department shall review for completeness all applications r new permits within 60 days of the receipt of the initial application and within 30 days of eceipt of responses to notices of deficiencies. The initial completeness notice must note all ajor deficiency issues, based on the information submitted. The department and the applicant ay extend these timeframes, by mutual agreement, by not more than 75 days. An application s considered complete unless the applicant is notified of a deficiency within the appropriate eview period.

(2) (a) If the department denies an application for a permit, issues a permit, or modifies a ermit, the department shall give written notice of its action to the applicant or holder. Within 0 days of the department's decision, the applicant or holder may request a hearing before the oard for the purpose of petitioning the board to reverse or modify the action of the department. he contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act pursuant to Title 2, hapter 4, apply to hearings under this section.

(b) Unless the deadline is waived by the applicant or holder and except as provided in ubsection (2)(c), the hearing must be held within 90 days after receipt of written request. xcept as provided in subsection (2)(c), within 120 days of the hearing, the board shall affirm, odify, or reverse the action of the department. If the holder does not request a hearing before he board, modification of a permit is effective 30 days after receipt of notice by the holder unless he department specifies a later date. If the holder does request a hearing before the board, an rder modifying the permit is not effective until 20 days after receipt of notice of the action of the oard.

(c) The board may extend a deadline for good cause.

(d) An applicant or holder may appeal the board's final decision to a district court.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b) and within 30 days of the agency's final decision, a erson who provided public comment on the permit may file an appeal in a district court.

(b) The appeal is limited to the issues raised by the person during the public comment eriod or the terms, conditions, and issues within the final permit decision that were not ontained in the draft permit.

(c) This section provides the exclusive means for an appeal of a permit decision under this hapter.

(4) (a) Filing an appeal in a district court does not stay the permit.

(b) Subsection (4)(a) does not supersede department rules allowing permit provisions ontested by the applicants or holders to be stayed, pending final action by the board.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4807.1(1); amd. Sec. 10 Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 512, L. 2023. Amendment effectiv May 18, 2023.

Applicability: Section 3, Ch. 512, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to permits issued, modified, or denied or or after [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 18, 2023.

75-5-404. Suspension or revocation of permit — procedure. If the departmen suspends or revokes a permit because it has reason to believe that the holder has violated this chapter, the department may specify that the suspension or revocation is effective immediately if the department finds that the violation is likely to continue and will cause pollution, the harmful effects of which will not be remedied immediately on the cessation of the violation Upon petition by the holder of the permit, the board shall grant the holder a hearing, to be conducted in the manner specified in 75-5-611, and shall issue an order affirming, modifying or reversing the action of the department. The order of the board shall be effective immediately unless the board directs otherwise.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4807.1(2).

75-5-405. Voluntary filing of performance bond — terms — hearing. (1) A persor who holds or has applied for a permit pursuant to 75-5-401 may voluntarily file a performance bond or other surety with the department for an amount sufficient to enable the state to reclaim the land disturbed by the project or activity authorized by the permit in accordance with al permit requirements and as needed to prevent pollution of state waters.

(2) If the department determines that the bonding level does not represent the present cost of reclaiming the disturbed land according to the reclamation requirements specified in the permit and the present cost of preventing pollution of state waters, the department shall notify the permittee and the permittee may modify the amount of the bond to accurately reflect the present cost.

(3) The department may not release all or any portion of a performance bond or other surety filed pursuant to this section until reclamation of the disturbed land has been completed to the satisfaction of the department and the department has determined that pollution o state waters has not occurred. The department may initiate bond forfeiture proceedings if the permittee fails to satisfactorily reclaim the disturbed land or prevent pollution of state waters.

(4) The department may not release a bond or other surety filed pursuant to this section until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 412, L. 1991.

75-5-406 through 75-5-409 reserved.

75-5-410. Water quality requirements — aquifer recharge or certain mitigation plans — minimum requirements. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), a persor who proposes an aquifer recharge or mitigation plan pursuant to 85-2-362 shall apply for, i necessary, a current permit pursuant to this chapter.

(b) The requirements of this section do not apply to the portion of a mitigation plan tha consists of a change in appropriation rights for instream flow filed pursuant to 85-2-402.

(2) The minimum treatment requirements for sewage systems subject to this section are the federal requirements provided for in 40 CFR 133, and the system must meet, at a minimum the requirements of level two treatment for the removal of nitrogen in the effluent.

(3) In addition to the minimum treatment requirements of subsection (2), sewage systems subject to this section that are used for aquifer injection must meet the more stringent of either primary drinking water standards pursuant to Title 75, chapter 6, or the nondegradation requirements pursuant to 75-5-303 at the point of discharge.

(4) In addition to the minimum treatment requirements of subsection (2), sewage systems subject to this section that are used for aquifer recharge must meet either primary drinking water standards pursuant to Title 75, chapter 6, or the nondegradation requirements pursuant to 75-5-303 at the point of discharge.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "aquifer injection" means the use of a well to inject water directly into an aquifer system without filtration through the geologic materials overlying the aquifer system for the purpose of aquifer recharge or for an aquifer storage and recovery project and "aquifer recharge" and "mitigation" have the meanings provided in 85-2-102.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 391, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 2009.

75-5-411. Establishing setbacks — rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules stablishing setback area requirements between sewage lagoons and water wells to prevent ater well contamination.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2017.

Part 5
Financial Provisions

75-5-501. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 195, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.1.

75-5-502. Department authorized to accept loans and grants. The department ay accept loans and grants from the federal government and other sources to carry out the rovisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.2(2)(a); amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-503. Department authorized to accept loans and grants. The department ay accept loans and grants from the federal government and other sources to carry out the rovisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(2).

75-5-504 through 75-5-506 reserved.

75-5-507. Repealed. Sec. 82, Ch. 509, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 600, L. 1991.

75-5-508 through 75-5-510 reserved.

75-5-511. Sewage system operators authorized to adopt charges and rates for sers. (1) A municipality or other entity operating a sewage system may adopt a system f charges and rates to assure that each recipient of treatment works services within the unicipality's jurisdiction or service area will pay its proportionate share of the costs of peration, maintenance, and replacement of any treatment works facilities or services provided y the municipality or other entity.

(2) A municipality or other entity operating a sewage system may require industrial users f its treatment works to pay to the municipality or other entity that portion of the cost of onstruction of the treatment works which is allocable to the treatment of such industrial user's astes. The department may determine whether the payment required of the industrial user r the portion of the cost of the construction of the treatment works is properly allocable to the reatment of the industrial user's wastes.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.4(1), (2).

75-5-512. Uses allowed for revenues. A municipality or other entity operating a sewage ystem may retain the amounts of the revenues derived from the payment of costs by industrial sers of its treatment works services and expend such revenues, together with interest thereon, or:

(1) repayment to applicable agencies of government of any grants or loans made to the unicipality or other entity operating a sewage system for construction of the treatment works;

(2) future expansion and reconstruction of the treatment works; and

(3) other municipal purposes.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.4(3).

75-5-513. Sewage system operators to keep records — department's power o inspect and audit. A municipality or other entity operating sewage systems shall keep ecords, financial statements, and books regarding its rates and charges and amounts collected n account of its treatment works and how such revenues are allocated. The department may nspect such records, financial statements, and books, audit them or cause them to be audited at uch intervals as deemed necessary.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.4(4).

75-5-514. When department to establish rates and collect charges. (1) In the event municipality or other entity operating sewage systems fails, neglects, or refuses when require by the department to adopt the system of charges and rates authorized by 75-5-511, th department may adopt a system of charges and rates as provided for in 75-5-511(1) and collect administer, and apply such revenues for the purposes of 75-5-512.

(2) In lieu of proceeding in the manner set forth in subsection (1) of this section, th department may institute proceedings at law or in equity to enforce compliance with or restrai violations of 75-5-511 through 75-5-513.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.4(5), (6); amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-515. Determination of costs payable by users. In determining the amount o treatment works costs to be paid by recipients of treatment works services, the municipalit or other entity operating sewage systems or, if applicable, the department shall consider th strength, volume, types, and delivery flow rate characteristics of the waste; the nature, location and type of treatment works; the receiving waters; and other factors deemed necessary.

History: En. 69-4808.5 by Sec. 15, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4808.5; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 324, L. 2021

75-5-516. Fees authorized for recovery — process — rulemaking. (1) Except a provided in subsections (12) and (13), the department shall by rule prescribe fees sufficient t cover the department's documented costs, both direct and indirect, of:

(a) reviewing and acting upon an application for a permit, permit modification, permi renewal, certificate, license, or other authorization required by rule under 75-5-201 or 75-5-401

(b) reviewing and acting upon a petition for a degradation allowance under 75-5-303;

(c) reviewing and acting upon an application for a permit, certificate, license, or othe authorization for which an exclusion is provided by rule from the permitting requirement established under 75-5-401;

(d) enforcing the terms and conditions of a permit or authorization identified in subsection (1)(a) through (1)(c). If the permit or authorization is not issued, the department shall retur this portion of any application fee to the applicant.

(e) conducting compliance inspections and monitoring effluent and ambient water quality and

(f) preparing water quality rules or guidance documents.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (12), the rules promulgated under this section mus include:

(a) a fee on all applications for permits or authorizations, as identified in subsections (1)(a through (1)(c), that recovers to the extent permitted by this subsection (2) the department' cost of reviewing and acting upon the applications. This fee may not be more than $5,000 pe discharge point for an application addressed under subsection (1), except that an applicatio with multiple discharge points may be assessed a lower fee for those points according to rule.

(b) an annual fee to be assessed according to the volume and concentration of wast discharged into state waters. The annual fee may not be more than $3,000 per million gallon discharged per day on an annual average for any activity under permit or authorization, a described in subsection (1), except that:

(i) a permit or authorization with multiple discharge points may be assessed a lower fe for those points according to rule; and

(ii) a facility that consistently discharges effluent at less than or equal to one-half o its effluent limitations and that is in compliance with other permit requirements, using the previous calendar year's discharge data, is entitled to a 25% reduction in its annual permi fee. Proportionate reductions of up to 25% of the permit fee may be given to facilities that consistently discharge effluent at levels between 50% and 100% of their effluent limitations. However, a new permittee is not eligible for a fee reduction in its first year of operation, and a permittee with a violation of any effluent limit during the previous calendar year is not eligible for a fee reduction for the following year.

(3) To the extent permitted under subsection (2)(b), the annual fee must be sufficient t pay the department's estimated cost of conducting all tasks described under subsection (1) afte subtracting:

(a) the fees collected under subsection (2)(a);

(b) state general fund appropriations for functions administered under this chapter; and

(c) federal grants for functions administered under this chapter.

(4) For purposes of subsection (3), the department's estimated cost of conducting the tasks described under subsection (1) is the amount authorized by the legislature for the department's water quality discharge permit programs.

(5) If the applicant or holder fails to pay a fee assessed under this section or rules adopted under this section within 90 days after the date established by rule for fee payment, the department may:

(a) impose an additional assessment consisting of not more than 20% of the fee plus nterest on the required fee computed as provided in 15-1-216; or

(b) suspend the permit or exclusion. The department may lift the suspension at any time up to 1 year after the suspension occurs if the holder has paid all outstanding fees, including all penalties, assessments, and interest imposed under subsection (5)(a).

(6) Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in an account in the special revenue fund type pursuant to 75-5-517.

(7) The department shall give written notice to each person assessed a fee under this section of the amount of fee that is assessed and the basis for the department's calculation of he fee. This notice must be issued at least 30 days prior to the due date for payment of the assessment.

(8) A holder of or an applicant for a permit, certificate, or license may appeal the department's fee assessment to the board within 20 days after receiving written notice of the fee determination under subsection (7). The appeal must include a written statement detailing he reasons that the permitholder or applicant considers the department's fee assessment to be erroneous or excessive.

(9) If part of the department's fee assessment is not in dispute in an appeal filed under subsection (8), the undisputed portion of the fee must be paid to the department upon written request of the department.

(10) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board under this section.

(11) A municipality may raise rates to cover costs associated with the fees prescribed in this section for a public sewer system without the hearing required in 69-7-111.

(12) (a) The application fee assessed pursuant to this section for a suction dredge, as described in 82-4-310(2), may not be more than:

(i) $25 if it is owned and operated by a resident of this state; or

(ii) $100 if it is owned and operated by a nonresident of this state.

(b) The annual fee assessed pursuant to this section for a suction dredge, as described in 82-4-310(2), may not be more than:

(i) $25 if it is owned and operated by a resident of this state; or

(ii) $100 if it is owned and operated by a nonresident of this state.

(13) A county, an incorporated city or town, or a conservation district formed pursuant to Title 76, chapter 15, is not subject to fees for authorizations pursuant to 75-5-318 or certifications related to section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 507, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 51, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 427, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Uniform penalty and interest assessments for violation of tax provisions, 15-1-216.

75-5-517. Disposition of water quality permit fees. (1) All fees collected under 75-5-516 must be credited to an account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) Money in the account may be used only to pay the department's cost in implementing the functions described in 75-5-516(1).

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 507, L. 1993.**

Part 6
Enforcement, Appeal, and Penalties

Part Cross-References

Action for damage to water supply caused by metal mining operation, 82-4-355.

75-5-601. Cleanup orders. (1) The department may issue an order to a person to clean u any material that the person or the person's employee, agent, or subcontractor has accidentall or purposely dumped, spilled, or otherwise deposited in or near state waters and that ma pollute state waters.

(2) If a unit of state or local government, including but not limited to a local board o health, county commission, governing body of a municipality, or state agency, has granted permit or license to a person to discharge waste or has otherwise authorized an activity tha involves the placement of waste and the department has reason to believe that the waste i causing or is likely to cause pollution of state waters, the department may issue an order to th unit of state or local government to take measures to ensure that the wastes causing or likely t cause the pollution are cleaned up.

(3) The department may include in an order issued to a county commission pursuan to subsection (2) a request that the commission create a sewer district in the geographic are affected by the order for the purpose of establishing a public sewer system in accordance wit the petition and election procedures provided by 7-13-2204 and 7-13-2208 through 7-13-2214.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec 6, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(1)(f); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 292, L. 1991; amd Sec. 4, Ch. 297, L. 1995.

75-5-602. Power to require monitoring. In order to carry out the objectives of thi chapter and to effectively monitor the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, and other waste into state waters, the department may require the owner or operator of any point source, or th owner or operator of any facility that discharges into a municipal sewage system and to whic pretreatment standards promulgated under this chapter apply, to:

(1) establish and maintain records;

(2) make reports;

(3) install, use, and maintain monitoring equipment or methods, including biologica monitoring techniques;

(4) sample effluents using specified monitoring methods at designated locations an intervals;

(5) provide other information as may be reasonably required by the department.

History: En. 69-4809.2 by Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.2(1)

75-5-603. Power to inspect. The authorized representative of the department, upo presentation of the representative's credentials, may at reasonable times enter upon any publi or private property to:

(1) investigate conditions relating to pollution of state waters or violations of permi conditions;

(2) have access to and copy any records required under this chapter;

(3) inspect any monitoring equipment or method required under 75-5-602(3); and

(4) sample any effluents that the owner or operator of the source is required to sampl under 75-5-602(4).

History: En. 69-4809.2 by Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.2(2) amd. Sec. 2495, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individual to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

75-5-604. Information obtained to relate to standards. Any records, reports, o information obtained under 75-5-602 and 75-5-603 shall, in the case of effluent data, be related to any applicable effluent limitations, toxic, pretreatment, or new source performance standards.

History: En. 69-4809.2 by Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.2(3).

75-5-605. Prohibited activity — exemption. (1) It is unlawful to:

(a) cause pollution, as defined in 75-5-103, of any state waters or to place or cause t be placed any wastes where they will cause pollution of any state waters. Any placement o materials that is authorized by a permit issued by any state or federal agency is not a placement of wastes within the prohibition of this subsection (1)(a) if the agency's permitting authority includes provisions for review of the placement of materials to ensure that it will not cause pollution of state waters.

(b) violate any provision set forth in a permit or stipulation, including but not limited to imitations and conditions contained in the permit;

(c) cause degradation of state waters without authorization pursuant to 75-5-303;

(d) violate any order issued pursuant to this chapter; or

(e) violate any provision of this chapter.

(2) Except for the permit exclusions identified in 75-5-401(5), it is unlawful to carry on any f the following activities without a current permit from the department:

(a) construct, modify, or operate a disposal system that discharges into any state waters;

(b) construct or use any outlet for the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other vastes into any state waters; or

(c) discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes into any state waters.

(3) Activities associated with routine or periodic maintenance, repair, replacement, or peration of irrigation water conveyance systems, including activities associated with any onstructed channel, canal, ditch, pipeline, or portion of any constructed channel, canal, ditch, r pipeline, are not prohibited activities under this chapter if the activities do not result in xceeding water quality standards for any receiving water outside the irrigation water onveyance system. The diversion of water in accordance with an existing water right or permit ursuant to Title 85, chapter 2, is not a prohibited activity under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 126, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. , Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4806; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 595, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 582, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 327, L. 2017.**

ross-References

Prevention of discharge of waste products from vessels, 23-2-521, 23-2-522.

Dead animals — unlawful disposition, 75-10-213.

Action for damage to water supply caused by metal mining operation, 82-4-355.

75-5-606 through 75-5-609 reserved.

75-5-610. Written undertaking. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the person equesting a hearing under 75-5-611 is not the applicant or permittee of an energy development roject, the district court shall require a written undertaking to be given by the party requesting he hearing for the payment of costs and damages incurred by the applicant or permittee if the equest for judicial review was for an improper purpose designed to harass, cause unnecessary elay, or improperly interfere with the issuance of the permit without a reasonable basis in law r fact.

(2) The district court may not require a written undertaking if the party requesting the earing is an indigent person.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 445, L. 2009.**

75-5-611. Violation of chapter — administrative actions and penalties — notice nd hearing. (1) When the department has reason to believe that a violation of this chapter, a ule adopted under this chapter, or a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule dopted under this chapter has occurred, it may have a written notice letter served personally r by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice letter must state:

(a) the provision of statute, rule, permit, or approval alleged to be violated;

(b) the facts alleged to constitute the violation;

(c) the specific nature of corrective action that the department requires;

(d) as applicable, the amount of the administrative penalty that will be assessed by rder under subsection (2) if the corrective action is not taken within the time provided under ubsection (1)(e); and

(e) as applicable, the time within which the corrective action is to be taken or the dministrative penalty will be assessed. For the purposes of this chapter, service by certified mail s complete on the date of receipt. Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(ii), an administrative enalty may not be assessed until the provisions of subsection (1) have been complied with.

(2) (a) The department may issue an administrative notice and order in lieu of the notice etter provided under subsection (1) if the department's action:

(i) does not involve assessment of an administrative penalty; or

(ii) seeks an administrative penalty only for an activity that it believes and alleges has iolated or is violating 75-5-605.

(b) A notice and order issued under this section must meet all of the requirements specifie in subsection (1).

(3) In a notice and order given under subsection (1), the department may require th alleged violator to appear before the board for a public hearing and to answer the charges. Th hearing must be held no sooner than 15 days after service of the notice and order, except tha the board may set an earlier date for hearing if it is requested to do so by the alleged violator The board may set a later date for hearing at the request of the alleged violator if the allege violator shows good cause for delay.

(4) If the department does not require an alleged violator to appear before the board for public hearing, the alleged violator may request the board to conduct the hearing. The reques must be in writing and must be filed with the department no later than 30 days after servic of a notice and order under subsection (2). If a request is filed, a hearing must be held withi a reasonable time. If a hearing is not requested within 30 days after service upon the allege violator, the opportunity for a contested case appeal to the board under Title 2, chapter 4, par 6, is waived.

(5) If a contested case hearing is held under this section, it must be public and must b held in the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred.

(6) (a) After a hearing, the board shall make findings and conclusions that explain it decision.

(b) If the board determines that a violation has occurred, it shall also issue an appropriat order for the prevention, abatement, or control of pollution, the assessment of administrativ penalties, or both.

(c) If the order requires abatement or control of pollution, the board shall state the dat or dates by which a violation must cease and may prescribe timetables for necessary action i preventing, abating, or controlling the pollution.

(d) If the order requires payment of an administrative penalty, the board shall explai how it determined the amount of the administrative penalty.

(e) If the board determines that a violation has not occurred, it shall declare th department's notice void.

(7) The alleged violator may petition the board for a rehearing on the basis of new evidence which petition the board may grant for good cause shown.

(8) Instead of issuing an order, the board may direct the department to initiate appropriat action for recovery of a penalty under 75-5-631, 75-5-632, 75-5-633, or 75-5-635.

(9) (a) Except as provided in subsection (9)(d), an action initiated under this section ma include an administrative penalty of not more than $10,000 for each day of each violation however, the maximum penalty may not exceed $100,000 for any related series of violations.

(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the genera fund.

(c) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed to a person, the department an board shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001, rules promulgated under 75-5-201, an subsection (9)(d).

(d) A person who commits a violation that adversely affects the department's administration of this chapter, a rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, or a condition of permit or authorization issued under this chapter but does not harm or have the potential t harm human health, the environment, or the department's ability to protect human health o the environment may not be assessed a penalty of more than $500 for each day of the violation not to exceed $5,000 for all days of the same violation.

(e) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M 1947, 69-4820; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 504, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested case hearings, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-5-612. Additional sanctions authorized. In addition to all other remedies created by his chapter, the department is authorized to take appropriate enforcement action on its own nitiative to prevent, abate, and control:

(1) the pollution of state waters;

(2) any violation of a condition or limitation imposed by a permit issued under 75-5-402(1); r

(3) any violation of rules relating to pretreatment standards.

History: En. 69-4820.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 977; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 308, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4820.1(1).

75-5-613. Compliance orders. In furtherance of 75-5-612, a person violating a condition, imitation, standard, or other requirement established pursuant to this chapter may be served vith a compliance order issued by the department. The order must specify the condition, imitation, standard, or other requirement violated and must set a time for compliance. However, n establishing a time for compliance, the department shall take into account the seriousness f the violation and any good faith efforts that have been made to comply with the condition, imitation, standard, or other requirement that has been violated. The compliance order issued under this section shall be served either personally by a person qualified to perform service under the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure or by certified mail.

History: En. 69-4820.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 977; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 308, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4820.1(2).

75-5-614. Injunctions authorized. (1) Except as provided in 81-9-240, the department s authorized to commence a civil action seeking appropriate relief, including a permanent or emporary injunction, for a violation that would be subject to a compliance order under 75-5-613. An action under this subsection may be commenced in the district court of the county where a violation occurs or is threatened, and the court has jurisdiction to restrain the violation and to require compliance.

(2) Except as provided in 81-9-240, the department may bring an action for an injunction against the continuation of an alleged violation of the terms or conditions of a permit issued by he department or any rule or effluent standard promulgated under this chapter or against a person who fails to comply with an emergency order issued by the department under 75-5-621 or a final order of the board. The court to which the department applies for an injunction may issue a temporary injunction if it finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that the allegations of he department are true, and it may issue a temporary restraining order pending action on the emporary injunction.

History: (1)En. 69-4820.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 308, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 444, L. 1977; Sec. 69-4820.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 455, L. 1975; Sec. 69-4825, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 947, 69-4820.1(3), 69-4825; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 416, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Injunctions — jurisdiction of Supreme Court, 3-2-205.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-5-615. Violators subject to penalties. (1) A person found to be in violation of a condition, limitation, standard, or other requirement established pursuant to 75-5-612 through 75-5-614 is subject to the penalty provisions of 75-5-631, 75-5-632, 75-5-633, and 75-5-635.

(2) For the purpose of this section, the term "person" means, in addition to the definition contained in 75-5-103, any responsible corporate officer.

History: En. 69-4820.1 by Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 308, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4820.1(4), (5); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 58, L. 1979.

75-5-616. Enforcement of permits and chapter. The department shall take actions that are authorized under this part to ensure that the terms and conditions of issued permits are complied with and to ensure that violations of this chapter are appropriately prosecuted.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 444, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4809.1(1)(g); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 297, L. 1995.

75-5-617. Enforcement response. (1) Whenever, on the basis of information available to the department, the department finds that a person is in violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, or a condition or limitation in a permit, authorization, or order issued under this chapter, the department shall initiate an enforcement response, which may include any of the following actions:

(a) issuance of a letter notifying the person of the violation and requiring compliance;

(b) issuance of an order requiring the person to correct the violation pursuant to 75-5-601 75-5-611, 75-5-613, and 75-5-621;

(c) bringing a judicial action as authorized by 75-5-614 and 75-5-622; or

(d) seeking administrative or judicial penalties as provided under 75-5-611, 75-5-615, and 75-5-631 through 75-5-633.

(2) Unless an alleged violation represents an imminent threat to human health, safety or welfare or to the environment, the department shall first issue a letter notifying the person of the violation and requiring compliance. If the person fails to respond to the conditions in the department's letter, then the department shall take further action as provided in subsection (1)

(3) The provisions of this chapter do not limit the authority of the department to bring a judicial action, which may include the assessment of penalties, prior to initiating any administrative action authorized by this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 297, L. 1995.

75-5-618. Liability — defense and exclusions. (1) A person has a defense against liability in a tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission that constitutes a violation of this chapter, a rule adopted under this chapter, or a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule adopted under this chapter if the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the person is a government entity that acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or lien foreclosure in which the government entity acquired title by virtue of the government entity's authority;

(b) the person has not caused or contributed to the violation; and

(c) the person is making an effort to abate the violation.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "government entity" includes a consolidated city-county a county, and an incorporated city or town.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 2013.

75-5-619 and 75-5-620 reserved.

75-5-621. Emergencies. (1) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, if the department finds that a person is committing or is about to commit an act in violation of this chapter or an order or rule issued under this chapter that, if it occurs or continues, will cause substantial pollution the harmful effects of which will not be remedied immediately after the commission or cessation of the act, the department may order the person to stop, avoid, or moderate the act so that the substantial injury will not occur. The order is effective immediately upon receipt by the person to whom it is directed, unless the department provides otherwise.

(2) Notice of the order must conform to the requirements of 75-5-611(1) so far as practicable The notice must indicate that the order is an emergency order.

(3) Upon issuing an order, the department shall fix a place and time for a hearing before the board, not later than 5 days after issuing the order unless the person to whom the order is directed requests a later time. The department may deny a request for a later time if it finds that the person to whom the order is directed is not complying with the order. The hearing must be conducted in the manner specified in 75-5-611. As soon as practicable after the hearing, the board shall affirm, modify, or set aside the order of the department. The order of the board must be accompanied by the information required in 75-5-611(6). An action for review of the order of the board may be initiated in the manner specified in 75-5-641. Except as provided in 81-9-240 the initiation of an action or taking of an appeal may not stay the effectiveness of the order unless the court finds that the board did not have reasonable cause to issue an order under this section.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4824; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 266, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 416, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Energy emergency — power of Governor to suspend pollution control standards, 90-4-310.

75-5-622. Additional emergency powers. Notwithstanding any other provisions of his chapter, the department, upon receipt of evidence that a pollution source or combination of sources is endangering the health, welfare, or livelihood of a person, may bring suit in the district court of any county in which the defendant is located or resides or is doing business to enjoin the discharge of pollutants causing or contributing to the alleged pollution.

History: **En. 69-4824.1 by Sec. 7, Ch. 506, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4824.1.**

75-5-623 through 75-5-630 reserved.

75-5-631. Civil penalties — injunctions not barred — venue. (1) In an action initiated by the department to collect civil penalties against a person who is found to have violated this chapter or a rule, permit, effluent standard, or order issued under the provisions of this chapter, he person is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $25,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(2) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this chapter or of rules or orders issued under it by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

(3) The department shall institute and maintain enforcement proceedings in the name of the state. Penalties are recoverable in an action brought by the department. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(4) In determining the amount of penalties under this section, the district court shall take into account the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(1), (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 644, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-5-632. Criminal penalties. A person who willfully or negligently violates 75-5-605 or any pretreatment standard established pursuant to this chapter is guilty of an offense and, upon conviction, is subject to a fine not to exceed $25,000 per day of violation or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. Following an initial conviction under this section, subsequent convictions subject a person to a fine of not more than $50,000 per day of violation or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(2); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 297, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

75-5-633. Penalties for false statements and falsifying monitoring. Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this chapter or who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this chapter shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than $25,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(6); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 644, L. 1991.**

75-5-634. Disposition of fines and civil penalties. Fines and civil penalties collected under this chapter, except those collected in a justice's court, must be deposited into the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(5); amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 600, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 509, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

75-5-635. Costs and expenses — recovery by department. (1) In a civil action initiated by the department under this chapter, the department may ask for and the court is authorized to assess a violator for the cost of the investigation or monitoring survey that led to the establishment of the violation and any expense incurred by the state in removing, correcting, or terminating any of the adverse effects upon water quality resulting from the unauthorize discharge of pollutants.

(2) Any costs and expenses recovered by the department under the provisions of subsectio (1) must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd Sec. 11, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4823(7); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 600, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 509, L. 1995.**

75-5-636. Investigation of complaints by other parties. A person, association corporation, or agency of the state or federal government may notify the department of a alleged violation of this chapter. Based upon information submitted by the person, association corporation, or agency, the department shall conduct an investigation to determine the validit of the complaint. If a violation is established by the department's investigation, the departmen shall initiate an appropriate enforcement response as described in 75-5-617. If the investigatio proves the protest to have been without reasonable cause, the department may seek recovery o investigative costs from the person who made the notification.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 455, L. 1975; R.C.M 1947, 69-4826; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 297, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 497, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.

75-5-637 through 75-5-640 reserved.

75-5-641. Appeals from board orders — review by district court. (1) An appeal o an order of the board must be in the district court of the county in which the alleged source o pollution is located.

(2) A person interested in the order may intervene, in the manner provided by the rules o civil procedure, if the person shows good cause. An intervenor is a party for the purposes of thi chapter.

(3) The attorney general shall represent the board if requested, or the department ma appoint special counsel for the proceedings, subject to the approval of the attorney general.

(4) Except as provided in 81-9-240, the initiation of an action for review or the taking of a appeal does not stay the effectiveness of an order of the board unless the court finds that ther is probable cause to believe:

(a) that refusal to grant a stay will cause serious harm to the affected party; and

(b) that a violation found by the board will not continue or, if it does continue, the harmfu effects on state waters will be remedied immediately on the cessation of the violation.

(5) If a court does not stay the effectiveness of an order of the board, it may enforc compliance with that order by issuing a temporary restraining order or an injunction at the request of the board.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 21, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 349, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4821; amd. Sec. 2496 Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 416, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Part 7
Water Quality Assessment

75-5-701. Purpose. Consistent with the policy established in 75-5-101(2) to provide a comprehensive program for the prevention, abatement, and control of water pollution, the purpose of this part is to further direct the department to monitor state waters to accurately assess their quality and, when required, to develop total maximum daily loads for those water bodies identified as threatened or impaired.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 541, L. 1997.**

75-5-702. Monitoring — water quality assessment listing — costs payable by department — statewide advisory group. (1) The department shall monitor state waters to assess the quality of those waters and to identify surface water bodies or segments of surface water bodies that are threatened or impaired. The department shall use the monitoring results to revise the list of water bodies that are identified as threatened or impaired and to establish a priority ranking for TMDL development for those waters in accordance with subsections (4) and (7).

(2) In revising the list prepared pursuant to this section, the department shall use all currently available data, including information or data obtained from federal, state, and local agencies, private entities, or individuals with an interest in water quality protection. Except as provided in subsection (6), the department may modify the list only if there is sufficient credible data to support the modification. Prior to publishing a final list, the department shall provide public notice and allow 60 days for public comment on the draft list. The department shall make available for public review, upon request, documentation used in the determination to list or delist a particular water body, including, at a minimum, a description of the information, data, and methodology used. The department may charge a reasonable fee for the documentation, commensurate with the cost of providing the documentation to the requestor.

(3) A person may request that the department add or remove a water body or reprioritize a water body on a draft or published list by providing the data or information necessary to support the request. The department shall review the data within 60 days from its submittal. If the department determines that there is sufficient credible data to grant the request, the department shall provide public notice of its intended action and allow 60 days for public comment prior to taking action on the request. A person aggrieved by the department's decision to grant or deny the request may appeal the department's decision to the board.

(4) The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups pursuant to 75-5-704, review and revise the list and priority rankings of water bodies identified as threatened or impaired. The department shall review and revise the list at intervals not to exceed 5 years. The department shall make available for public review the data and information used in making any changes in its list of threatened or impaired water bodies that is developed and maintained pursuant to this section.

(5) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group established pursuant to subsection (10), the department shall develop and maintain a data management system that can be used to assess the validity and reliability of the data used in the listing and priority ranking process. The department shall make available to the public, upon request, data from its data management system. The department may charge a reasonable fee for the data, commensurate with its cost of providing the data to the requestor.

(6) By October 1, 1999, and in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, the department shall use the data management system developed and maintained pursuant to subsection (5) to revise the list and to remove any water body that lacks sufficient credible data to support its listing. If the department removes a water body because there is a lack of sufficient credible data to support its listing, the department shall monitor and assess that water body during the next field season or as soon as possible thereafter to determine whether it is a threatened water body or an impaired water body.

(7) Except as provided in subsection (9), in prioritizing water bodies for TMDL development, the department shall, in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, take into consideration the following:

(a) the beneficial uses established for a water body;

(b) the extent that natural factors over which humans have no control are contributing to any impairment;

(c) the impacts to human health and aquatic life;

(d) the degree of public interest and support;

(e) the character of the pollutant and the severity and magnitude of water quality standard noncompliance;

(f) whether the water body is an important high-quality resource in an early stage of degradation;

(g) the size of the water body not achieving standards;

(h) immediate programmatic needs, such as waste load allocations for new permits or permit renewals and load allocations for new nonpoint sources;

(i) court orders and decisions relating to water quality;

(j) state policies and priorities, including the protection and restoration of native fis when appropriate;

(k) the availability of technology and resources to correct the problems;

(l) whether actions or voluntary programs that are likely to correct the impairment of particular water body are currently in place; and

(m) the recreational, economic, and aesthetic importance of a particular water body.

(8) Except as provided in subsection (9), the department shall, in consultation with th statewide TMDL advisory group, develop a method of rating water bodies according to th criteria and considerations described in subsection (7) in order to rank the listed water bodies a high priority, moderate priority, or low priority for TMDL development. The department ma not rank a water body as a high priority under this section without first validating the dat necessary to support the ranking.

(9) (a) When the department receives an application for a new individual permit t discharge into a surface water body or a segment of a surface water body pursuant to 75-5-401 the surface water body or segment of a surface water body has been listed pursuant to subsectio (2) of this section, the discharge would contain a pollutant for which the water body or segmen is threatened or impaired, and a TMDL has not been developed for that water body or segment the department shall:

(i) within 30 days of the department's receipt of the application, initiate the developmen of a TMDL on the water body or segment; and

(ii) except as provided in subsection (9)(b), within 180 days of the department's receipt o the application, complete development of the TMDL pursuant to 75-5-703.

(b) If the department is not able to complete development of the TMDL in accordanc with subsection (9)(a)(ii), the department shall, within 30 days of the department's receipt o the application, specify in writing to the applicant why the department is not able to complet development of a TMDL in accordance with subsection (9)(a)(ii). The department and th applicant shall make reasonable efforts to mutually agree in writing to a timeframe in whic the department shall complete development of the TMDL. If the department specifies a lac of resources as a reason why the department cannot complete development of the TMDL i accordance with subsection (9)(a)(ii), the department shall clearly explain in its writte specification what resources are not available, why those resources are not available, and whe those resources will be available.

(c) If the department and the applicant cannot mutually agree to a timeframe i accordance with subsection (9)(b), the department shall, within 60 days of the department' receipt of the application, specify in writing to the applicant the timeframe in which the TMD will be completed by the department and the reasons why that timeframe is appropriate. I the department specifies a lack of resources as a reason why the department's timeframe i appropriate, the department may request the applicant provide funding for the development o the TMDL in order to accelerate the completion of the TMDL.

(d) The applicant may, within 15 days of the department's written specification provide in accordance with subsection (9)(c), request in writing a hearing before the board for th purpose of petitioning the board to reverse or modify the department's decision. The conteste case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, appl to a hearing before the board under this subsection. If the parties to the contested case waiv a formal proceeding pursuant to 2-4-603, the informal proceeding must be conducted withi 30 days after the board's receipt of the written request. After the hearing and in a reasonabl time, the board shall affirm, modify, or reverse the action of the department, and the boar shall make findings and conclusions that explain its decision. Pending the board's decision, th department shall develop the TMDL in accordance with the timeframe specified in subsectio (9)(a)(ii).

(e) The department may not declare an application incomplete or deficient because TMDL has not been prepared.

(f) If on April 27, 2015, an application for a new individual permit to discharge into surface water body or a segment of a surface water body pursuant to 75-5-401 is pending, th surface water body or segment of a surface water body has been listed pursuant to subsection (2 of this section, the discharge would contain a pollutant for which the water body or segment i threatened or impaired, and a TMDL has not been developed for the water body or segment, the department shall, except as provided in subsection (9)(g), complete a TMDL for the water body or segment within 180 days of April 27, 2015.

(g) If the department is not able to complete development of the TMDL within 180 days of April 27, 2015, pursuant to subsection (9)(f), then the timeframes established in accordance with subsections (9)(b), (9)(c), and (9)(d) apply to the application, but the timeframes are measured from April 27, 2015, not from the date the department receives an application.

(10) (a) The department shall establish a statewide TMDL advisory group to serve in the consultation capacity set forth in 75-5-703, 75-5-704, and this section. Fourteen members, and any replacement members that may be necessary, must be appointed by the director, based upon one nomination from each of the following interests:

(i) livestock-oriented agriculture;

(ii) farming-oriented agriculture;

(iii) conservation or environmental interests;

(iv) water-based recreationists;

(v) the forestry industry;

(vi) municipalities;

(vii) point source dischargers;

(viii) mining;

(ix) federal land management agencies;

(x) state trust land management agencies;

(xi) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties east of the continental divide;

(xii) supervisors of soil and water conservation districts for counties west of the continental divide;

(xiii) the hydroelectric industry; and

(xiv) fishing-related businesses.

(b) If the director receives more than one nomination from a particular interest, the director shall notify the respective nominators and request that they agree on one nominee.

(11) The department shall provide public notice of meetings of the statewide TMDL advisory group and shall solicit, document, and consider public comments provided during the deliberations of the advisory group.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 541, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 2015.**

75-5-703. Development and implementation of total maximum daily loads. (1) The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups, develop total maximum daily loads or TMDLs for threatened or impaired water bodies or segments of water bodies in order of the priority ranking established by the department under 75-5-702. Each TMDL must be established at a level that will achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards and must include a reasonable margin of safety that takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between the TMDL and water quality standards. The department shall consider applicable guidance from the federal environmental protection agency, as well as the environmental, economic, and social costs and benefits of developing and implementing a TMDL.

(2) In establishing TMDLs under subsection (1), the department may establish waste load allocations for point sources and may establish load allocations for nonpoint sources, as set forth in subsection (8), and may allow for effluent trading. The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups, develop reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices specifically recognizing established practices and programs for nonpoint sources.

(3) The department shall establish a schedule that provides a reasonable timeframe for TMDL development for impaired and threatened water bodies that are on the most recent list prepared pursuant to 75-5-702. The department shall report the progress in completing TMDLs and the current schedule for completion of TMDLs for the water bodies that remain on the list to the water policy interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210.

(4) The department shall provide guidance for TMDL development on any threatened or impaired water body, regardless of its priority ranking, if the necessary funding and resources

from sources outside the department are available to develop the TMDL and to monitor the effectiveness of implementation efforts. The department shall review the TMDL and either approve or disapprove the TMDL. If the TMDL is approved by the department, the department shall ensure implementation of the TMDL according to the provisions of subsections (6) through (8).

(5) For water bodies listed under 75-5-702, the department shall provide assistance and support to landowners, local conservation districts, and watershed advisory groups for interim measures that may restore water quality and remove the need to establish a TMDL, such as informational programs regarding control of nonpoint source pollution and voluntary measures designed to correct impairments. When a source implements voluntary measures to reduce pollutants prior to development of a TMDL, those measures, whether or not reflected in subsequently issued waste discharge permits, must be recognized in development of the TMDL in a way that gives credit for the pollution reduction efforts.

(6) After development of a TMDL and upon approval of the TMDL, the department shall:

(a) incorporate the TMDL into its current continuing planning process;

(b) incorporate the waste load allocation developed for point sources during the TMDL process into appropriate water discharge permits; and

(c) assist and inform landowners regarding the application of a voluntary program of reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices developed pursuant to subsection (2).

(7) Once the control measures identified in subsection (6) have been implemented, the department shall, in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, develop a monitoring program to assess the waters that are subject to the TMDL to determine whether compliance with water quality standards has been attained for a particular water body or whether the water body is no longer threatened. The monitoring program must be designed based on the specific impairments or pollution sources. The department's monitoring program must include long-term monitoring efforts for the analysis of the effectiveness of the control measures developed.

(8) The department shall support a voluntary program of reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices to achieve compliance with water quality standards for nonpoint source activities for water bodies that are subject to a TMDL developed and implemented pursuant to this section.

(9) If the monitoring program provided under subsection (7) demonstrates that the TMDL is not achieving compliance with applicable water quality standards within 5 years after approval of a TMDL, the department shall conduct a formal evaluation of progress in restoring water quality and the status of reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practice implementation to determine if:

(a) the implementation of a new or improved phase of voluntary reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practice is necessary;

(b) water quality is improving but a specified time is needed for compliance with water quality standards; or

(c) revisions to the TMDL are necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards.

(10) Pending completion of a TMDL on a water body listed pursuant to 75-5-702:

(a) point source discharges to a listed water body may commence or continue, provided that:

(i) the discharge is in conformance with a discharge permit that reflects, in the manner and to the extent applicable for the particular discharge, the provisions of 75-5-303;

(ii) the discharge will not cause a decline in water quality for parameters by which the water body is impaired; and

(iii) minimum treatment requirements adopted pursuant to 75-5-305 are met;

(b) the issuance of a discharge permit may not be precluded because a TMDL is pending;

(c) new or expanded nonpoint source activities affecting a listed water body may commence and continue if those activities are conducted in accordance with reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices; and

(d) for existing nonpoint source activities, the department shall continue to use educational nonpoint source control programs and voluntary measures as provided in subsections (5) and (6).

(11) This section may not be construed to prevent a person from filing an application or etition under 75-5-302, 75-5-310, or 75-5-312.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 541, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2003; amd. Sec. , Ch. 302, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 122, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

75-5-704. Watershed advisory groups. (1) In implementing the consultation equirements under 75-5-702(4) and 75-5-703(1) and (2), the department shall request the articipation of representatives of the following interest groups to work in an advisory capacity vith the local conservation districts and the department:

(a) livestock-oriented agriculture;
(b) farming-oriented agriculture;
(c) conservation or environmental interests;
(d) water-based recreationists;
(e) the forestry industry;
(f) municipalities;
(g) affected or potentially affected point source dischargers;
(h) mining;
(i) existing local watershed groups;
(j) federal land management agencies;
(k) state trust land management agencies;
(l) the tourism industry;
(m) the hydroelectric industry, if applicable; and
(n) fishing-related businesses.

(2) In implementing the consultation requirements of 75-5-702 and 75-5-703, the lepartment shall:

(a) prior to consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group pursuant to 75-5-702(7) nd (8), schedule meetings with appropriate local conservation districts and the watershed dvisory groups at a location within their affected geographic area to review and revise the list f water bodies provided for in 75-5-702; and

(b) at a meeting held pursuant to subsection (2)(a), request whether there is new nformation that may affect the listing or priority ranking on water bodies within the affected rea and solicit comments on revising the list.

(3) Based upon the information provided pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the department hall revise the list according to 75-5-702.

(4) Prior to and during the development of a TMDL within a particular watershed or asin, the department shall schedule a meeting or meetings with appropriate local conservation listricts and watershed advisory groups at a location within the affected geographic area in rder to solicit comments on developing the TMDL and information on sources that may be ontributing to water quality impairment.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 541, L. 1997.

75-5-705. Nonimpairment of water rights. Nothing in this part may be construed to livest, impair, or diminish any water right recognized pursuant to Title 85.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 541, L. 1997.

Part 8
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

75-5-801. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Animal feeding operation" means a lot or facility where the following conditions are net:

(a) animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total f 45 days or more in any 12-month period; and

(b) crops, vegetation, forage growth, or postharvest residues are not sustained in the ormal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

(2) "Concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding operation that is lefined as a large concentrated animal feeding operation or as a medium concentrated animal eeding operation or that is designated as a concentrated animal feeding operation in accordance

with 40 CFR, part 122. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership ar considered to be a single animal feeding operation for the purposes of determining the numbe of animals at an operation if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system fo the disposal of wastes.

(3) "Large concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding operatio that stables or confines at a minimum:

(a) 700 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry;
(b) 1,000 veal calves;
(c) 1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves;
(d) 2,500 swine each weighing 55 pounds or more;
(e) 10,000 swine each weighing less than 55 pounds;
(f) 500 horses;
(g) 10,000 sheep or lambs;
(h) 55,000 turkeys;
(i) 30,000 laying hens or broilers if the animal feeding operation uses a liqui manure-handling system;
(j) 125,000 chickens, other than laying hens, if the animal feeding operation uses othe than a liquid manure-handling system;
(k) 82,000 laying hens if the animal feeding operation uses other than a liqui manure-handling system;
(l) 30,000 ducks if the animal feeding operation uses other than a liquid manure-handlin system; or
(m) 5,000 ducks if the animal feeding operation uses a liquid manure-handling system.

(4) "Medium concentrated animal feeding operation" means an animal feeding operatio with the type and number of animals that fall within any of the ranges listed in subsection (4)(a and that has been defined or designated as a concentrated animal feeding operation. An anima feeding operation is defined as a medium concentrated animal feeding operation if:

(a) the type and number of animals that it stables or confines falls within any of th following ranges:
(i) 200-699 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry;
(ii) 300-999 veal calves;
(iii) 300-999 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves;
(iv) 750-2,499 swine each weighing 55 pounds or more;
(v) 3,000-9,999 swine each weighing less than 55 pounds;
(vi) 150-499 horses;
(vii) 3,000-9,999 sheep or lambs;
(viii) 16,500-54,999 turkeys;
(ix) 9,000-29,999 laying hens or broilers if the animal feeding operation uses a liqui manure-handling system;
(x) 37,500-124,999 chickens, other than laying hens, if the animal feeding operation use other than a liquid manure-handling system;
(xi) 25,000-81,999 laying hens if the animal feeding operation uses other than a liqui manure-handling system;
(xii) 10,000-29,999 ducks if the animal feeding operation uses other than a liquid manure-handling system; or
(xiii) 1,500-4,999 ducks if the animal feeding operation uses a liquid manure-handling system; and

(b) either of the following conditions is met:
(i) pollutants are discharged into waters of the state through a constructed ditch, flushing system, or other similar constructed device; or
(ii) pollutants are discharged directly into waters of the state that originate outside of and pass over, across, or through the facility or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals confined in the operation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2497, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

75-5-802. Permitting — concentrated animal feeding operation. (1) For the purpose of permitting concentrated animal feeding operations, the department shall adopt, by reference, the federal regulations and definitions contained in 40 CFR, parts 122.23 and 412.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), concentrated animal feeding operations that meet the requirements of 40 CFR, part 412, must be authorized by the department under a general permit.

(3) If, upon review of an application for a general permit authorization for a concentrated animal feeding operation production area, the department discovers site-specific information hat indicates that a general permit authorization is not sufficiently protective of water quality, he department shall require an individual permit.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-5-803. Fees for concentrated animal feeding operation permits — environmental review. (1) (a) The fees for a general permit authorization or an individual permit are $600 for the initial application and $600 for each renewal.

(b) In addition to the fees provided for in subsection (1)(a), there is an annual fee for a general permit authorization or an individual permit. The fee is $600 and is subject to the annual fee reduction provisions in 75-5-516(2)(b).

(2) The department is required to conduct only the type of environmental assessment that would be conducted for a routine action with limited environmental impact pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, part 2, as the necessary level of environmental review for concentrated animal feeding operations that qualify for a general permit pursuant to 75-5-802. For concentrated animal feeding operations that require an individual permit, the level of environmental review must be an environmental assessment unless the department determines that an environmental impact statement is required pursuant to 75-1-201. A programmatic environmental impact statement is not required for permitting conducted under 75-5-802.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 403, L. 2005.

Part 9

Phosphorus-Containing Household Cleaning Products

75-5-901. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Phosphorus Ban Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 2009.

75-5-902. Findings — purpose. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) high levels of phosphorus in water bodies results in heavy growths of algae;

(b) excessive algae growth degrades aquatic habitats, decreases diversity in aquatic nvertebrate communities, and places stress on native fish populations;

(c) municipal wastewater treatment plants and individual septic systems are sources of phosphorus, an ingredient in many household cleaning products; and

(d) Montana has adopted numeric water quality standards for phosphorus.

(2) Consistent with the policy established in 75-5-101 to conserve water by protecting, maintaining, and improving the quality and potability of water for public water supplies, wildlife, fish and aquatic life, agriculture, industry, recreation, and other beneficial uses, the purpose of this part is to limit the introduction of phosphorus into water bodies from municipal point source discharges or the cumulative effect of individual septic system discharges.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 2009.

75-5-903. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commercial establishment" means any premises used for the purpose of carrying on or exercising any trade, business, profession, vocation, or commercial or charitable activity, including but not limited to laundries, hospitals, hotels, motels, and food or restaurant establishments.

(2) (a) "Household cleaning product" means any product, including but not limited to soaps and detergents, used for domestic cleaning purposes, which include but are not limited to the cleaning of fabrics, dishes, food utensils, and household premises.

(b) The term does not mean food, drugs, cosmetics, or personal care items such as toothpaste, shampoo, or hand soap.

(3) "Phosphorus" means the element phosphorus as indicated in the periodic table of elements.

(4) "Trace quantity" means an incidental amount of phosphorus that is not part of a household cleaning product formulation, that is present only as a consequence of manufacturing, and that does not exceed 0.5% of the content of the product by weight expressed as the element phosphorus.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 245, L. 2009.**

75-5-904. Applicability to counties — notification. (1) The provisions of 75-5-905 apply to counties where one or more surface water bodies exceed the numeric algal biomass or total phosphorus standards adopted pursuant to 75-5-301.

(2) The department shall notify counties that meet the provisions of subsection (1) that they are subject to the provisions of 75-5-905.

(3) The governing body of a county that does not meet the provisions of subsection (1) may adopt an ordinance pursuant to Title 75, chapter 7, part 4.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 245, L. 2009.**

75-5-905. Prohibitions and exceptions. (1) In counties that meet the requirements of 75-5-904, a household cleaning product may not be distributed, sold, offered, or exposed for sale if it contains phosphorus in concentrations in excess of a trace quantity.

(2) The following cleaning agents and other products containing phosphorus are exempt from the provisions of this section:

(a) those used in food or beverage processing;
(b) those used by health care services and facilities;
(c) those used by institutional or commercial establishments;
(d) those used for industrial processes; and
(e) those used for agricultural operations.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 2009.**

Part 10 reserved

Part 11
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund

Part Cross-References

Water and Wastewater Operators' Advisory Council, 2-15-2105.
Metropolitan sanitary and/or storm sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, part 1.
County water and/or sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, part 22 and 23.
Consolidated local government waters supply and sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, part 30.
Municipal sewage and/or water systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 43.
Water treatment plant operators, Title 37, ch. 42.

75-5-1101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-5-1102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrative costs" means costs incurred by the department and the department of natural resources and conservation in the administration of the program, including but not limited to costs of servicing loans and issuing debt; program startup costs; financial, management, and legal consulting fees; and reimbursement costs for support services from other state agencies.

(2) "Cost" means, with reference to a project, all capital costs incurred or to be incurred by a municipality or a private person, including but not limited to engineering, construction, financing, and other fees, interest during construction, and a reasonable allowance for contingencies to the extent permitted by the federal act and regulations promulgated under the federal act.

(3) "Federal act" means the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, also known as the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 through 1387, as amended.

(4) "Intended use plan" means the annual plan adopted by the department and submitted o the environmental protection agency that describes how the state intends to use the money in the revolving fund.

(5) "Loan" means a loan of money from the revolving fund to a municipality or a private person.

(6) "Municipality" means any state agency, city, town, or other public body created pursuant to state law, including an authority as defined in 75-6-304.

(7) "Private person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental legal entity.

(8) "Program" means the water pollution control state revolving fund program established by this part.

(9) "Project" means an activity that is eligible for financing by the program under the ederal act, including treatment works, as defined under section 1292 of the federal act (33 U.S.C. 1292), and nonpoint source pollution control under section 1329 of the federal act (33 U.S.C. 1329), and for which a municipality or private person makes an application for a loan or other financial assistance.

(10) "Revolving fund" means the fund established by 75-5-1106.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 498, L. 1999; amd. Sec. [illegible], Ch. 506, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 489, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Water quality generally — chapter definitions, 75-5-103.

75-5-1103. Water pollution control state revolving fund program. There is a program under which the state may provide financial assistance to municipalities and private persons o finance or refinance part or all of the cost of projects. The program must be administered in accordance with this part and the federal act.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

75-5-1104. Authorization of agreement — content. (1) The department may enter into a capitalization grant agreement or other agreement with the United States environmental protection agency to implement the program and may accept from that agency other grants and oans to carry out the program.

(2) In entering into the agreement, the director of the department may commit the state o:

(a) accept grant payments from the environmental protection agency in accordance with he schedule established by the administrator of that agency and deposit the payments in the revolving fund established in 75-5-1106;

(b) deposit in the revolving fund from state money an amount equal to at least 20% of the otal amount of all capitalization grants made to the state as provided by 75-5-1106 on or before he date on which each quarterly federal grant payment is made to the state;

(c) provide financial assistance to municipalities and private persons in accordance with his part in an amount equal to 120% of the amount of each grant payment within a time period not to exceed 1 year after receipt of a grant;

(d) expend all funds in the revolving fund in an expeditious and timely manner;

(e) use all funds deposited in the revolving fund as a result of the capitalization grant to ensure progress, as determined by the governor of the state, toward compliance with enforceable deadlines, goals, and requirements of the federal act;

(f) expend each quarterly grant payment in accordance with the laws and procedures applicable to commitment or expenditure of revenues of the state;

(g) use accounting, audit, and fiscal procedures conforming to generally accepted government accounting standards;

(h) as a condition of making a loan or providing other financial assistance from the revolving fund, require that the municipality or private person will maintain project accounts in accordance with generally accepted government accounting standards;

(i) make annual reports to the environmental protection agency concerning the use of the revolving fund as required by the federal act; and

(j) any other covenants, commitments, and obligations necessary to ensure that the state's administration of the program is consistent with the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

75-5-1105. Rulemaking. The department and the department of natural resources and conservation may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this part, including rules:

(1) prescribing the form and content of applications for loans and refinancing agreements;

(2) governing the application of the criteria for awarding loans;

(3) establishing additional terms and conditions for the making of loans and the security instruments and other necessary agreements; and

(4) establishing ceilings on the amount of individual loans to be made to municipalities and private persons, if considered appropriate and necessary for the successful administration of the program.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

75-5-1106. Revolving fund. (1) There is established in the state treasury a separate account designated as the water pollution control state revolving fund. There are established in the revolving fund as subaccounts a federal allocation account, a state allocation account, an administration account, an investment income account, and a debt service account.

(2) There must be credited to:

(a) the federal allocation account, all amounts received by the state from the following sources:

(i) funds provided pursuant to the federal act as capitalization grants for a state revolving fund to assist construction of projects;

(ii) grants or transfers of grants received under subchapter II of the federal act for projects; and

(iii) money transferred to the fund from the drinking water state revolving fund pursuant to 75-6-211;

(b) the state allocation account:

(i) the net proceeds of bonds of the state issued pursuant to 75-5-1121, less any proceeds deposited to the administration account as provided in subsection (2)(c)(ii); and

(ii) other money appropriated by the legislature;

(c) the administration account, an amount not to exceed 4% of the capitalization grant award or the maximum amount allowed by the federal act for payment of administrative costs and that may include a combination of:

(i) federal funds; and

(ii) the proceeds of bonds of the state issued pursuant to 75-5-1121 as the department determines necessary and as required by the federal act for state matching funds to assist in administering the program;

(d) the investment account, all money received from investment of amounts in those accounts in the revolving fund designated by the board of examiners in the resolution or trust indenture authorizing the issuance of bonds; and

(e) the debt service account, the interest portion of loan repayments.

(3) Each loan made as authorized by 75-5-1113 must be funded and disbursed from the federal allocation account or the state allocation account, or both, by the department and the department of natural resources and conservation as recommended by the department. All amounts received in payment of principal or interest on a loan must be credited to the revolving fund. If bonds have been issued pursuant to 75-5-1121 and are outstanding, the interest payments must be transferred to the debt service account securing the bonds. Money in the debt service account that is not required for debt service may be transferred to other accounts within the revolving fund as provided in the resolution or trust indenture authorizing the bonds. The department may transfer payments and prepayments of the principal of loans deposited in the state allocation account to the state allocation account of the state's drinking water revolving fund program.

(4) The department of natural resources and conservation may establish additional accounts and subaccounts within the revolving fund as it considers necessary to account for the program money and to ensure compliance with the federal act and this part.

(5) As allowed under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f, et seq., the governor may reserve or transfer from the water pollution control state revolving fund program

apitalization grant to the state's drinking water revolving fund program an amount up to 33% f the state's drinking water revolving fund program capitalization grant.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 788, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 187, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. ec. 7, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 421, L. 1999.

75-5-1107. Uses of revolving fund. Money in the revolving fund may be used to:

(1) make loans to municipalities to finance all or a portion of the cost of a project and to ıake loans to private persons to finance all or a portion of the cost of nonpoint source pollution ontrol projects;

(2) buy or refinance debt obligations of municipalities that were issued to finance projects ithin the state at or below market rates, provided that the obligations were incurred after Iarch 7, 1985;

(3) guarantee or purchase insurance for obligations of municipalities that were issued to nance projects in order to enhance credit or reduce interest rates;

(4) provide a source of revenue or security for general obligation bonds the proceeds of hich are deposited in the revolving fund;

(5) provide loan guarantees for similar revolving funds established by municipalities;

(6) earn interest on fund accounts;

(7) pay reasonable administrative costs of the program not to exceed 4% of all federal rant awards to the fund or the maximum amount allowed under the federal act; and

(8) provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of rincipal of loans to the extent authorized or required by federal law and subject to satisfaction f conditions on loans described in 75-5-1113 or to satisfy any other incentives, conditions, or equirements of federal law related to the program.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 297, L. 2011.

75-5-1108. Use of funds — statutory appropriation. Money in the revolving fund s statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, for the purposes of making loans to ıunicipalities and private concerns and paying debt service on obligations.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

75-5-1109 and 75-5-1110 reserved.

75-5-1111. Applications. (1) The department shall, after consultation with the department f natural resources and conservation, establish loan application procedures, including forms r the applications. Each application for a loan to finance construction of a project must include:

(a) a reasonably detailed description of the project;

(b) a reasonably detailed estimate of the cost of the project;

(c) a timetable for the construction of the project and for payment of the cost of the project;

(d) identification of the source or sources of funds to be used in addition to the proceeds of he loan to pay the cost of the project;

(e) the source or sources of revenue proposed to be used to repay the loan;

(f) a current financial statement showing assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenses of the pplicant;

(g) if the applicant is a municipality, a statement as to whether, at the time of application, here are any outstanding loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations of the municipality that were ssued or incurred to finance any part of the municipality's project or system of which the project s a part and, if so, a description of the loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations;

(h) if the applicant is a private person, a statement as to whether, at the time of application, here are any outstanding loans, notes, or other obligations of the private person and, if so, a escription of the loans, notes, or other obligations; and

(i) any other information that the department or the department of natural resources and onservation may require to determine the feasibility of a project and the applicant's ability to epay the loan, including but not limited to engineering reports, economic feasibility studies, nd legal opinions.

(2) Each application for a loan to refinance a project, including a purchase of outstanding bligations issued by a municipality to finance a project in whole or in part, must include:

(a) a reasonably detailed description of the project;

(b) a schedule of the cost of the project;

(c) the date on which construction of the project began;

(d) a description of the loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations to be refinanced an of any other loans, notes, bonds, or obligations issued or incurred to finance any part of th municipality's project; and

(e) any other information that the department or the department of natural resources an conservation may require.

(3) Each application for financial assistance in the form of a guaranty or the purchase o insurance for a municipal obligation must include all items required by subsection (1) and an other information the department may require.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-5-1112. Evaluation of projects and loan applications. The department of natura resources and conservation and the department shall evaluate projects and loan applications. I evaluating projects and loan applications, the following factors must be considered:

(1) the technical design of the project to ensure compliance with all applicable statutes rules, and design standards;

(2) the financial capacity of the municipality or private person to repay the loan;

(3) the financial, managerial, and technical ability of the municipality or private person t properly operate and maintain the project;

(4) the feasibility of project completion given the total financing available;

(5) the ability of the municipality or private person to pay the costs of the project withou the requested financial assistance;

(6) the total amount of loan funds available for financial assistance in the revolving fund;

(7) the total amount requested in other applications that have been received or that ar likely to be received;

(8) the ranking of the project on the priority list or intended use plan; and

(9) any other criteria that the department determines appropriate, considering th purposes of the federal act and the program.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-5-1113. Conditions on loans. (1) Upon approval of a project by the department, th department of natural resources and conservation may lend amounts on deposit in the revolvin fund to a municipality or private person to pay part or all of the cost of a project or to buy o refinance an outstanding obligation of a municipality that was issued to finance a project. Th loan is subject to the municipality or private person complying with the following conditions:

(a) meeting requirements of financial capability set by the department of natural resource and conservation to ensure sufficient revenue to operate and maintain the project for its usefu life and to repay the loan, including the establishment and maintenance by the municipality o a reserve or revolving fund to secure the payment of principal of and interest on the loan to th extent permitted by the applicable law governing the municipality's obligation;

(b) agreeing to operate and maintain the project properly over its structural and materia design life, which may not be less than the term of the loan;

(c) agreeing to maintain proper financial records in accordance with generally accepte accounting standards and agreeing that all records are subject to audit;

(d) meeting the requirements listed in the federal act for projects constructed with fund directly made available by federal capitalization grants;

(e) providing legal assurance that all necessary property titles, easements, an rights-of-way have been obtained to construct, operate, and maintain the project;

(f) submitting an engineering report evaluating the proposed project, includin information demonstrating its cost-effectiveness and environmental information necessar for the department and the department of natural resources and conservation to fulfill thei responsibilities under the Montana Environmental Policy Act and rules adopted to implement that act;

(g) complying with plan and specification requirements and other requirement established by the department; and

(h) providing for proper construction inspection and project management.

(2) Each loan, unless prepaid, is payable subject to the limitations of the federal act, with nterest paid in annual or more frequent installments.

(3) (a) Subject to the limitations of the federal act, the interest rate on a loan must ensure hat the interest payments on the loan and on other outstanding loans will be sufficient, if aid timely and in full, with other available funds in the revolving fund, including investment ncome, to enable the state to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds issued pursuant to 5-5-1121.

(b) The interest rate must be determined as of the date the loan is authorized by the epartment of natural resources and conservation.

(c) The rate may include any additional rate that the department of natural resources nd conservation considers reasonable or necessary to provide a reserve for the repayment of he loans. The additional rate may be fixed or variable or may be calculated according to a ormula, and it may differ from the rate established for any other loan. Once the reserve has een established at a level considered by the department to be reasonable and prudent for the oans outstanding, the department may use excess reserve payments to make grants to aid in he feasibility of projects.

(4) Each loan must be evidenced by a bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness of he municipality or private person, in a form prescribed or approved by the department of atural resources and conservation, except that the bond, note, or other evidence must include rovisions required by the federal act and must be consistent with the provisions of this part. he bond, note, or other evidence is not required to be identical for all loans. The department of atural resources and conservation may require that loans to private persons be further secured y a mortgage and other security interests in the project that is being financed or other forms of dditional security as considered necessary, including personal guarantees and letters of credit.

(5) As a condition to making a loan, the department of natural resources and conservation, vith the concurrence of the department, may impose a reasonable administrative fee that may e paid from the proceeds of the loan or other available funds of the municipality or private erson. Administrative fees may be deposited:

(a) in a special administrative costs account that the department of natural resources and onservation may create for that purpose outside the revolving fund provided for in 75-5-1106; r

(b) in the administration account. Money deposited in the administration account stablished in 75-5-1106 must be used for the payment of administrative costs of the program. loney deposited in the special administration costs account must be used for the payment of dministrative costs of the program unless not required for that purpose, in which case the noney may be transferred to other funds and accounts in the program.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 788, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. ec. 267, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 421, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 342, L. 009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2015.

ross-References

Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75, ch. 1, parts 1 and 2.

75-5-1114 through 75-5-1120 reserved.

75-5-1121. Authorization of bonds — allocation of proceeds. (1) Upon request of the epartment of natural resources and conservation, the board of examiners is authorized to issue nd sell bonds of the state as authorized by the legislature to provide money for the program. The bonds are general obligations on which the full faith, credit, and taxing powers of the state re pledged for payment of the principal and interest. The bonds must be issued as provided by Title 17, chapter 5, part 8.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2), the proceeds of the bonds are llocated to the state allocation account or the administration account of the revolving fund, as rovided in 75-5-1106.

(b) Any accrued interest and bond proceeds to be used to pay interest must be deposited in he debt service account of the revolving fund.

(c) Proceeds of bonds to be used to pay the costs of issuing the bonds must be deposited in cost of issuance account established outside of the revolving fund by the board of examiners in he resolution or trust indenture authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

(d) Any premium received must be deposited in the state allocation account, the deb service account. or the cost of issuance account as directed by the board of examiners in the resolution or trust indenture regarding the bonds.

(e) For purposes of 17-5-803 and 17-5-804, the state allocation account and the cost o issuance account constitute a capital projects account. The proceeds must be available to the department and the department of natural resources and conservation and may be used for the purposes authorized in this part without further budgetary authorization.

(3) In the resolution authorizing the sale and issuance of the bonds, the board of examiners upon the request of the department of natural resources and conservation, may create separate accounts or subaccounts to provide for the payment security of the bonds and may pledge the interest component of the loan repayments credited to the revolving fund and the revolving fund as security for the bonds.

(4) The board of examiners may allow bonds issued under this section to be secured by a trust indenture between the board of examiners and a trustee. The trustee may be a trust company or bank having the powers of a trustee inside or outside the state.

(a) If the board of examiners elects to issue bonds pursuant to a trust indenture, the trustee may, as determined by the board of examiners, hold one or more of the funds and accounts created pursuant to this chapter.

(b) In addition to provisions that the board of examiners determines to be necessary and appropriate to secure the bonds, provide for the rights of the bondholders, and ensure compliance with all applicable law, the trust indenture must contain provisions that:

(i) govern the custody, safeguarding, and disbursement of all money held by the trustee under the trust indenture; and

(ii) permit representatives of the state treasurer, department, or department of natural resources and conservation, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, to inspect the trustee's books and records concerning the trust indenture.

(c) A trust indenture or an executed counterpart of a trust indenture developed pursuant to this chapter must be filed with the secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 788, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd Sec. 12, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 421, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 74, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 29, L. 2021

75-5-1122. Creation of debt. The legislature, through the enactment of this law by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house, authorizes the creation of state debt in an amount not to exceed $70 million in principal amount of general obligation bonds outstanding from time to time for the purpose of:

(1) funding the program; and

(2) funding portions of loans on an interim basis pending receipt of:

(a) grant payments from the environmental protection agency for which federal legislation appropriating the proceeds of the grants has been enacted; or

(b) other revenue for the program.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 678, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2003; amd. Sec 2, Ch. 323, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 29, L. 2021.

75-5-1123 through 75-5-1125 reserved.

75-5-1126. Projects funded by federal government appropriations. For projects that are funded in part by appropriations from the federal government over a term of years, that have been approved by the department and the department of natural resources and conservation under 75-5-1112, and that are considered to be in compliance with 75-5-1113, the department of natural resources and conservation may advance money to a municipality in anticipation of the receipt of federal funds by the municipality on the following conditions:

(1) congress has authorized the project and has committed to fund the project at a specified dollar amount over a period of years;

(2) other funding agencies will not authorize construction of the project to begin until there is evidence that construction money will be available to the municipality to pay all of the construction costs;

(3) the department and the department of natural resources and conservation determine hat it is in the best interest of the state and the state's objectives under the program that the roject begin construction prior to the receipt of all federal appropriations; and

(4) the advance of the money will be in the form of a note that is issued pursuant to 7-7-109 n anticipation of a federal grant for which the municipality promises to pay and pledges to the epartment of natural resources and conservation the proceeds of the grant when received.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 9, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 6
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES, DISTRIBUTION, AND TREATMENT

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75-6-327. Refunding revenue bonds.
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Chapter Cross-References

Metropolitan sanitary and storm sewer systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 1.
County water and sewer districts, 7-13-2203.
Municipal sewage and/or water systems, Title 7, ch. 13, part 43.
Cities and towns — water supplies and regulation, Title 7, ch. 13, part 44.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Water treatment plant operators, Title 37, ch. 42.
Licensing of plumbers, Title 37, ch. 69, part 3.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Applicability of public water supply laws to subdivisions, 76-4-131.
Water and ground water — policy of state, 85-1-101.

Part 1
Public Water Supply

Cross-References

Exceptions to permit requirements, 85-2-306.

75-6-101. Policy. It is the public policy of this state to protect, maintain, and improve the quality and potability of water for public water supplies and domestic uses.

History: En. Sec. 140, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4901.

Cross-References

Exclusion of municipalities — appropriation for public water supplies, 85-2-317.

75-6-102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise the following definitions apply:

(1) "Applicant" means a person who submits plans and specifications for approval pursuant to this part.

(2) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(3) "Certified source water protection area" means an area certified by the department that identifies the surface and subsurface area surrounding a source of water for a public water supply system through which contaminants may move toward and reach the source of supply.

(4) "Community water system" means a public water supply system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or that regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

(5) "Contamination" means impairment of the quality of state waters by sewage, industrial waste, or other waste creating a hazard to human health.

(6) "Cross-connection" means a connection between a public water supply system and nother water supply system, either public or private, or a wastewater or sewerline or other otential source of contamination so that a flow of water into or contamination of the public vater supply system from the other source of water or contamination is possible.

(7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in -15-3501.

(8) "Drainage" means rainfall, surface, and subsoil water.

(9) "Industrial waste" means any waste substance from the processes of business or ndustry or from the development of a natural resource, together with any sewage that may be resent.

(10) "Maximum contaminant level" means the maximum permissible level of a contaminant n water that is delivered to a user of a public water supply system.

(11) "Other waste" means garbage, municipal refuse, decayed wood, sawdust, shavings, ark, lime, sand, ashes, offal, night soil, oil, grease, tar, heat, chemicals, dead animals, sediment, vrecked or discarded equipment, radioactive materials, solid waste, and all other substances hat may pollute state waters.

(12) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, ity, town, local government entity, federal agency, or any other governmental or private entity, vhether organized for profit or not.

(13) (a) "Pollution" means contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or iological properties of state waters that exceeds that which is permitted by Montana water uality standards, including but not limited to standards relating to change in temperature, aste, color, turbidity, or odor or the discharge or introduction of a liquid, gaseous, solid, adioactive, or other substance into state water that will or is likely to create a nuisance or ender the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, recreation, safety, or velfare, to livestock, or to wild animals, birds, fish, or other wildlife.

(b) A discharge that is authorized under the pollution discharge permit rules of the board s not pollution under this chapter.

(14) "Public sewage system" means a system of collection, transportation, treatment, or lisposal of sewage that serves 15 or more families or 25 or more persons daily for any 60 or more lays in a calendar year.

(15) "Public water supply system" means a system for the provision of water for human onsumption from a community well, water hauler for cisterns, water bottling plant, water lispenser, or other water supply that has at least 15 service connections or that regularly serves t least 25 persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year.

(16) "Reclaimed wastewater" means wastewater that is treated by a public sewage system or reuse for private, public, or commercial purposes.

(17) "Safe Drinking Water Act" means 42 U.S.C. 300f and regulations set forth in 40 CFR, arts 141 and 142.

(18) "Sewage" means water-carried waste products from residences, public buildings, nstitutions, or other buildings, including discharge from human beings, together with ground vater infiltration and surface water present.

(19) "Source water protection program" means a program administered by the department o certify source water protection delineation and assessment reports and source water rotection plans and to review source water protection ordinances.

(20) "State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground.

(21) "Transient noncommunity water system" means a public water supply system that is ot a community water system and that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons or at least 6 months a year.

History: En. Sec. 141, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M. 947, 69-4902; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. ec. 188, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 488, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 525, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 423, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 2021.

ross-References

Water treatment plants and distribution systems, 37-42-101, 75-5-401, 75-5-403.

75-6-103. Repealed. Sec. 111, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 142, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M 1947, 69-4903; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 197, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd Sec. 13, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 488, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 73, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 511, L 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 423, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 85, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 449, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch 85, L. 2011.

75-6-104. Duties of department. (1) The department has general supervision over al state waters that are directly or indirectly being used by a person for a public water supply system, for domestic purposes, or as a source of ice.

(2) The department shall, subject to the provisions of 75-6-116 and as provided in 75-6-131 adopt rules and standards concerning:

(a) maximum contaminant levels for waters that are or will be used for a public water supply system;

(b) fees, as described in 75-6-108, for services rendered by the department;

(c) monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting by persons who own or operate public water supply systems;

(d) requiring public notice to all users of a public water supply system when a person has been granted a variance or exemption or is in violation of this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part;

(e) the siting, construction, operation, and modification of a public water supply system or public sewage system, including requirements to remedy:

(i) defects in the design, operation, or maintenance of a public water supply system or public sewage system in order to prevent or correct introduction of contamination into water used for a public water supply system, for domestic purposes, or as a source of ice;

(ii) fecal contamination in water used by a public water supply system; or

(iii) failure or malfunction of the sources, treatment, storage, or distribution portion of a public water supply system in order to prevent or correct introduction of contamination into water used for a public water supply system, for domestic purposes, or as a source of ice;

(f) the review of the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of a proposed public water supply system or public sewage system, as necessary to ensure the capability of the system to meet the requirements of this part;

(g) the collection and analysis of samples of water used for drinking or domestic purposes;

(h) the issuance of variances and exemptions as authorized by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and this part;

(i) administrative enforcement procedures and administrative penalties authorized under this part;

(j) standards and requirements for the review and approval of programs that may be voluntarily submitted by suppliers of public water supply systems to prevent water supply contamination from a cross-connection, including provisions to exempt cross-connections from the standards and requirements if all connected systems are department-approved public water supply systems;

(k) (i) allowable uses of reclaimed wastewater and classification of those uses;

(ii) treatment, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting standards and requirements tailored to each classification that must be met by the public sewage system to protect the uses of the reclaimed wastewater and any receiving water;

(iii) prohibition of reclaimed wastewater uses that are not allowable under subsection (2)(k)(i) or for which the reclaimed wastewater has not been treated in compliance with rules adopted under subsection (2)(k)(ii); and

(iv) a requirement that an applicant who proposes to use reclaimed wastewater pursuant to this subsection (2)(k) has obtained any necessary authorizations required under Title 85 from the department of natural resources and conservation; and

(l) any other requirement necessary for the protection of public health as described in this part.

(3) Department rules must provide for the following:

(a) except as provided in 75-6-131, a water supply or water distribution facility reviewed and approved by the department is not subject to changes in department design and onstruction criteria for a period of 36 months after written approval of the facility is issued by he department;

(b) except for facilities subject to permit requirements under Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, nd except as provided under rules adopted pursuant to 75-6-131, a system of water supply, rainage, wastewater, or sewage reviewed and approved under this section is not subject to hanges in department design or construction criteria for a period of 36 months after written pproval is issued by the department;

(c) plans and specifications for a portion of a facility or system subject to a 36-month imit on criteria changes pursuant to subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) but not constructed within he 36-month timeframe must be resubmitted for department review and approval before onstruction of that portion of the facility;

(d) the provisions of this subsection (3) may not limit an applicant's ability to alter a roposed project that is otherwise in conformance with applicable laws, rules, standards, and riteria; and

(e) department approval of development plans for a municipal system that allows dditional connections above the approved rated capacity of a water or wastewater system ursuant to 75-6-130.

(4) The department or the board may issue orders necessary to fully implement the rovisions of this part.

(5) The department shall:

(a) on its own initiative or complaint to the department, to the mayor or health officer of a nunicipality, or to the managing board or officer of a public institution, make an investigation f alleged pollution of a water supply system and, if required, prohibit the continuance of the ollution by ordering removal of the cause of pollution;

(b) have waters examined to determine their quality and the possibility that they may ndanger public health;

(c) consult and advise authorities of cities and towns and persons having or about to onstruct systems for water supply, drainage, wastewater, and sewage as to the most appropriate ource of water supply and the best method of ensuring its quality;

(d) advise persons as to the best method of treating and disposing of their drainage, ewage, or wastewater with reference to the existing and future needs of other persons and to revent pollution;

(e) consult with persons engaged in or intending to engage in manufacturing or other usiness whose drainage or sewage may tend to pollute waters as to the best method of reventing pollution;

(f) collect fees, as described in 75-6-108, for services and deposit the fees collected in the ublic drinking water special revenue fund established in 75-6-115;

(g) establish and maintain experiment stations and conduct experiments to study the best nethods of treating water, drainage, wastewater, and sewage to prevent pollution, including nvestigation of methods used in other states;

(h) enter on premises at reasonable times to determine sources of pollution or danger to vater supply systems and whether rules and standards of the department are being obeyed;

(i) enforce and administer the provisions of this part;

(j) establish a plan for the provision of safe drinking water under emergency circumstances;

(k) maintain an inventory of public water supply systems and establish a program for onducting sanitary surveys;

(l) enter into agreements with local boards of health whenever appropriate for the erformance of surveys and inspections under the provisions of this part; and

(m) review in the form of a written response within 60 days to an applicant seeking approval for use of reclaimed wastewater for snowmaking subject to subsection (2)(k) that:

(i) approves, approves with conditions, or denies the application pursuant to the provisions of this part; and

(ii) (A) describes additional information that must be submitted prior to department approval under subsection (5)(m)(i); or

(B) describes any additional requirements that the applicant must satisfy prior to department approval under subsection (5)(m)(i), such as a permit to discharge under Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, or an authorization under Title 85 from the department of natural resources and conservation.

History: **En. Sec. 143, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4904; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 423, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 353, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Cross-References

Approval of water supply required for dairy products manufacturing plants, 81-22-403.

75-6-105. Records required for wells drilled to supply water to public. Every person drilling a water well to furnish water for public consumption shall keep a complete record of the depth, thickness, and character of different strata and other information prescribed by the department. Data must be furnished to the department on forms prescribed by it. These data are available to the public at all reasonable times.

History: **En. Sec. 145, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4906; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.
Water well contractors, Title 37, ch. 43.

75-6-106. Laboratory license required. A laboratory analysis of water taken from a public water supply system or any report of an analysis required by this part or a rule adopted under this part may not be accepted by the department unless the analysis or report is made by the department of public health and human services' laboratory or by a laboratory licensed by the department of public health and human services for water analysis purposes.

History: **En. 69-4905.2 by Sec. 5, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4905.2; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 73, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-6-107. Variances and exemptions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department may grant a variance or exemption from the requirements of this part or the rules adopted under this part pursuant to the terms and conditions of the variance and exemption rules adopted by the department.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a variance or exemption granted pursuant to this section must be accompanied by a compliance plan specifying a time schedule for compliance.

(3) The department may grant for a period of up to 5 years a variance or exemption for a public water system to use bottled water to achieve compliance with a maximum contaminant level for nitrate. The variance or exemption must include the requirement that the owner of the public water system warn the public that the tap water is not potable and could pose a health risk if consumed by:

(a) posting signs at locations required by the variance or exemption for the period granted by the variance or exemption; and

(b) delivering annual notices as required by the variance or exemption to users of the public water system.

(4) A person aggrieved by a decision of the department to grant, deny, revoke, or modify a variance or exemption may appeal the department's decision to the board as provided in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. 69-4905.1 by Sec. 4, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4905.1; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested case proceedings, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-6-108. Department to prescribe fees — opportunity for appeal. (1) The department shall by rule prescribe fees to be assessed annually on owners of public water supply systems to recover department costs in providing services under this part. The annual fee for a public water supply system is no more than $2.25 for each service connection to the public water supply system for the biennium beginning July 1, 1991, and ending June 30, 993, and thereafter is no more than $2 for each service connection to the public water supply ystem, although the minimum fee for any system is $100, except that the fee for a transient ioncommunity water system is $50.

(2) Public water supply systems in a municipality may raise the rates to recover costs ssociated with the fees prescribed in this section without the public hearing required in 9-7-111.

(3) The department shall by rule prescribe fees assessed on persons who submit plans and pecifications or development plans for construction, alteration, or extension of a public water upply system or public sewage system. The fees must be commensurate with the cost to the lepartment of reviewing the plans and specifications.

(4) Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the public drinking water pecial revenue fund established in 75-6-115.

(5) (a) The department shall notify the owner of a public water supply system in writing f the amount of the fee to be assessed and the basis for the assessment. The owner may appeal he fee assessment in writing to the board within 20 days after receipt of the written notice.

(b) An appeal must be based on the allegation that the fee is erroneous or excessive. An ppeal may not be based only on the fee schedule adopted by the department.

(c) If any part of the fee assessment is not appealed, it must be paid to the department on eceipt of the notice provided for in subsection (5)(a).

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 353, L. 2023.**

ompiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 353, L. 2023. Amendment effective Iay 2, 2023.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-6-109. Administrative enforcement. (1) If the department believes that a violation f this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a condition of approval issued under this part has ccurred, it may serve written notice of the violation, by certified mail, on the alleged violator or he violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part, the rule, or the condition f approval alleged to have been violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation. The otice must include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of ime. The time period must be stated in the order. Service by mail is complete on the date of iling.

(2) If the alleged violator does not request a hearing before the board within 30 days of he date of service, the order becomes final. Failure to comply with a final order may subject the iolator to an action commenced pursuant to 75-6-104, 75-6-113, or 75-6-114.

(3) If the alleged violator requests a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of ervice, the board shall schedule a hearing. After the hearing is held, the board may:

(a) affirm or modify the department's order issued under subsection (1) if the board finds hat a violation has occurred; or

(b) rescind the department's order if the board finds that a violation has not occurred.

(4) An order issued by the department or the board may set a date by which the violation nust cease and set a time limit for action to correct a violation.

(5) As an alternative to issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board for a hearing, at a time and lace specified in the notice, to answer the charges complained of; or

(b) initiate an action under 75-6-111(2), 75-6-113, or 75-6-114.

(6) (a) An action initiated under this part may include an administrative penalty not to xceed:

(i) $1,000 for each day of a violation pertaining to a public water system, other than a vater hauler or a water bottling plant, that serves a population of more than 10,000; and

(ii) $500 for each day of violation for other violations.

(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state eneral fund.

(7) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed to a person, the department or th board, as appropriate, shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001 and the rules promulgate under 75-6-104(2)(i).

(8) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provide for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under 75-6-108 or this section.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec 10, Ch. 73, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 195, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 487, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested case hearings, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-6-110. Enforcement response. (1) Whenever, on the basis of information available t the department, the department finds that a person is in violation of this part, a rule adopte under this part, or a condition, requirement of an approval, or order issued pursuant to thi part, the department shall initiate an enforcement response, which may include any of th following actions:

(a) issuance of a letter notifying the person of the violation and requiring compliance;

(b) issuance of an order requiring the person to correct the violation pursuant to 75-6-10 and 75-6-109;

(c) bringing a judicial action as authorized by 75-6-111; or

(d) seeking administrative or judicial penalties as provided under 75-6-109, 75-6-113, an 75-6-114.

(2) Unless an alleged violation represents an imminent threat to human health, safety or welfare or to the environment, the department shall first issue a letter notifying the perso of the violation and requiring compliance. If the person fails to respond to the conditions in th department's letter, then the department shall take further action as provided in subsection (1)

(3) The provisions of this part do not limit the authority of the department to bring a judicia action, which may include the assessment of penalties, prior to initiating an administrativ action authorized by this part.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 1995.**

75-6-111. Appeal from rule or standard — injunction to require compliance (1) A person aggrieved by a rule, standard, or order adopted or issued pursuant to this par may appeal to the district court, except as otherwise provided in 75-6-109. While the appeal i pending, the rule, standard, or order is in force.

(2) The department may seek an injunction from the appropriate district court to requir compliance with this part or a rule or order issued as authorized by this part. The court ma award the department costs and expenses incurred in investigating and abating the violation The department may also initiate an action to collect a criminal penalty as provided in 75-6-11 or a civil penalty as provided in 75-6-114.

History: **En. Sec. 146, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M 1947, 69-4907(1), (2); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 645, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

Costs, Title 25, ch. 10.

75-6-112. Prohibited acts. A person may not:

(1) commence or continue construction, alteration, extension, or operation of a system o water supply or water distribution that is intended to be used as a public water supply syste or a system that is intended to be used as a public sewage system before the person submits t the department necessary maps, plans, and specifications for its review and the departmen approves those maps, plans, and specifications;

(2) operate or maintain a public water supply system that exceeds a maximum contamina level established by the department unless the person has been granted or has an applicatio pending for a variance or exemption pursuant to this part;

(3) violate any provision of this part or a rule adopted under this part; or

(4) violate any condition or requirement of an approval issued pursuant to this part.

History: **En. Sec. 144, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4905; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 556, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1 Ch. 230, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 488, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 497, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 195, L. 1999; amd Sec. 2, Ch. 315, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 423, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Plan for sewage system or wastewater disposal project — seal of engineer included, 18-2-122.
Nuisance, Title 27, ch. 30.
Action to recover damages to water supply, 75-20-405.

75-6-113. Penalty. Any person violating this part or any rule or order of the board or department issued under the provisions of this part shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $500. Each day upon which a violation of this part occurs shall be considered a separate offense.

History: En. Sec. 146, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 556, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4907(3).

Cross-References

Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

75-6-114. Civil penalty. (1) In an action initiated by the department to collect civil penalties against a person who is found to have violated this part or a rule, order, or condition of approval issued under this part, the person is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000. The action must be filed in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(2) Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(3) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part or a rule, order, or condition of approval issued under this part by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

(4) When seeking penalties under this section, the department shall take into account the penalty factors in 75-1-1001 in determining an appropriate settlement or judgment, as appropriate.

(5) Civil penalties collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 302, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

75-6-115. Public drinking water special revenue fund. (1) There is a public drinking water special revenue fund within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be credited to the public drinking water special revenue fund the revenue from fees assessed, collected, and allocated pursuant to 75-6-108. Funds from the public drinking water special revenue fund may be used only to pay department costs in implementing the public drinking water supply program, as described in this part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 509, L. 1995.

75-6-116. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The department may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

(2) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the department makes a written finding after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

(a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state; and

(b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the department's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed state standard or requirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the board adopted after January 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the department to review the rule. If the department determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines, the department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection

(2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed $250.

(b) A person may also petition the department for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the board or the department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted rule.

(5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-6-117 through 75-6-119 reserved.

75-6-120. Wellhead and source water protection programs — voluntary petitions. (1) The federal Safe Drinking Water Act, including 42 U.S.C. 300h-7 and 300j-13, enables the department to administer wellhead protection and source water assessment programs that involve delineation of the boundaries of the assessment areas from which a public water system receives supplies of drinking water, certification of local source water protection areas, assessment of source water susceptibility to regulated contaminants, and review of source water protection area ordinances. In administering these programs, the department may perform only those functions provided for by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and this section.

(2) A supplier of a public water supply system may voluntarily submit for department review and approval a petition to establish a source water protection program for the system.

(3) The department may certify a source water protection area upon:

(a) receipt of a petition by a supplier for a public water supply system; and

(b) making a determination that the source water protection area meets criteria and thresholds for certification established by the Montana source water protection program.

(4) (a) The governing body of the county in which a source water protection area or areas exist may adopt an ordinance to regulate, control, and prohibit conditions that threaten the quality of water used within the source water protection area or areas.

(b) Prior to adopting a source water protection area ordinance, the governing body shall confer with the supplier of the public water supply system and shall then submit the ordinance to the department for review and verification that the ordinance is consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(c) A source water protection area ordinance must be adopted using the procedures described in 7-5-103 through 7-5-107.

(5) (a) An ordinance adopted under subsection (4) is limited in applicability to the certified source water protection area or areas within the county.

(b) For a source water protection area that is located in two or more counties, the proposed source water protection area ordinance must be adopted by each county in order for the ordinance to be effective.

(6) A source water protection area ordinance adopted under this section may not conflict with and may not duplicate any other federal, state, or local law or regulation, including but not limited to zoning, fire codes, hazardous waste regulation under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4, or pesticide regulation under Title 80, chapter 8.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 488, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 423, L. 2007.

75-6-121. Delegation of review of small public water and sewer construction. (1) If a local government requests a delegation and the appropriate division of the local government has established satisfactory review programs, the department shall delegate to the division of local government the review of:

(a) small public water and sewer systems; and

(b) extensions or alterations of existing public water and sewer systems.

(2) The department shall adopt rules regarding the delegation of review authority to divisions of local government.

(3) A division of local government conducting a review under this section:

(a) must receive 90% of the review fee, and the department must receive the remaining 10% of the review fee; and

(b) shall complete documents necessary to complete the review and to comply with:

(i) the Montana Environmental Policy Act provided for in Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3;

(ii) real property takings requirements in accordance with Title 70; and

(iii) determinations of nondegredation and nonsignificance as required in Title 75, chapter 5.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 611, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 611, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

75-6-122 through 75-6-125 reserved.

75-6-126. Ownership of public water supply system or public sewage system — change in status. (1) A person may not own a public water supply system or a public sewage system unless that person is:

(a) an individual;

(b) a limited partnership;

(c) a limited liability company;

(d) a corporation, whether organized for profit or not;

(e) a city, town, local government entity, or other political subdivision of the state; or

(f) a federal agency.

(2) The owner of a public water supply system or a public sewage system shall, within 90 days after being requested to do so by the department or within 90 days after a transfer in ownership:

(a) submit information on a form provided by the department that details the ownership status of the public water supply system or public sewage system; and

(b) provide other necessary information for the department's records.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 315, L. 2001.

75-6-127 through 75-6-129 reserved.

75-6-130. Development plans — department requirements — rulemaking. (1) Unless authorized by a development plan approved by the department of environmental quality under this section, a public water or wastewater supply system may not certify or authorize additional connections to its water or wastewater system that would exceed its approved rated capacity.

(2) The department shall approve a municipal development plan to allow additional connections to a public water or wastewater supply system if the municipality demonstrates that:

(a) the additional connections will not exceed the approved rated capacity of the system;

(b) the additional connections will not create a risk to public health or the environment;

(c) the plan will not cause a violation of any provision of or rule adopted under this part or Title 75, chapter 5 or 6, or any condition or requirement of an approval or order issued pursuant to this part or Title 75, chapter 5 or 6; and

(d) the additional connections will not cause the municipality to exceed the flow rate, volume, or place of use of its water right as defined under 85-2-102.

(3) A municipality with a development plan approved under this section shall submit an annual report detailing its compliance with the approved plan to the department.

(4) A development plan approved under this section may be used by the department to approve connections that would exceed the system's approved rated capacity only if the connection would serve a subdivision subject to review under Title 76, chapter 3, and the governing body has required department certification before final plat approval in accordance with 76-3-507(5).

(5) The department may revoke or require modification of an approved development plan if:

(a) the conditions of development have fundamentally changed;

(b) the municipality has violated the requirements of this section or a condition of an approved development plan; or

(c) the department otherwise determines that the conditions of subsection (2) have not been or will not be satisfied.

(6) A municipality that violates this section or a condition of an approved development plan is subject to penalties under 75-6-114.

(7) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

(8) Nothing in this section requires a municipality to submit a development plan for review unless the municipality intends to approve connections beyond the municipal system's rated capacity.

(9) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Development plan" means a planning document that outlines the current rated capacity of a water or wastewater system and the system's proposed capacity after upgrades, marked by milestones of construction activity as a percentage of existing capacity, are made to the system and includes a timeline for when the design, bidding, and construction of upgrades to an existing system will be completed.

(b) "Rated capacity" means the gross capacity of a water or wastewater system as required by the design standards provided for in Title 75, chapter 6, wastewater discharge permit limits set in Title 75, chapter 5, and water right limits required in Title 85.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 8, Ch. 353, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 2, 2023.

75-6-131. Rules for regional public water supply systems. The department shall adopt rules for approval of regional public water supply systems established by a regional water authority pursuant to Title 75, chapter 6, part 3. The rules must:

(1) include procedures for the construction of regional public water supply systems, including regulatory provisions for a series of project segments over the construction period of the project as contained in the final engineering report, as may be amended and approved by the United States bureau of reclamation, that addresses the:

(a) approval of design and construction standards that may not be subject to change for 72 months;

(b) issuance of deviations from design and construction standards to remain in effect for 72 months; and

(c) approval of an individual regional water supply system's standard construction contract documents and provisions for amendments to those documents to remain in effect for the construction period of the project;

(2) implement plan and specification review periods or deviation request approval periods for storage, pumping, and distribution portions of a regional public water supply system of not more than 40 calendar days for the initial review by the department and not more than 20 working days for any subsequent reviews;

(3) avoid duplicate processes and regulations by coordinating and incorporating the review and approval process applicable to a regional public water supply system by the United States bureau of reclamation.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

Part 2
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act

Part Cross-References

Water supply and regulation, Title 7, ch. 13, part 44.

75-6-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-6-202. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrative costs" means costs incurred by the department and the department of natural resources and conservation in the administration of the program, including but not imited to:

(a) costs of servicing loans and issuing debt;

(b) program startup costs;

(c) financial, management, and legal consulting fees; and

(d) reimbursement costs for support services from other state agencies.

(2) "Community water system" means a public water system that is owned by a private person or a municipality and that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents of the area served by the system or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. The term does not include a public water system that is owned by the federal government.

(3) "Cost" means, with reference to a project, all capital costs incurred or to be incurred for a public water system, including but not limited to:

(a) engineering, financing, and other fees;

(b) interest during construction;

(c) construction; and

(d) a reasonable allowance for contingencies to the extent permitted by the federal act and rules promulgated under the federal act.

(4) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(5) "Disadvantaged community" means one in which the service area of a public water system meets the affordability criteria established by rule adopted pursuant to this part.

(6) "Federal act" means the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f, et seq., as that act read on May 5, 1997.

(7) "Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe that has a federally recognized governing body carrying out substantial governmental duties and powers over any area.

(8) "Intended use plan" means the annual plan adopted by the department and submitted to the environmental protection agency that describes how the state intends to use the money in the revolving fund.

(9) "Loan" means a loan of money from the revolving fund for project costs.

(10) "Municipality" means a state agency, city, town, or other public body, including an authority as defined in 75-6-304, created pursuant to state law or an Indian tribe.

(11) "Noncommunity water system" means a public water system that is not a community water system.

(12) "Nonprofit noncommunity water system" means a noncommunity water system owned by an organization that is organized under Montana law and that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under the provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(13) "Private person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental legal entity.

(14) "Program" means the drinking water state revolving fund program established by this part.

(15) "Project" means improvements or activities that are:

(a) to be undertaken for a public water system and that are of a type that will facilitate compliance with the national primary drinking water regulations applicable to the system; or

(b) to further the health protection objectives of the federal act.

(16) "Public water system" means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption, through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if that system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals. The term includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of an operator of a system that are used primarily in connection with a system and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under control of an operator and that are used primarily in connection with a system.

(17) "Revolving fund" means the drinking water state revolving fund established by 75-6-211.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 498, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 489, L. 2009.

75-6-203. Drinking water state revolving fund program. There is a program under which the state may provide financial assistance to community water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems. The program must be administered in accordance with this part and the federal act.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-6-204. Authorization of agreement — content. (1) The department may enter into a capitalization grant agreement or other agreement with the environmental protection agency to implement the program and may accept from that agency other grants and loans to carry out the program.

(2) In entering into an agreement, the director of the department may commit the state to:

(a) accept grant payments from the environmental protection agency in accordance with the schedule established by the administrator of that agency and deposit the payments in the revolving fund established in 75-6-211;

(b) deposit in the revolving fund from state money an amount equal to at least 20% of the total amount of all capitalization grants made to the state as provided by 75-6-211 on or before the date on which each federal grant payment is made to the state;

(c) deposit in the nonproject account for department programs authorized under section 300j-12(g)(2) of the federal act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(g)(2)) a state match equal dollar-for-dollar to the capitalization grant deposited in the account;

(d) provide financial and technical assistance to a public water system in accordance with this part in an amount equal to 120% of the amount of each grant payment within a period not to exceed 1 year after receipt of a grant;

(e) expend all funds in the revolving fund in an expeditious and timely manner;

(f) use all funds deposited in the revolving fund as a result of the capitalization grant to ensure progress, as determined by the governor, toward compliance with enforceable deadlines, goals, and requirements of the federal act;

(g) expend each grant payment in accordance with the laws and procedures applicable to commitment or expenditure of revenue of the state;

(h) use accounting, audit, and fiscal procedures conforming to generally accepted government accounting standards;

(i) make biennial reports and provide annual audits to the environmental protection agency concerning the use of the revolving fund as required by the federal act; and

(j) any other covenants, commitments, and obligations necessary to ensure that the state's administration of the program is consistent with the provisions of this part and the federal act.

(3) As a condition of making a loan or providing other financial assistance from the revolving fund, the department shall require that the public water system maintain project accounts in accordance with generally accepted government accounting standards.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-6-205. Rulemaking authority. The department and the department of natura resources and conservation may adopt rules within their respective authorities established within the provisions of this part, including rules:

(1) prescribing the form and content of applications for loans and technical assistance;

(2) governing the application of the criteria for awarding loans and technical assistance;

(3) establishing additional terms and conditions for the making of loans and the security instruments and other necessary agreements;

(4) establishing ceilings on the amount of individual loans to be made if considered appropriate and necessary for the successful administration of the program;

(5) establishing affordability criteria to be used in awarding subsidies to disadvantaged communities;

(6) regarding other matters that may be required to ensure compliance of the program with the provisions of the federal act and rules promulgated under the federal act, unless these matters are specifically governed by this part; and

(7) to maintain the financial integrity of the program.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 268, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-6-206 through 75-6-210 reserved.

75-6-211. Revolving fund. (1) There is established in the state treasury a separate ccount designated as the drinking water state revolving fund. The corpus of the fund must be vailable in perpetuity for providing assistance under this part. There are established within he revolving fund a federal allocation account, a state allocation account, an administration ccount, an investment income account, and a debt service account. A nonproject account for the rogram is established in the state treasury as a separate account that is outside the revolving und.

(2) There must be credited to:

(a) the federal allocation account:

(i) all amounts received by the state pursuant to the federal act as capitalization grants or a state revolving fund to provide loans or other assistance, as authorized under this part, to ommunity water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems; and

(ii) all amounts transferred to the fund from the water pollution control state revolving und under 75-5-1106;

(b) the state allocation account:

(i) the net proceeds of bonds of the state issued pursuant to 75-6-225, less any proceeds eposited to the administration account as provided in subsection (2)(c)(ii);

(ii) money appropriated by the legislature; and

(iii) other available qualifying funds;

(c) the administration account, an amount not to exceed 4% of the federal capitalization rant award or the maximum amount allowed by the federal act for payment of administrative osts and that may include a combination of:

(i) federal funds; and

(ii) the proceeds of bonds of the state issued pursuant to 75-6-225 as the department etermines necessary and as required by the federal act for state matching funds to assist in dministering the program;

(d) the investment account, all money received from investment of amounts in those ccounts in the revolving fund designated by the board of examiners in the resolution or trust ndenture authorizing the issuance of bonds;

(e) the debt service account, the interest portion of loan repayments; and

(f) the nonproject account for department programs authorized under section 300j-12(g)(2) f the federal act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(g)(2)), up to 10% of the capitalization grant and the state's atch as described in 75-6-204.

(3) Each loan made under this part must be funded and disbursed from the federal llocation account or the state allocation account, or both, by the department of natural resources nd conservation as recommended by the department. All amounts received in payment of rincipal or interest on a loan must be credited to the revolving fund. If bonds have been issued ursuant to 75-6-225 and are outstanding, the interest payments must be transferred to the ebt service account securing the bonds. Money in the debt service account that is not required or debt service may be transferred to other accounts within the revolving fund as provided in he resolution or trust indenture authorizing the bonds. The department may transfer payments nd prepayments of the principal of loans deposited in the state allocation account to the state llocation account of the state's water pollution control revolving fund program.

(4) The department of natural resources and conservation may establish additional ccounts and subaccounts within the revolving fund that it considers necessary to account for he program money and to ensure compliance with the federal act and this part.

(5) As allowed under the federal act, the governor may reserve or transfer to the state's ater pollution control revolving fund up to 33% of the state's drinking water revolving fund rogram capitalization grant. The transfer of funds must be included in the intended use plan n 75-6-231.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 269, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. ec. 5, Ch. 421, L. 1999.

75-6-212. Use of revolving fund. (1) Money in the revolving fund may be used to:

(a) make loans to community water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems s provided in this part;

(b) buy or refinance the debt obligation of a municipality at an interest rate that does not exceed market rates, provided that the obligations were incurred and construction of the project began after July 1, 1993;

(c) guarantee or purchase insurance in order to enhance credit or reduce interest rates for obligations of municipalities that are issued to finance eligible projects;

(d) leverage the total amount of revolving funds available by providing a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the state, the net proceeds of which are deposited in the revolving fund;

(e) pay reasonable administrative costs of the program, not to exceed 4% of the annual capitalization grant or the maximum amount allowed under the federal act;

(f) if matched by an equal amount of state funds, pay the department's costs in an amount not to exceed 10% of the annual capitalization grant for the following:

(i) public water system supervision programs;

(ii) administering or providing technical assistance through source water protection programs;

(iii) developing and implementing a capacity development strategy under section 300g-9 of the federal act (42 U.S.C. 300g-9); and

(iv) administering an operator certification program in order to meet the requirements of section 300g-8 of the federal act (42 U.S.C. 300g-8);

(g) pay the costs in an amount not to exceed 2% of the annual capitalization grant for the purpose of providing technical assistance to public water systems serving 10,000 or fewer persons. No less than 1.5% of the annual capitalization grant must be contracted by the department to private organizations or individuals for the purposes of this subsection.

(h) reimburse the expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503 and 5-2-302, of the advisory committee established pursuant to 75-6-231 while on official committee business and

(i) provide additional subsidization, separate and apart from loan subsidies for disadvantaged communities provided in 75-6-226, to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal of loans to the extent authorized or required by federal law and subject to satisfaction of conditions on loans provided for in 75-6-224 or to satisfy any other incentives, conditions, or requirements of federal law related to the program.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), money in the fund may not be used for:

(a) expenditures related to monitoring, operation, and maintenance;

(b) the acquisition of real property or any interest in real property, unless the acquisition is integral to a project authorized under this part and the purchase is from a willing seller;

(c) providing assistance to a public water system that:

(i) does not have the financial, managerial, and technical capability to ensure compliance with the requirements of the federal act; or

(ii) is in significant noncompliance with any requirement of a national primary drinking water regulation or variance; or

(d) any other activity prohibited from funding under the federal act.

(3) (a) A public water system described in subsection (2)(c) may receive assistance under this part if:

(i) the use of the assistance will ensure compliance; and

(ii) for a system that the department has determined does not have the financial managerial, or technical capability to ensure compliance with the federal act, the owner or operator of the system agrees to undertake feasible and appropriate changes in operations including ownership, management, accounting, rates, maintenance, consolidation, alternative water supply, or other procedures, as determined necessary by the department to ensure compliance.

(b) Prior to providing assistance to a public water system that is in significant noncompliance with any requirement of a national primary drinking water regulation or variance pursuant to the federal act, the department shall determine whether the provisions of subsection (2)(c)(i) apply to the system.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 297, L. 2011.

75-6-213. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 553, L. 1995.

75-6-214. Use of funds — statutory appropriation. Money in the revolving fund is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, for the purposes of providing financial assistance to public water systems.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

75-6-215. Repealed. Sec. 27, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 553, L. 1995.

75-6-216 through 75-6-220 reserved.

75-6-221. General loan and assistance program. (1) The program may, subject to the requirements in 75-6-222 through 75-6-224, make loans to community water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems that:

(a) will facilitate compliance with national primary drinking water regulations pursuant to the federal act; or

(b) will further the health protection objectives of the federal act, including but not limited to projects that involve:

(i) upgrading and replacing infrastructure;

(ii) addressing exceedances of the federal act or preventing future violations;

(iii) consolidating water supplies;

(iv) the acquisition of land, at fair market value, that is integral to the project;

(v) planning and designing of a project; or

(vi) other activities allowed under the federal act.

(2) In addition to loans authorized under subsection (1), the program may make loans to public water systems for one or more of the following purposes:

(a) to a community water system or nonprofit noncommunity water system to acquire land or a conservation easement from a willing party if the land is necessary to ensure compliance with the national primary drinking water regulations or to protect the source of water from contamination;

(b) to a community water system to implement local, voluntary source water protection measures in order to protect source water in areas delineated under a source water assessment program in order to facilitate compliance with the national primary drinking water regulations or otherwise significantly further the health protection objectives of the federal act;

(c) to a community water system to provide funding for the development and implementation of a source water quality assessment, contingency plans, and demonstration projects for partners within a delineated source water area.

(3) The department may:

(a) provide financial and technical assistance to any public water system as part of a capacity development strategy developed and implemented in accordance with the federal act;

(b) make expenditures from the capitalization grant to delineate and assess source water protection areas, provided that funds set aside for such expenditures must be obligated within 4 fiscal years; and

(c) make expenditures from the fund for the establishment and implementation of wellhead protection programs.

(4) The program may provide financial assistance to a public water system according to priorities established by the department in the department's intended use plan adopted pursuant to 75-6-231. Prior to making a loan to a public water system, the department of natural resources and conservation shall determine that the system has the ability to repay the loan according to its terms and conditions and may require a dedicated source of repayment and impose additional requirements.

(5) The total amount of assistance provided and expenditures made by the program under subsections (2) and (3) may not exceed 15% of the amount of the capitalization grant received by the department for that year and may not exceed 10% of that amount for any one of the activities listed under subsection (2) or (3).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 538, L. 1997.

75-6-222. Evaluation of projects and loan applications. The department and th department of natural resources and conservation shall evaluate projects and loan applications In evaluating projects and applications, the following factors must be considered:

(1) the technical design of the project to ensure compliance with all applicable statutes rules, and design standards;

(2) the financial capacity of the applicant;

(3) the financial, managerial, and technical ability of the applicant to properly operate an maintain the project;

(4) the total financing of the project to ensure completion;

(5) the viability of the public water system;

(6) the ability of the public water system to pay the costs of the project without th requested financial assistance;

(7) the total amount of loan funds available for financial assistance in the revolving fund

(8) the total amount requested by other applications that have been received or that ar likely to be received;

(9) the ranking of the project on the priority list in the intended use plan; and

(10) any other criteria that the department determines to be appropriate, considering th purposes of the program and the federal act.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-6-223. Applications for loans. (1) The department shall, after consultation wit the department of natural resources and conservation, establish loan application procedures including forms for the applications. Each application for a loan must include:

(a) a reasonably detailed description of the project;

(b) a reasonably detailed estimate of the cost of the project;

(c) a timetable for the construction of the project and for payment of the cost of the project

(d) identification of the source or sources of funds to be used in addition to the proceeds o the loan to pay the cost of the project;

(e) the source or sources of revenue proposed to be used to repay the loan;

(f) a current financial statement of the system showing assets, liabilities, revenue, an expenses;

(g) a statement as to whether, at the time of application, there are any outstanding loans notes, bonds, or other obligations payable from the revenue of the public water system and, if so a description of the loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations;

(h) if the applicant is a private person, a statement as to whether, at the time of th application, there are any outstanding loans, notes, or other obligations of the private perso and, if so, a description of the loans, notes, or other obligations; and

(i) any other information that the department or the department of natural resources an conservation may require to determine the feasibility of a project and the applicant's ability t repay the loan, including but not limited to:

(i) engineering reports;

(ii) economic feasibility studies; and

(iii) legal opinions.

(2) Each application for a loan subsidy must include:

(a) a reasonably detailed description of the project;

(b) a reasonably detailed estimate of the cost of the project;

(c) a timetable for the construction of the project and for payment of the cost of the project

(d) identification of the source or sources of funds to be used in addition to the proceeds of the loan to pay the cost of the project;

(e) a statement as to whether, at the time of application, there are any outstanding loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations payable from the revenue of the public water system and, if so, a description of the loans, notes, bonds, or other obligations;

(f) an explanation, including supporting information, as to why a loan subsidy is requested

(g) evidence that the applicant qualifies as a disadvantaged community; and

(h) any other information that the department or the department of natural resources and conservation may require.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

75-6-224. Loan conditions. (1) Upon approval of an application by the department, the lepartment of natural resources and conservation may lend amounts on deposit in the revolving 'und to a public water system to pay part or all of the cost of a project. The loan is subject to the applicant complying with the following conditions:

(a) meeting requirements of financial capability set by the department of natural resources ınd conservation to ensure sufficient revenue to operate and maintain the project for its useful ife and to repay the loan, including the establishment of a dedicated source of revenue and the stablishment and maintenance by the applicant of a reserve or revolving fund to secure the)ayment of principal of and interest on the loan to the extent permitted by the applicable law governing the public water system or the applicant's financial authority;

(b) in the case of a system owned by a private person, in addition to establishing a ledicated source of revenue, which may include the pledge of accounts receivable, providing, ıs required by the department of natural resources and conservation, credit enhancements, a oledge of collateral, or other types of security, such as a corporate or personal guarantee;

(c) agreeing to operate and maintain the project properly over its structural and material lesign life, which may not be less than the term of the loan;

(d) agreeing to maintain proper financial records in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards and agreeing that all records are subject to audit;

(e) meeting the requirements listed in the federal act for projects constructed with funds lirectly made available by federal capitalization grants;

(f) providing legal assurance that all necessary property titles, easements, and rights-of-way have been obtained to construct, operate, and maintain the project;

(g) submitting an engineering report evaluating the proposed project, including nformation demonstrating its cost-effectiveness and environmental information necessary for the department and the department of natural resources and conservation to fulfill their responsibilities under the Montana Environmental Policy Act and rules adopted to implement hat act;

(h) complying with plan, specification, and other requirements for public water systems established by the department;

(i) providing for proper construction inspection and project management; and

(j) meeting requirements of financial, managerial, and technical capability to maintain compliance with the federal act.

(2) Each loan, unless prepaid, is payable subject to the limitations of the federal act, with nterest paid in annual or more frequent installments.

(3) (a) Subject to the limitations of the federal act, the interest rate on a loan must ensure hat the interest payments on the loan and on other outstanding loans will be sufficient, if timely paid in full, with other available funds in the revolving fund, including investment income, to enable the state to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds issued pursuant to 75-6-225.

(b) The interest rate may include any additional rate that the department of natural resources and conservation considers reasonable or necessary to provide a reserve for the repayment of the loans. The additional rate may be fixed or variable, may be calculated according to a formula, and may differ from the rate established for any other loan. Once the reserve has been established at a level considered by the department to be reasonable and prudent for the amount of the loans outstanding, the department may use excess reserve payments to make grants to aid in the feasibility of projects.

(4) Each loan must be evidenced by a bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness of the borrower, in a form prescribed or approved by the department of natural resources and conservation, except that the bond, note, or other evidence must include provisions required by the federal act and must be consistent with the provisions of this part. The bond, note, or other evidence is not required to be identical for all loans.

(5) As a condition to making a loan, the department of natural resources and conservation, with the concurrence of the department, may impose a reasonable administrative fee that may be paid from the proceeds of the loan or other available funds of the municipality or private person. Administrative fees may be deposited:

(a) in a special administrative costs account that the department of natural resources and conservation may create for that purpose outside the revolving fund provided for in 75-6-211; or

(b) in the administrative account provided for in 75-6-211. In determining into which account the administrative fees are deposited, the department shall take into consideration the needs and requirements of the programs. Money deposited in the special administrative costs account or the administration account must be used for the payment of administrative costs o the program.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 421, L. 1999; amd Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 2015.

75-6-225. Authorization of bonds — allocation of proceeds. (1) The board of examiners is authorized, upon request of the department of natural resources and conservation, to issue and sell bonds of the state as authorized by the legislature to provide money for the program The bonds are general obligations on which the full faith, credit, and taxing powers of the state are pledged for payment of the principal and interest. The bonds must be issued as provided by Title 17, chapter 5, part 8.

(2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2), the proceeds of the bonds are allocated to the state allocation account or the administration account of the revolving fund, as provided in 75-6-211.

(b) Any accrued interest and bond proceeds to be used to pay interest must be deposited in the debt service account of the revolving fund.

(c) Proceeds of bonds to be used to pay the costs of issuing the bonds must be deposited in a cost of issuance account established outside of the revolving fund by the board of examiners in the resolution or trust indenture authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

(d) Any premium received must be deposited in the state allocation account, the debt service account, or the cost of issuance account as directed by the board of examiners in the resolution or trust indenture regarding the bonds.

(e) For purposes of 17-5-803 and 17-5-804, the state allocation account and the cost of issuance account constitute a capital projects account. The proceeds must be available to the department and the department of natural resources and conservation and may be used for the purposes authorized in this part without further budgetary authorization.

(3) In the resolution authorizing the sale and issuance of the bonds, the board of examiners, upon the request of the department of natural resources and conservation, may create separate accounts or subaccounts to provide for the payment security of the bonds and may pledge the revolving fund and the interest component of the loan repayments credited to the revolving fund as security for the bonds.

(4) (a) The board of examiners may allow bonds issued under this section to be secured by a trust indenture between the board of examiners and a trustee. The trustee may be a trust company or bank having the power of a trustee inside or outside the state.

(b) If the board of examiners elects to issue bonds pursuant to a trust indenture, the trustee may, as determined by the board of examiners, hold one or more of the funds and accounts created pursuant to this chapter.

(c) In addition to provisions that the board of examiners determines to be necessary and appropriate to secure the bonds, to provide for the rights of the bondholders, and to ensure compliance with all applicable law, the trust indenture must contain provisions that:

(i) govern the custody, safeguarding, and disbursement of all money held by the trustee under the trust indenture; and

(ii) permit representatives of the state treasurer, department, or department of natural resources and conservation, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, to inspect the trustee's books and records concerning the trust indenture.

(d) A trust indenture or an executed counterpart of a trust indenture developed pursuant to this chapter must be filed with the secretary of state.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 421, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 74, L. 2015.

Cross-References

State debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

75-6-226. Loan subsidy for disadvantaged communities. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision in this part, if the program makes a loan pursuant to 75-6-221(1) to a disadvantaged community or to a community that the department expects to become a disadvantaged community as a result of a proposed project, the department may provide additional subsidization in the form of a reduced interest rate, the forgiveness of principal, or a combination of both.

(2) The total annual amount of loan subsidies made by the department pursuant to subsection (1) may not exceed 30% of the capitalization grant received by the department for each fiscal year.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 323, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 489, L. 2009.

75-6-227. Creation of debt. The legislature, through enactment of this section, authorizes the creation of state debt in an amount not to exceed $50 million in principal amount of general obligation bonds outstanding from time to time for the purpose of:

(1) funding the drinking water program; and

(2) funding portions of loans on an interim basis pending receipt of:

(a) grant payments from the environmental protection agency for which federal legislation appropriating the proceeds of the grants has been enacted; or

(b) other revenue for the program.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 553, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 421, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 323, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 29, L. 2021.

75-6-228 through 75-6-230 reserved.

75-6-231. Intended use plan — advisory committee. (1) The department shall prepare an annual intended use plan for the state that meets the requirements of section 300j-12(b) of the federal act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b).

(2) The intended use plan must include:

(a) a list of projects in the state that are eligible for assistance, including both the priority assigned to each project based on public health needs and on the financial needs of the project and, to the extent known, the expected funding schedule for each project; and

(b) a description of the funds to be allocated to activities under 75-6-212 and 75-6-221(2) and funds to be transferred to or received by the water pollution control state revolving fund, as allowed in 75-6-211(5), for the annual fiscal period following publication of the intended use plan.

(3) Before finalizing an intended use plan, the department shall prepare a draft document containing the information required in subsection (2) and shall provide public notice and opportunity to comment on the draft document.

(4) (a) Following the public comment period provided for in subsection (3) and any department modifications to the intended use plan resulting from the public comment, a summary of the public comment and the intended use plan must be presented for review, comment, and recommendations to an advisory committee formed by the department and consisting of six individuals from the following entities appointed by their respective presiding officers, directors, or executive officials:

(i) one member from the Montana league of cities and towns;

(ii) one member from the Montana association of counties;

(iii) one member from the department of natural resources and conservation;

(iv) one member from the department of environmental quality; and

(v) two members from the legislature. One member must be from the house of representatives and one from the senate, and subject to 5-5-234, one must be from the majority party and one must be from the minority party.

(b) The advisory committee is attached to the department for administrative purposes only.

(5) The department shall address in writing any comments and recommendations provided by the advisory committee provided for in subsection (4) before finalizing an intended use plan and prior to awarding any contracts under 75-6-212(1)(g).

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 538, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 4, Sp. L. May 2007.

Cross-References

Allocation for administrative purposes, 2-15-121.

75-6-232. Insurance and guarantee program. (1) The revolving fund may be used to purchase insurance for or guarantee the timely payment of principal and interest on a debt obligation issued by a municipality if the department of natural resources and conservation determines that the guarantee or insurance would improve the credit market access of the municipality or reduce the interest rate on the municipal obligation.

(2) The department of natural resources and conservation shall adopt rules setting forth the conditions under which the program will guarantee or insure municipal obligations including the amount of fees to be charged for the guarantee or the purchase of insurance and the amount of reserves, if any, to be established in the fund to cover any guarantee. The program may not be used to guarantee a municipal obligation for a project or municipality not meeting the requirements of 75-6-224, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with the guarantee.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 538, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-6-233 through 75-6-235 reserved.

75-6-236. Projects funded by federal government appropriations. For projects that are funded in part by appropriations from the federal government over a term of years, that have been approved by the department and the department of natural resources and conservation under 75-6-222, and that are considered to be in compliance with 75-6-224, the department of natural resources and conservation may advance money to a public water system in anticipation of the receipt of federal funds by the public water system on the following conditions:

(1) congress has authorized the project and has committed to fund the project at a specified dollar amount over a period of years;

(2) other funding agencies will not authorize construction of the project to begin until there is evidence that construction money will be available to the public water system to pay all of the construction costs;

(3) the department and the department of natural resources and conservation determine that it is in the best interest of the state and the state's objectives under the program that the project begin construction prior to the receipt of all federal appropriations; and

(4) the advance of the money will be in the form of a note that is issued pursuant to 7-7-109 in anticipation of a federal grant for which the public water system promises to pay and pledges to the department of natural resources and conservation the proceeds of the grant when received.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 9, L. 2001.**

Part 3
Regional Water and Wastewater Authority Act

Part Cross-References

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.

75-6-301. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Regional Water and Wastewater Authority Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-302. Purpose. (1) It is the purpose of this part to permit certain public agencies to make the most efficient use of their powers relating to public water supplies and the transportation and treatment of wastewater by enabling them to cooperate with other public agencies on a basis of mutual advantage and to provide services and facilities to participating public agencies. It is also the purpose of this part to provide for the establishment of a public body, corporate and politic, that is known as a regional water authority or, when appropriate, a regional wastewater authority or regional water and wastewater authority. The function of the regional water authority is to secure a source of water on a scale larger than is feasible for individual public agencies acting alone and to sell the water to public service districts, municipalities, publicly and privately owned water utilities, and others. The function of the regional wastewater authority is to enable public agencies to join together to provide the most economical method of transportation and treatment of wastewater and to provide the transportation and treatment services to public service districts, municipalities, publicly and privately owned wastewater utilities, and others. The function of the regional water and wastewater authority is to enable ublic agencies to join together to carry out the joint functions of both a regional water authority nd a regional wastewater authority.

(2) In addition to the purposes for which it may have originally been created, any authority reated pursuant to this part may enter into agreements with public agencies, privately owned tilities, and other authorities for the provision of related services, including but not limited to he following:

(a) administration;

(b) operation and maintenance; and

(c) billing and collection.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

75-6-303. Liberal construction. The provisions of this part are necessary for the public ealth, safety, and welfare and must be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes of this art.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

75-6-304. Definitions. For the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Authority" means any regional water authority, regional wastewater authority, or egional water and wastewater authority organized pursuant to the provisions of this part.

(2) "District customer" means a county water and/or sewer district that is afforded the use r the availability of service from an authority.

(3) "Municipal customer" means a municipality that is afforded the use or the availability f service from an authority.

(4) "Public agency" means any municipality, county, water and sewer district, or other olitical subdivision of this state.

(5) "Rural customer" means a customer who is afforded the use or the availability of ervice from an authority and is neither a district customer nor a municipal customer.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 187, L. 2013.

Cross-References

County water and/or sewer districts, Title 7, ch. 13, part 22.

75-6-305. Joint exercise of powers by certain public agencies — agreements among agencies — filing of agreement — prohibition against competition — etirement of bonds — consent of public agency. (1) Any powers, privileges, or authority of public agency of this state relating to public water supplies or the transportation or treatment f wastewater may be exercised jointly with any other public agency of this state or with any gency of the United States to the extent that the laws of the United States permit. An agency f the state government when acting jointly with any public or private agency may exercise all f the powers, privileges, and authority conferred by this part upon a public agency.

(2) A public agency may enter into agreements with one or more other public agencies for he purpose of organizing an authority. Appropriate action by ordinance, resolution, or otherwise pursuant to law of the governing bodies of the participating public agencies is necessary before any agreement may take effect.

(3) An agreement must specify the following:

(a) its duration;

(b) the precise organization, composition, and nature of the authority created, together with the powers delegated to the authority;

(c) its purpose or purposes;

(d) the manner of financing for the authority and of establishing and maintaining a budget for the authority;

(e) the permissible methods for partial or complete termination of the agreement and for disposing of property upon partial or complete termination;

(f) the manner of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real and personal property of the authority; and

(g) any other necessary and proper matters.

(4) An agreement may be amended to include additional public agencies by consent of two-thirds of the signatories to the agreement, if the terms of the agreement are not changed. Otherwise, a new agreement with the new public agency must be made. When only two public

agencies form an authority, both parties shall consent to the amendment of the agreement to include additional public agencies.

(5) Prior to taking effect, an agreement made under this part must be filed with the clerk of the county commission of each county in which a member of the authority is located and the agreement then must also be filed with the secretary of state, accompanied by a certificate from the clerk of the county commission of the county or counties where filed, stating that the agreement has been filed in that county.

(6) A public agency that enters into an agreement made under this part may not offer or provide water or wastewater services in competition with another public agency entering into the agreement.

(7) A public agency that enters into an agreement made under this part may not withdraw from the agreement until the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the authority is retired or the bondholders are otherwise protected.

(8) (a) An authority may not provide water or wastewater services to end users located within the jurisdiction of a public agency that owns or operates a community water system or a public sewage system, as those terms are defined in 75-6-102, without the consent of the governing body of the public agency through the adoption of a resolution or ordinance.

(b) The governing body may not adopt a resolution or ordinance without first holding a public hearing. The hearing must address relevant factors relating to the provision of the water or wastewater services, including but not limited to the scope of the proposed service, rates and charges, the indebtedness of the public agency and the authority, and the rights and obligations of the persons or entities to be served. Notice must be given as provided in 7-1-2121 or 7-1-4127.

(c) For purposes of this subsection (8), "governing body" means the council, commission, board of directors, or other legislative body charged with governing the public agency.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 498, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 13, L. 2011.**

75-6-306. Furnishing of funds, personnel, or services by certain public agencies — agreements for purchase, sale, distribution, transmission, transportation, and treatment of water or wastewater — terms and conditions. A public agency entering into an agreement pursuant to this part may appropriate funds and may sell, lease, give, or otherwise supply to the authority personnel or services for the operation of the authority as may be within its legal power to furnish. A public agency, whether or not a party to an agreement pursuant to this part, and a publicly or privately owned water distribution company may enter into contracts with an authority, created pursuant to this part, for the purchase of water from the authority or the sale of water to the authority, for the treatment of water by either party, and for the distribution or transmission of water by either party. The authority may enter into the contracts. A public agency, whether or not a party to an agreement pursuant to this part, and a publicly or privately owned wastewater transportation or treatment system may enter into contracts with an authority, created pursuant to this part, for the transportation and treatment of wastewater by either party. The authority may enter into the contracts, subject to the prior approval of the public service commission, if the privately owned wastewater transportation or treatment system is subject to the jurisdiction of the public service commission. However, if the public service commission has not acted on a proposed contract within 90 days of its filing, approval is considered to have been granted. A contract may include an agreement for the purchase of water not actually received or the treatment of wastewater not actually treated. A contract may not be for a period in excess of 40 years, but renewal options may be included in the contract. The obligations of a public agency under a contract must be payable solely from the revenue produced from the public agency's water or wastewater system, and the public service commission, in the case of a water system whose rates are subject to its jurisdiction, shall permit the water system to recover through its rates revenue sufficient to meet its obligations under the agreement.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-307 through 75-6-309 reserved.

75-6-310. Declaration of authority organization — when public body, corporate and politic. Upon filing with the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall declare the authority organized and give it the corporate name of regional water authority number ...., regional wastewater authority number ...., or regional water and wastewater authority number ...., as appropriate. Upon assignment of the designation, the authority is a public body, corporate and politic.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-311. Governing body — appointments — terms of members — voting rights. (1) The governing body of the authority shall consist of not less than three persons selected by the participating public agencies. Each participating public agency shall appoint at least one member. Each member's full term may not be less than 1 year or more than 4 years, and initial terms must be staggered in accordance with procedures set forth in the agreement provided for in 75-6-305 and amendments to the agreement. In the case of an authority that is made up by the agreement of two public agencies, each public agency shall appoint two representatives to the governing body.

(2) The manner of selection of the governing body and terms of office must be set forth in the agreement provided for in 75-6-305 and amendments to the agreement. The governing body of the authority shall elect one of its members as president, one as treasurer, and one as secretary.

(3) Each member has one vote in any matter that comes before the authority for decision. However, the member agencies shall, in the original agreement establishing the authority, set forth any special weighing of votes based upon population served, volumes of water purchased, volumes of wastewater treated, numbers of customers, or some other criterion that the authority considers appropriate for maintaining fairness in the decisions and operations of the authority.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-312. Meetings of governing body — annual audit. The governing body of the authority shall meet as often as the needs of the authority require, but not less frequently than on a quarterly basis. The authority is subject to the provisions of Title 2, chapter 3, regarding open meeting laws and public participation. The governing body shall cause an annual audit of the financial records of the authority to be made. The cost of the audit must be paid by the authority. The authority is considered a local government entity for purposes of Title 2, chapter 7, part 5, and audits must comply with the provisions of that part.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

75-6-313. Powers of governing body. (1) For the purpose of providing a water supply, transportation facilities, or treatment system to the participating public agencies and others, the governing body of the authority has the powers, authorities, and privileges provided for in this section.

(2) The governing body may accept by gift or grant from any person, firm, corporation, trust, or foundation, from this state or any other state or any political subdivision or municipality of this or any other state, or from the United States any funds or property or any interest in funds or property for the uses and purposes of the authority. The governing body may hold title to the funds or property in trust or otherwise and may bind the authority to apply the funds or property according to the terms of the gift or grant.

(3) The governing body may sue and be sued.

(4) The governing body may enter into franchises, contracts, and agreements with this or any other state, the United States, any municipality, political subdivision, or authority of a political subdivision, or any of their agencies or instrumentalities; any Indian tribe; or any public or private person, partnership, association, or corporation of this state or of any other state or the United States. This state and any municipality, political subdivision, or authority of a political subdivision or any of their agencies or instrumentalities and any public or private person, partnership, association, or corporation may enter into contracts and agreements with the authority for any term not exceeding 40 years for the planning, development, construction, acquisition, maintenance, or operation of a facility or for any service rendered to, for, or by the authority. However, the authority is subject to the same statutory requirements for competitive bidding and procurement contracts as would be applicable to any member public agency.

(5) The governing body may borrow money and evidence the borrowing by warrants notes, or bonds provided for in this part and may refund the indebtedness by the issuance o refunding obligations.

(6) The governing body may acquire land and interests in land by gift, purchase, exchange or eminent domain. The power of eminent domain may be exercised within or outside of the boundaries of the authority in accordance with the provisions of Title 70, chapter 30.

(7) The governing body may acquire by purchase or lease, construct, install, and operate reservoirs, pipelines, wells, check dams, pumping stations, water purification plants, and other facilities for the production, distribution, and use of water and transportation facilities, pump stations, lift stations, treatment facilities, and other facilities necessary for the transportation and treatment of wastewater and may own and hold real and personal property that may be necessary to carry out the purposes of its organization.

(8) The governing body has the general management, control, and supervision of all the business, affairs, property, and facilities of the authority and of the construction, installation operation, and maintenance of authority improvements. The governing body may establish regulations relating to authority improvements.

(9) The governing body may hire and retain agents, employees, engineers, and attorneys and determine their compensation. The governing body shall select and appoint a general manager of the authority who shall serve at the pleasure of the governing body. The general manager must have training and experience in the supervision and administration of the system or systems operated by the authority and shall manage and control the system under the general supervision of the governing body. All employees, servants, and agents of the authority must be under the immediate control and management of the general manager. The general manager shall perform all other duties that may be prescribed by the governing body and shall give the governing body a good and sufficient surety company bond in a sum to be set and approved by the governing body, conditioned upon the satisfactory performance of the general manager's duties. The governing body may also require that any other employees be bonded in an amount that it shall determine. The cost of a bond must be paid out of the funds of the authority.

(10) The governing body may adopt and amend rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and laws of this state, necessary for carrying on the business, objects, and affairs of the governing body and of the authority.

(11) The governing body has and may exercise all rights and powers necessary or incidental to or implied from the specific powers granted in this section. Specific powers may not be considered as a limitation upon any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this part.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

75-6-314 through 75-6-319 reserved.

75-6-320. Revenue bonds. For constructing or acquiring any water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system for the authorized purposes of the authority or as necessary or incidental to the authorized purposes, for constructing improvements and extensions to improvements, and for reimbursing or paying the costs and expenses of creating the authority, the governing body of an authority may borrow money from time to time and in evidence of the borrowing issue revenue bonds of the authority. The revenue bonds are a lien on the revenue produced from the operation of the authority's system, but may not be general obligations of the public agencies participating in the agreement. All revenue bonds issued under this part must be signed by the president of the governing body of the authority and attested by the secretary of the governing body of the authority. The bonds must contain recitals stating the authority under which the bonds are issued, that they are to be paid by the authority from the net revenue derived from the operation of the authority's system and not from any other fund or source, and that the bonds are negotiable and payable solely from the revenue derived from the operation of the system under control of the authority. However, in the case of a regional water and wastewater authority, the statutory lien created by this section is a lien only on the revenue of that service funded by the proceeds of the sale of the bonds, it being understood that the combined authority shall maintain separate books and records for its water and wastewater operations. The bonds may be issued in one or more series, may bear a date or dates, may mature at a time or times not exceeding 40 years from their respective dates, may bear interest at a rate not exceeding 3% above the interest rate on treasury notes, bills, or bonds of the same term as the term of the bond or bonds the week of closing on the bond or bonds as reported by the treasury of the United States, may be payable at the times, may be in the form, may carry registration privileges, may be executed in the manner, may be payable at a place or places, may be subject to terms of redemption with or without premium, may be declared or become due before the maturity date, may be authenticated in any manner and upon compliance with the conditions, and may contain erms and covenants that may be provided by resolution or resolutions of the governing body of the authority. Notwithstanding the form or tenor of the bonds, and in the absence of any express recital on the face of the bonds, that the bonds are nonnegotiable, all bonds must be, and must be treated as, negotiable instruments for all purposes. Bonds bearing the signatures of officers n office on the date of the signing of the bonds must be valid and binding for all purposes, notwithstanding that before the delivery of the bonds, any of the persons whose signatures appear on the bonds ceased to be officers. Notwithstanding the requirements or provisions of any other law, bonds may be negotiated or sold in the manner and at the time or times that are found by the governing body to be most advantageous, and all bonds may be sold at the price that the interest cost of the proceeds from the bonds does not exceed 3% above the interest rate on treasury notes, bills, or bonds of the same term as the term of the bond or bonds the week of closing on the bond or bonds as reported by the treasury of the United States, based on the average maturity of the bonds and computed according to standard tables of bond values. Any resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance of the bonds may contain covenants and restrictions upon the issuance of additional bonds that are considered necessary or advisable for the assurance of the payment of the bonds authorized by the resolutions.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-321. Items included in cost of properties. The cost of any water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system acquired or constructed under the provisions of this part must be considered to include the cost of the acquisition or construction of the supply or system and the cost of all property rights, easements, and franchises considered necessary or convenient for the supply or system and for the improvements and extensions to the supply or system. Costs also include interest on bonds prior to and during construction or acquisition and for 6 months after completion of construction or of acquisition of the improvements and extensions; engineering expenses; fiscal agent and legal expenses; expenses for estimates of cost and of revenue; expenses for plans, specifications, and surveys; other expenses necessary or incidental to determining the feasibility or practicability of the enterprise; administrative expense; and other expenses that may be necessary or incidental to the financing authorized in this part, the construction or acquisition of the properties, the placing of the properties in operation, and the performance of the things required or permitted, in connection with any property.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-322. Trust indenture. In the discretion and at the option of the governing body of the authority, bonds may be secured by a trust indenture by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which may be a trust company or bank that has the powers of a trust company within or outside of the state. However, a trust indenture may not convey, mortgage, or create a lien upon the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system, any part of the system, or the authority or its member public agencies. The resolution authorizing the bonds and fixing the details of the bonds may provide that the trust indenture may contain provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of bondholders as may be reasonable and proper and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth the duties of the authority and the members of its governing body and officers in relation to the construction or acquisition of the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system and the improvement, extension, operation, repair, maintenance, and insurance of the bonds and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all money. The resolution may also provide that all or any part of the construction work must be contracted for, constructed, and paid for under the supervision and approval of consulting engineers employed or designated by the governing body and satisfactory to the original bond purchasers, their successors, assignees, or nominees, who may be given the right to require that the security given by contractors and by any depository o the proceeds of bonds or revenue of the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system or other money pertaining to the supply or system be satisfactory to the purchasers their successors, assignees, or nominees. The indenture may set forth the rights and remedies o the bondholders and the trustee.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-323. Sinking fund for revenue bonds. At or before the time of the issuance of any bonds under this part, the governing body of the authority shall by resolution or in the trust indenture provide for the creation of a sinking fund and for monthly payments into the sinking fund from the revenue of the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system operated by the authority sums in excess of the cost of maintenance and operation of the properties that will be sufficient to pay the accruing interest and retire the bonds at or before the time that each will respectively become due and to establish and maintain reserves for the bonds. All sums that are or should be, in accordance with the provisions, paid into the sinking fund must be used solely for payment of interest and for the retirement of the bonds at or prior to maturity, as may be provided or required by the resolutions.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-324. Collection of revenue and enforcement of covenants — default — suit to compel performance — appointment and powers of receiver. The governing body of an authority may insert enforceable provisions in a resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds relating to the collection, custody, and application of revenue of the authority from the operation of the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system under its control and relating to the enforcement of the covenants and undertakings of the authority. If there is a default in the sinking fund provisions provided for in 75-6-323 or in the payment of the principal or interest on any of the bonds or if the authority or its governing body or any of its officers, agents, or employees fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this part or default in any covenant or agreement made with respect to the issuance of the bonds or offered as security for the bonds, then any holder or holders of the bonds and any trustee under the trust indenture, if there is one, has the right by suit, action, mandamus, or other proceeding instituted in the district court in any of the counties in which the authority operates or in any other court of competent jurisdiction to enforce and compel performance of all duties required by this part or undertaken by the authority in connection with the issuance of the bonds. Upon application by any holder or holders of the bonds or the trustee of the trust indenture, the court shall, upon proof of the defaults, appoint a receiver for the affairs of the authority and its property. The receiver shall directly, or through its agents and attorneys, enter and take possession of the affairs of the authority. The receiver may hold, use, operate, manage, and control the authority and, in the name of the authority, exercise all of the rights and powers of the authority as considered expedient. The receiver may collect and receive all revenue and apply the revenue in the manner that the court shall direct. Whenever the default causing the appointment of the receiver has been cleared and fully discharged and all other defaults have been cured, the court, after notice and hearing as it considers reasonable and proper, may direct the receiver to surrender possession of the affairs of the authority to its governing body. The receiver may not sell, assign, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of any assets of the authority except as provided in this section.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.

75-6-325. Statutory mortgage lien. There is a statutory mortgage lien upon the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system of the authority. The lien exists in favor of the holders of bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to this part, and each holder and the system remain subject to the statutory mortgage lien until payment in full of all principal of and interest on the bonds.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 498, L. 1999.**

75-6-326. Rates, fees, and charges — establishment and changes. (1) (a) The governing body shall by appropriate resolution make provisions for the payment of bonds issued pursuant to this part by taxing rates, fees, and charges, for the use of all services rendered by the authority.

(b) The governing body of the authority shall review at least annually the rates, fees, and charges for services, facilities, and benefits directly afforded by the facilities, taking into account services provided and direct benefits received.

(c) The rates, fees, and charges, in addition to grants or any other revenue, must be sufficient to:

(i) pay the costs of operation, improvement, and maintenance of the authority's water supply or wastewater transportation or treatment system;

(ii) provide an adequate depreciation fund;

(iii) provide an adequate sinking fund to retire any bonds and pay interest on the bonds when due;

(iv) create reasonable reserves for the enumerated purposes; and

(v) allow for miscellaneous and emergency or unforeseen expenses.

(2) The resolution of the governing body authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds may include agreements, covenants, or restrictions considered necessary or advisable by the governing body to effect the efficient operation of the system, to safeguard the interests of the holders of the revenue bonds, and to secure the payment of the bonds and the interest on the bonds.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (9), prior to adopting a resolution to establish or change rates, fees, or charges, the governing body of the authority shall hold a public hearing.

(4) Notice of the public hearing must be published as provided in 7-1-2121 in each county or counties in which customers of the authority are located. The published notice must contain:

(a) the date, time, and place of the hearing;

(b) a brief statement of the proposed action; and

(c) the address and telephone number of a person at the authority who may be contacted for information regarding the hearing.

(5) (a) The notice must be mailed to each rural customer and to the governing bodies of district customers or municipal customers at least 25 days and not more than 40 days prior to the public hearing.

(b) The mailed notice must contain an estimate of the amount that a customer would be charged under the proposed resolution.

(6) If the establishment or change in rates, fees, or charges proposed by the authority requires an increase in the rates, fees, or charges imposed by district customers or municipal customers, district customers and municipal customers shall comply with the provisions of 7-13-2275 or 69-7-111.

(7) Any interested person, corporation, governmental body, or company may be present, be represented by counsel, and testify at the public hearing of the authority.

(8) (a) The hearing may be continued by the governing body of the authority as necessary. After the public hearing, the governing body of the authority may, by resolution, impose, establish, change, or increase rates, fees, or charges.

(b) Within 10 days after adoption of a resolution establishing or changing rates, fees, or charges of the authority, an officer of the authority shall send a copy of the resolution to each governing body of an affected district or municipal customer.

(9) The authority is not required to hold a public hearing for a cumulative rate increase of less than or equal to 5% within a 12-month period if the governing body of the authority provides notification of the increase to rural customers and to the governing bodies of district customers and municipal customers on whom the rate will be imposed at least 10 days prior to the passage or enactment of the ordinance or resolution implementing the increase.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 498, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 187, L. 2013.

75-6-327. Refunding revenue bonds. If the authority has issued bonds under the provisions of this part, it may by resolution issue refunding bonds for the purpose of retiring or refinancing outstanding bonds, together with any unpaid interest on the bonds and any

redemption premium. All of the provisions of this part relating to the issuance, security, and payment of bonds apply to the refunding bonds. However, the bonds are subject to the provisions of the proceedings that authorized the issuance of the bonds to be refunded.
History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

75-6-328. Exemption from taxation. Bonds issued pursuant to this part and the interest on the bonds, together with all properties and facilities of the authority owned or used in connection with the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system, and all the money, revenue, and other income of the authority derived from the water supply, wastewater transportation, or treatment system are exempt from all taxation by the state or any county, municipality, political subdivision, or agency of the state, county, or municipality.
History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

75-6-329. Bonds as legal investment. Bonds issued under the provisions of this part are legal investments for banks, building and loan associations, and insurance companies organized under the laws of this state.
History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 498, L. 1999.

CHAPTER 7
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Chapter Cross-References
Wetlands Protection Advisory Council, 2-15-3405.
Smith River Management Act, Title 23, ch. 2, part 4.

Part 1
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Part Cross-References
Ferrykeepers to keep banks of streams at landings in good repair, 7-14-2826.
Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules for protection of streams from adverse recreational use, 23-2-302.
Construction of pipelines across streams, 69-13-103.
Watercourses — accretion and reclamation of banks, Title 70, ch. 18, part 2.
Failure to issue mining permit — protection of streambeds, Title 82, ch. 4, part 2.
Metal mine reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4, part 3.
Water conservancy districts — flow regulation, 85-9-102.
Fishing access sites and frontages — funds for recreational use, 87-1-605.
Stream protection of fish and wildlife resources — plans for construction or hydraulic projects, Title 87, ch. 5, part 5.

75-7-101. Short title. This part may be cited as "The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975".

History: **En. 26-1510 by Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1510.**

75-7-102. Intent — policy. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) It is the policy of the state of Montana that its natural rivers and streams and the lands and property immediately adjacent to them within the state are to be protected and preserved to be available in their natural or existing state and to prohibit unauthorized projects and, in so doing, to keep soil erosion and sedimentation to a minimum, except as may be necessary and appropriate after due consideration of all factors involved. Further, it is the policy of this state to recognize the needs of irrigation and agricultural use of the rivers and streams of the state of Montana and to protect the use of water for any useful or beneficial purpose as guaranteed by The Constitution of the State of Montana.

History: **En. 26-1511 by Sec. 2, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1511; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 361, L. 2003.**

Cross-References
Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Beneficial use defined, 85-2-102.
Adjudication of water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 2.
Policy for protection of fish and wildlife resources in streams, 87-5-501.

75-7-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Applicant" means any person presenting notice of a project to the supervisors.

(2) "Department" means the Montana department of fish, wildlife, and parks.

(3) "District" means:

(a) a conservation district under Title 76, chapter 15, in which the project will take place;

(b) a grass conservation district under Title 76, chapter 16, where a conservation district does not exist; or

(c) the board of county commissioners in a county where a district does not exist.

(4) "Person" means any individual, corporation, firm, partnership, association, or other legal entity not covered under 87-5-502.

(5) (a) "Project" means a physical alteration or modification that results in a change in the state of a natural, perennial-flowing stream or river, its bed, or its immediate banks.

(b) Project does not include:

(i) an activity for which a plan of operation has been submitted to and approved by the district. Any modification to the plan must have prior approval of the district.

(ii) customary and historic maintenance and repair of existing irrigation facilities that do not significantly alter or modify the stream in contravention of 75-7-102; or

(iii) livestock grazing activities.

(6) "Stream" means any natural, perennial-flowing stream or river, its bed, and its immediate banks except a stream or river that has been designated by district rule as not having significant aquatic and riparian attributes in need of protection or preservation under 75-7-102

(7) "Supervisors" means the board of supervisors of a conservation district, the directors of a grass conservation district, or the board of county commissioners where a proposed project is not within a district.

(8) "Team" means one representative of the supervisors, one representative of the department, and the applicant or the applicant's representative.

(9) "Written consent of the supervisors" means a written decision of the supervisors approving a project and specifying activities authorized to be performed in completing the project.

History: **En. 26-1512 by Sec. 3, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1512; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 551, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Composition of Board of County Commissioners, 7-4-2101.
Conservation district supervisors, Title 76, ch. 15.
Grass Conservation Act, Title 76, ch. 16.

75-7-104. Vested water rights preserved. This part shall not impair, diminish, divest, or control any existing or vested water rights under the laws of the state of Montana or the United States.

History: **En. 26-1516 by Sec. 7, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1516.**

Cross-References

Existing water rights protected, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

75-7-105. Application of flood plain management. Approval for proposed projects or alternate plans does not relieve the applicant of the responsibility of complying with Title 76, chapter 5, parts 1 through 4, floodway management and regulation, where designated flood plains or designated floodways have been established in accordance with that chapter.

History: **En. 26-1519 by Sec. 10, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1519.**

75-7-106. Junked motor vehicles as reinforcement prohibited — penalty. (1) It is unlawful to place junked motor vehicles or the body portion of junked motor vehicles between the channel banks of any stream or to reinforce banks of a stream with junked motor vehicles or the body portion of junked motor vehicles.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) is subject to penalties as provided in 75-7-123.

History: **(1)En. 69-6811 by Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 140, L. 1977; Sec. 69-6811, R.C.M. 1947; (2), (3)En. 69-6812 by Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 252, L. 1977; Sec. 69-6812, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6811, 69-6812(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 426, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Ordinary high-water mark defined, 23-2-301.
Venue for action arising on stream, 25-2-124.
Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.
Motor vehicle recycling and disposal, Title 75, ch. 10, part 5.

75-7-107 through 75-7-110 reserved.

75-7-111. Notice of project. (1) A person planning to engage in a project shall present written notice of the proposed project to the supervisors before any portion of the project takes place.

(2) The notice must include the location, general description, and preliminary plan of the project.

(3) At the time of filing a notice of the proposed project under subsection (1), the applicant may sign an arbitration agreement as provided in 75-7-117.

(4) The district may authorize a representative to accept notices of proposed projects.

History: En. 26-1513 by Sec. 4, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1513; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 581, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Removal of obstructions caused by beaver and beaver dams, 87-1-224.

75-7-112. Procedure for considering projects — team. (1) Upon acceptance of a notice of a proposed project, the district or the district's authorized representative shall, within 10 working days, notify the department of the project. If at any time during the review process he supervisors determine that provisions of this part do not apply to a notice of the proposed project, the applicant may proceed upon written notice of the supervisors. The department shall, within 5 working days of receipt of the notification, inform the supervisors whether the department requests an onsite inspection by a team.

(2) The supervisors shall call a team together within 20 days of receipt of the request of the department for an onsite inspection. A member of the team shall notify the supervisors in writing, within 5 working days after notice of the call for an inspection, of the team member's waiver of participation in the inspection. If the department does not request an onsite inspection within the time specified in this subsection, the supervisors may deny, approve, or modify the project.

(3) Each member of the team shall recommend in writing, within 30 days of the date of nspection, denial, approval, or modification of the project to the supervisors. The applicant may waive participation in this recommendation.

(4) The supervisors shall review the proposed project and affirm, overrule, or modify the ndividual team recommendations and notify the applicant and team members, within 60 days of the date of application, of their decision.

(5) (a) When a member of the team, other than an applicant, disagrees with the supervisors' decision, the team member shall request, within 5 working days of receipt of the supervisors' decision, that an arbitration panel as provided in 75-7-114 be appointed to hear the dispute and make a final written decision regarding the dispute.

(b) When an applicant disagrees with the supervisors' decision, the applicant shall, within 30 working days of receipt of the supervisors' decision:

(i) agree to arbitration under this section and request that an arbitration panel, as provided for in 75-7-114, be appointed to hear the dispute and make a final written decision regarding the dispute; or

(ii) appeal the decision of the supervisors to the district court for the county where the project is located.

(6) Upon written consent of the supervisors, the applicant shall notify the supervisors in writing within 30 days if the applicant wishes to proceed with the project in accordance with he supervisors' decision. Work may not be commenced on a project before the end of a 15-day waiting period unless written permission is given by all team members and the district.

(7) The supervisors may extend, upon the request of a team member, the time limits provided in subsections (3) and (4) when, in their determination, the time provided is not sufficient to carry out the purposes of this part. The time extension may not, in total, exceed 1 year from the date of application. The applicant must be notified, within 60 days of the date of application, of the initial time extension and must be notified immediately of any subsequent time extensions.

(8) Work on a project under this part may not take place without the written consent of the supervisors.

(9) The team, in making its recommendation, and the supervisors, in denying, approving, or modifying a project, shall determine:

(a) the purpose of the project; and

(b) whether the proposed project is a reasonable means of accomplishing the purpose of the proposed project. To determine if the project is reasonable, the following must be considered:

(i) the effects on soil erosion and sedimentation, considering the methods available to complete the project and the nature and economics of the various alternatives;

(ii) whether there are modifications or alternative solutions that are reasonably practical that would reduce the disturbance to the stream and its environment and better accomplish the purpose of the proposed project;

(iii) whether the proposed project will create harmful flooding or erosion problems upstream or downstream;

(iv) the effects on stream channel alteration;

(v) the effects on streamflow, turbidity, and water quality caused by materials used or by removal of ground cover; and

(vi) the effect on fish and aquatic habitat.

(10) If the supervisors determine that a proposed project or part of a proposed project should be modified, they may condition their approval upon the modification.

(11) The supervisors may not approve or modify a proposed project unless the supervisors determine that the purpose of the proposed project will be accomplished by reasonable means.

History: En. 26-1514 by Sec. 5, Ch. 463, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1514; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 581, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2019.

75-7-113. Emergencies — procedure. (1) The provisions of this part do not apply to those actions that are necessary to safeguard life or property, including growing crops, during periods of emergency. The person responsible for a taking action under this section shall notify the supervisors in writing within 15 days of the action taken as a result of an emergency.

(2) The emergency notice given under subsection (1) must contain the following information:

(a) the location of the action taken;

(b) a general description of the action taken;

(c) the date on which the action was taken; and

(d) an explanation of the emergency causing the need for the action taken.

(3) If the supervisors determine that the action taken meets the definition of a project, the supervisors shall send one copy of the notice, within 5 working days of its receipt, to the department.

(4) A team, called together as described in 75-7-112(2), shall make an onsite inspection within 20 days of receipt of the emergency notice.

(5) Each member of the team shall recommend in writing, within 30 days of the date of the emergency notice, denial, approval, or modification of the project.

(6) The supervisors shall review the emergency project and affirm, overrule, or modify the individual team recommendations and notify the applicant and team members of their decision within 60 days of receipt of the emergency notice.

(7) A person who has undertaken an emergency action that is denied or modified shall submit written notice, as provided in 75-7-111, to obtain approval pursuant to 75-7-112 to mitigate the damages to the stream caused by the emergency action and to achieve a long-term solution, if feasible, to the emergency situation. Notice under this subsection must be filed within 90 days after the supervisors' decision.

(8) (a) When a member of the team, other than an applicant, disagrees with the supervisors' decision of an emergency action, the team member shall request that an arbitration panel, as provided for in 75-7-114, be appointed to hear the dispute and to make a final written decision on the dispute.

(b) When an applicant disagrees with the supervisors' decision, the applicant shall, within 30 working days of receipt of the supervisors' decision:

(i) agree to arbitration under this section and request that an arbitration panel, as provided for in 75-7-114, be appointed to hear the dispute and make a final written decision regarding the dispute; or

(ii) appeal the decision of the supervisors to the district court for the county where the project is located.

(9) The failure of a person to perform the following subjects the person to civil and criminal penalties under 75-7-123:

(a) failure to provide emergency notice under subsection (1);

(b) failure to submit a notice of the project under subsection (7); or

(c) failure to implement the terms of a supervisors' decision for the purpose of mitigating the damage to the stream caused by the emergency action and of achieving a permanent solution, if feasible, to the emergency situation.

History: En. 26-1517 by Sec. 8, Ch. 463, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1517; amd. ec. 5, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 581, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 2019.

ross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

75-7-114. Arbitration panel — selection. The arbitration panel shall consist of three nembers chosen by the senior judge of the judicial district in which the dispute takes place. The nembers must be residents of that judicial district at the time of selection. This panel shall sit or only that period of time necessary to settle the dispute before it and will review the proposed roject in line with the arbitration agreement and the policy set forth in 75-7-102.

History: En. 26-1515 by Sec. 6, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1515(1); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 426, L. 1995.

ross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

75-7-115. Arbitration panel — costs. Cost of the arbitration panel, computed as for urors' fees under 3-15-201, shall be borne by the contesting party or parties; all other parties hall bear their own costs.

History: En. 26-1515 by Sec. 6, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1515(2).

ross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

75-7-116. Modification of plan — assignment of costs. (1) If the final decision of the rbitration panel or district court requires modifications or alterations from the original project lan as approved by the supervisors, then the arbitration panel or district court shall include in ts decision any part or percent of these modifications or alterations that is for the direct benefit f the public and it shall assign any costs to the proper participant.

(2) Any of the involved entities may withdraw or modify required modification of the roject within 10 days after the decision.

History: En. 26-1518 by Sec. 9, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1518; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 581, L. 2003.

ross-References

Uniform Arbitration Act, Title 27, ch. 5.

75-7-117. Rules — minimum standards — arbitration agreement. (1) The department f natural resources and conservation, after consultation with the association of conservation listricts, shall adopt and may revise rules setting minimum standards and guidelines for the urposes of this part.

(2) The supervisors of each district shall adopt and may revise by resolution after a public earing rules setting standards and guidelines for projects and exclusions within their districts hat meet, exceed, or are not covered by the minimum standards set by the department under ubsection (1).

(3) The department of natural resources and conservation, after consultation with the ssociation of conservation districts, shall prepare an arbitration agreement for use by the onservation districts when an applicant chooses to use arbitration. The arbitration agreement nust contain provisions for:

(a) the appointment of arbitrators;

(b) the exercise of power by the arbitrators;

(c) an arbitration hearing process, including time and place for hearing, notification, resentation of witnesses and evidence, cross-examination, subpoenas, depositions, and the ssuance of the award or change of award; and

(d) the fees and expenses of arbitration.

History: En. 26-1520 by Sec. 11, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1520; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 551, L. 1987; amd. ec. 189, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 581, L. 2003.

ross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — rulemaking, Title 2, ch. 4.

75-7-118 through 75-7-120 reserved.

75-7-121. Review. (1) Any review of final action by the supervisors under 75-7-112 or 5-7-113 may be by arbitration or by the district court of the county where the project is located. udicial review of an arbitration action is under the provisions of Title 27, chapter 5, part 3, and nust be brought in the county where the action is proposed to occur.

(2) An applicant's choice of the judicial review remedy prevails over any other team member's request for arbitration regardless of whether arbitration was requested prior to the filing of a petition for judicial review by the applicant.

History: **En. 26-1521 by Sec. 12, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1521; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 581, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5.
Venue for action arising on stream, 25-2-124.

75-7-122. Public nuisance. Except for emergency action, a project engaged in by any person without prior approval or activities performed outside the scope of written consent of the supervisors, as prescribed in this chapter, is declared a public nuisance and subject to proceedings for immediate abatement.

History: **En. 26-1522 by Sec. 13, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1522; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 426, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Obstruction of rivers and streams as nuisance, 27-30-101.
Action to abate public nuisance, 27-30-202.
Criminal code — public nuisance, 45-8-111.

75-7-123. Penalties — restoration. (1) A person who initiates a project without written consent of the supervisors, performs activities outside the scope of written consent of the supervisors, violates emergency procedures provided for in 75-7-113, or violates 75-7-106 is:

(a) guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed $500; or

(b) subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $500 for each day that person continues to be in violation.

(2) Each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation. The maximum civil penalty is the jurisdictional amount for purposes of 3-10-301. A conservation district may work with a person who is subject to a civil penalty to resolve the amount of the penalty prior to initiating an enforcement action in justice's court to collect a civil penalty.

(3) In addition to a fine or a civil penalty under subsection (1), the person:

(a) shall restore, at the discretion of the court, the damaged stream, as recommended by the supervisors, to as near its prior condition as possible; or

(b) is civilly liable for the amount necessary to restore the stream. The amount of the liability may be collected in an action instituted pursuant to 3-10-301 if the amount of liability does not exceed $15,000. If the amount of liability for restoration exceeds $15,000, then the action must be brought in district court.

(4) Money recovered by a conservation district or a county attorney, whether as a fine or a civil penalty, must be deposited in the depository of district funds provided for in 76-15-523 unless upon order of a justice's court the money is directed to be deposited pursuant to 3-10-601

History: **En. 26-1523 by Sec. 14, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1523(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1993 amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 426, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 470, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 331 L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Venue for action arising on stream, 25-2-124.
Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.
Restoration of damaged streams, 87-5-509.

75-7-124. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 470, L. 2003.

History: **En. 26-1523 by Sec. 14, Ch. 463, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 26-1523(2).**

75-7-125. Jurisdiction — declaratory ruling — standards — judicial review. (1) (a) The supervisors shall determine the applicability, interpretation, or implementation of any statutory provision or any rule or written consent of the supervisors under this part.

(b) The supervisors' determination pursuant to subsection (1)(a) must be made, in accordance with rules established under 75-7-117, prior to the filing of a petition under subsection (2).

(2) (a) A person who may be directly affected by the applicability, interpretation, or implementation of this part and who disagrees with a determination made under subsection (1) may petition the supervisors for a declaratory ruling.

(b) If the issue raised in the petition for a declaratory ruling is of significant interest to the ublic, the supervisors shall provide a reasonable opportunity for interested persons and the etitioner to submit data, information, or arguments, orally or in written form, prior to making ruling.

(c) If the issue raised in the petition for a declaratory ruling is not of significant interest o the public, the supervisors shall provide a reasonable opportunity for the petitioner to submit ata, information, or arguments, orally or in written form, prior to making a ruling.

(d) Data and information may be submitted at a hearing before the supervisors. Data and nformation submitted to the supervisors outside of the hearing process must be made available or public review prior to the hearing being conducted before the supervisors.

(3) A proceeding held under this section is not a contested case proceeding. A declaratory uling under this section is not subject to the provisions of the Montana Administrative rocedure Act.

(4) A declaratory ruling is subject to judicial review. Judicial review must be conducted by court without a jury and is limited to the data, information, and arguments made before the upervisors. A court may reverse or modify the supervisors' ruling if substantial rights of the ppellant have been prejudiced because the ruling is:

(a) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;

(b) in excess of the statutory authority of the supervisors;

(c) affected by error of law; or

(d) arbitrary or capricious, characterized by abuse of discretion, or a clearly unwarranted xercise of discretion.

(5) A final judgment of a district court under this section may be appealed in the same anner as provided in 2-4-711.

(6) This section may not be interpreted or construed to allow a person to petition for a eclaratory ruling under this section for an administrative review of a decision of the supervisors nder 75-7-112 or 75-7-113 granting, denying, or conditioning a written consent. Review of a inal action by the supervisors pursuant to 75-7-112 or 75-7-113 is exclusively provided for in 5-7-121.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 2003.**

Part 2
Lakeshores

art Cross-References

Recreational use of lakes not addressed, 23-2-310.
Water conservancy districts — level regulation, 85-9-102.
Recreational use — rules, 87-1-303.
Frontages — funds for recreational uses, 87-1-605.

75-7-201. Policy. The legislature finds and declares that the natural lakes of Montana re high in scenic and resource values and that the conservation and protection of these lakes s important to the continued value of lakeshore property as well as to the state's residents and isitors who use and enjoy the lakes. The legislature further declares that local governments hould play the primary public roles in establishing policies to conserve and protect lakes. Local overnments do not have adequate statutory powers to protect their lake areas, and it is the urpose of this part to confer such powers on local governments, provided that such powers are xercised to maintain public health, welfare, and safety.

History: **En. 89-3701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3701.**

ross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-7-202. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Lake" means a body of standing water and the area within its lakeshore occurring aturally rather than by virtue of constructed impoundments (although a natural lake whose evel is raised and whose area is increased by the construction of impoundments includes he additional level and area), having a water surface area of at least 160 acres for at least 6

months in a year of average precipitation as such averages are determined by the United States geological survey, not used exclusively for agricultural purposes, and navigable by canoes and small boats.

(2) "Lakeshore" is the perimeter of a lake when the lake is at mean annual high-water elevation, including the land within 20 horizontal feet from that high-water elevation.

(3) "Local governing body" or "governing body" is that unit of local government authorized to administer the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act on the land adjoining a lake or part of a lake subject to this part.

(4) "Mean annual high-water elevation" is the mean average of the highest elevation of a lake in each of at least 5 consecutive years, excluding any high levels caused by erratic or unusual weather or hydrological conditions. A highest elevation caused by operation of a dam or other impoundment counts toward the establishment of the mean annual high-water elevation.

History: En. 89-3702 by Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3702(part).

Cross-References

Montana Subdivision and Platting Act — governing body, 76-3-103.

75-7-203. Change in definition of lake by local government. A local governing body may by resolution change the minimum size in the definition of a lake so that this part may apply to natural lakes in the county no smaller than 20 acres in water surface area.

History: En. 89-3702 by Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3702(part).

75-7-204. Work for which permit required. (1) A person who proposes to do any work that will alter or diminish the course, current, or cross-sectional area of a lake or its lakeshore must first secure a permit for the work from the local governing body.

(2) Without limitation, the following activities, when conducted below mean annual high-water elevation, are examples of work for which a permit is required: construction of channels and ditches; dredging of lake bottom areas to remove muck, silt, or weeds; lagooning, meaning the placement of a narrow strip of land across a portion of a lake to create a lagoon; filling; constructing breakwaters of pilings; constructing wharves and docks.

History: En. 89-3703 by Sec. 3, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3703; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 68, L. 1979.

75-7-205. Unauthorized work. A person who performs work in a lake without a permit for that work shall, if required by the local governing body or the district court, restore the lake to its condition before the person disturbed it.

History: En. 89-3708 by Sec. 8, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3708(1); amd. Sec. 2498, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Nuisance, Title 27, ch. 30.

Criminal code — public nuisance, 45-8-111.

75-7-206. Nature of property rights under part. Work or development authorized or approved under this part shall not create a vested property right in the permitted development other than in the physical structure, if any, so developed.

History: En. 89-3708 by Sec. 8, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3708(2).

75-7-207. Regulations for issuance of permits. (1) Before January 1, 1976, every governing body having jurisdiction over an area containing a lake shall adopt regulations in the form of criteria for the issuance or denial of permits for work in lakes.

(2) Where a planning board has been created under 76-1-104 for an area containing a lake, the governing body shall seek the recommendations of the planning board as to the regulations to be adopted under this part.

(3) The local governing body may provide a summary procedure to permit work which it finds has a minimal or insignificant impact on a lakeshore.

(4) A governing body whose area contains more than one lake may adopt regulations in differing form for the various lakes, recognizing the physical and social differences between lakes.

(5) The requirements of 75-7-208 are minimum requirements and do not restrict a local governing body from adopting such stricter or additional regulations as may be authorized by other statutes.

History: En. 89-3704 by Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3704(1), (3) thru (5).

Cross-References
Montana Subdivision and Platting Act — local governing body, 76-3-103.

75-7-208. Factors favoring issuance of permit. The regulations shall favor issuance if he proposed work will not during either its construction or its utilization:
(1) materially diminish water quality;
(2) materially diminish habitat for fish or wildlife;
(3) interfere with navigation or other lawful recreation;
(4) create a public nuisance; or
(5) create a visual impact discordant with natural scenic values, as determined by the ocal governing body, where such values form the predominant landscape elements.

History: En. 89-3704 by Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3704(2).

Cross-References
Water quality classifications and standards, Title 75, ch. 5, part 3.

75-7-209. Regulations for particular lake. Upon petition of five owners or 30% of the owners of land abutting a lake, whichever is smaller, the department of natural resources and conservation may adopt regulations under 75-7-207 and 75-7-208 for the particular lake. The department may then exercise the powers conferred upon a local governing body by this part until the governing body adopts the necessary regulations.

History: En. 89-3704 by Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3704(6).

Cross-References
Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-7-210. Application for permit — fee. (1) A person seeking a permit for work in a lake or on a lakeshore shall apply to the local governing body and shall pay a permit fee established by the governing body under subsection (2).

(2) The local governing body shall establish a permit fee as provided in subsection (1). The permit fee must be commensurate with the cost of administering the permit application. Factors the local governing body shall consider when establishing the fee include but are not limited to:
(a) the annual estimated total number of permit requests;
(b) the complexity of the specific project;
(c) the need for and location and number of onsite investigations; and
(d) the estimated cost of the specific project.

History: En. 89-3705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3705(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 648, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 2001.

75-7-211. Consultation with local planning board. (1) Where a planning board has been created under 76-1-104 for the area containing the lake in question, the governing body shall seek the recommendation of the planning board as to the compliance of the proposed work with he criteria for the issuance of a permit. The planning board shall report its recommendations o the governing body as to whether the proposed work conforms to the criteria for issuance of a permit and may require the applicant to submit additional information before the board reports its recommendations.

(2) In areas where a planning board is not established, the functions of a planning board under this section shall be exercised by the local governing body.

History: En. 89-3705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3705(part).

Cross-References
Montana Subdivision and Platting Act — governing body, 76-3-103.

75-7-212. Issuance of permit. (1) Unless the applicant agrees to an extension of time, the governing body shall grant or deny permission for the work within 90 days of receiving an application for a permit.

(2) If the governing body finds that the proposed work conforms to the criteria for issuing a permit, it shall issue a permit or conditional permit.

(3) If the governing body finds that the work does not conform to the criteria, it shall deny the application.

History: En. 89-3706 by Sec. 6, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3706.

75-7-213. Variance procedure. A governing body which proposes to grant a variance from its regulations under this part shall first prepare an environmental impact statement at the expense of the applicant, which conforms to the requirements of regulations adopted pursuant to this part, distribute this statement to interested residents, and conduct a public hearing on the proposed action.

History: En. 89-3707 by Sec. 7, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3707.

Cross-References

Environmental impact statements, 75-1-201.

75-7-214. Cooperation between governing bodies. If a lake, as defined by this part is located under the jurisdiction of more than one governing body, the governing bodies are empowered and encouraged to enter into agreements to effectuate the purposes of this part and establish compatible criteria for denial or issuance of permits.

History: En. 89-3709 by Sec. 9, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3709.

75-7-215. Judicial enforcement and review. The district court may hear and decide the following cases arising under this part within the district:

(1) a complaint and petition of a governing body or an interested person for an order to restore a lake to its previous condition or to enjoin further work in a lake;

(2) a petition of an interested person for review of a final action of a governing body upon an application for a permit;

(3) a petition of an interested person for review of an action of a governing body in adopting or amending regulations.

History: En. 89-3710 by Sec. 10, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3710.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
District Courts, Title 3, ch. 5.
Venue for actions arising from lake dispute, 25-2-124.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.

75-7-216. Penalty. (1) A person who violates an order issued under this part or who knowingly violates a regulation made under this part commits a misdemeanor and on conviction may be sentenced to 30 days in the county jail or fined $500, or both.

(2) Fines collected under this section, except those collected in a justice's court, shall be paid to the general fund of the county where the offense was committed for the purpose of administering this part.

History: En. 89-3711 by Sec. 11, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3711; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

75-7-217. Funding. In compliance with 1-2-112, the administration of this part is declared a public purpose of a city or county which may be paid out of permit application fees collected under 75-7-210 and federal revenue sharing moneys.

History: En. 89-3712 by Sec. 12, Ch. 527, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3712.

Part 3
Flathead Basin Commission
(Repealed)

75-7-301. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 424, L. 1983.

75-7-302. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 424, L. 1983.

75-7-303. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 537, L. 2003.

75-7-304. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 112, L. 1991.

75-7-305. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 628, L. 1989.**

75-7-306. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 243, L. 1999.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 424, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 700, L. 1989.**

75-7-307. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 424, L. 1983.**

75-7-308. Repealed. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 2023.
History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 424, L. 1983.**

Part 4
Phosphorus Compounds — Model Rule

75-7-401. Adoption and amendment of model rule on sale and distribution of certain phosphorus compounds. (1) The department of environmental quality shall adopt a model rule to provide standards that counties may adopt under 75-7-411 to prohibit the sale and distribution of certain phosphorus compounds used for cleaning.

(2) The standards in the model rule must be designed to protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems by reducing the amount of phosphorus that will enter state waters.

(3) The department may amend the model rule to:

(a) reflect changing technology related to phosphorus compounds in cleaning products;

(b) incorporate new findings about the impacts of phosphorus compounds on water quality; or

(c) respond to other relevant information.

(4) The department shall follow the procedures of Title 2, chapter 4, part 3, in adopting or amending the model rule.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 574, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

Cross-References
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Counties, Title 7, ch. 1, part 21.
County resolutions, Title 7, ch. 5, part 22.
Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.

75-7-402. Distribution of model rule. The department shall send to the governing body of each county a notice of any rulemaking proceeding or hearing under 75-7-401, a copy of the model rule, and a copy of any amendment proposed or adopted.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 574, L. 1985.**

Cross-References
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Counties, Title 7, ch. 1, part 21.
County resolutions, Title 7, ch. 5, part 22.
Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.

75-7-403. Prohibition of enforcement by department. The department may not enforce any standard or provision of the model rule. As provided in 75-7-411, the governing body of a county may adopt and enforce as an ordinance the standards contained in the model rule.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 574, L. 1985.**

Cross-References
Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Counties, Title 7, ch. 1, part 21.
County resolutions, Title 7, ch. 5, part 22.
Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.

75-7-404 through 75-7-410 reserved.

75-7-411. County regulation of sale and distribution of certain phosphorus compounds. (1) The governing body of a county may adopt, through the procedures of 7-5-103 through 7-5-107, an ordinance prohibiting the sale and distribution of certain phosphorus compounds used for cleaning purposes. The governing body may rescind, modify, or repeal the ordinance at any time by use of the same procedures.

(2) An ordinance prohibiting the sale and distribution of certain phosphorus compounds used for cleaning purposes may be adopted only if:

(a) the county has a natural lake, whether or not it is fitted with a dam, for which the department of environmental quality or the governing body of the county has determined that eutrophication enhanced by human activity is occurring and that phosphorus is the limiting factor; and

(b) other efforts are being undertaken in the county to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering surface waters.

(3) Any ordinance adopted by the governing body of a county must contain standards designated by the model rule adopted by the department of environmental quality under 75-7-401 and in effect at the time of the adoption of the county ordinance.

(4) Any ordinance adopted by the governing body of a county must be enforced by the county.

(5) The provisions of this part do not apply to counties where the sale of phosphorus-containing household cleaning products is banned pursuant to 75-5-904 and 75-5-905.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 574, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 191, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 245, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Department of Environmental Quality, Title 2, ch. 15, part 35.
Counties, Title 7, ch. 1, part 21.
County resolutions, Title 7, ch. 5, part 22.
Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.

75-7-412. Penalty. (1) A person involved in the sale or commercial distribution of any phosphorus compound prohibited by an ordinance adopted under 75-7-411 must be notified by the county and must be given 30 days from receipt of such notice to comply with the ordinance. Failure to comply with the ordinance following this 30-day period is a misdemeanor. Each day of violation is a separate offense.

(2) The penalty provided for in subsection (1) applies only to persons engaged in the sale or commercial distribution of prohibited phosphorus compounds. The county may not prosecute or otherwise penalize a person for using a phosphorus compound regulated by an ordinance adopted under 75-7-411.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 574, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

CHAPTER 8
COAL-FIRED GENERATING UNIT REMEDIATION

Part 1 — Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation Act

75-8-101. Short title.
75-8-102. Findings — intent.
75-8-103. Definitions.
75-8-104. Integration — construction in event of conflict.
75-8-105. Remediation plan.
75-8-106. Approval of plan — time limits — contents and expiration.
75-8-107. Degree of cleanup required — labor requirements.
75-8-108. Remediation plan — appeal — venue.
75-8-109. Enforcement of plan — penalty.
75-8-110. Water feasibility study.

Part 2 — Economic Impacts

75-8-201. Terminated.

Part 1
Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation Act

75-8-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

75-8-102. Findings — intent. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Coal-Fired Generating Unit Remediation Act.

(2) It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part ensure that appropriate remedies are in place when a coal-fired generating unit is retired to ensure the protection of the environmental life support systems from degradation and to provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable degradation of natural resources.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

75-8-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) (a) "Affected property" means the property owned by or under the control of an owner that is affected by a coal-fired generating unit, including:

(i) land, surface water, or ground water directly affected by the coal-fired generating unit, associated impoundments, disposal and waste operations, buildings, structures, or other improvements or operations infrastructure; and

(ii) areas affected by activities necessary to the closure and dismantling of the coal-fired generating unit.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) land, water, or air affected or potentially affected by emissions from the operation of a coal-fired generating unit; or

(ii) the mining of coal at an underground or strip mine and used at the coal-fired generating unit.

(2) "Applicable legal obligations" means any applicable state or federal environmental aws, including but not limited to the Montana Water Quality Act, rules regarding disposal of coal combustion residuals from electric utilities, the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, and other applicable laws administered by the department in accordance with Title 75. The term includes:

(a) any consent order or settlement entered into by the department and an operator or owner imposing obligations to undertake remediation actions at the coal-fired generating unit or affected property; and

(b) a water feasibility study completed in accordance with 75-8-110.

(3) "Coal-fired generating unit" means an individual unit of a coal-fired electrical generating facility located in Montana, where the unit has a generating capacity that is greater than or equal to 200 megawatts.

(4) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(5) "Operator" means the person engaged in operating or undertaking remediation actions at a coal-fired generating unit. An operator may or may not be an owner.

(6) "Owner" means a person who has a legal or equitable interest in property subject to this part or the person's legal representative.

(7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity or any political subdivision of the state or federal government.

(8) "Reasonably anticipated future uses" means likely future land or resource uses that take into consideration:

(a) local land and resource use regulations, ordinances, restrictions, or covenants;

(b) historical and anticipated uses of a site where a coal-fired generating unit is located;

(c) patterns of development in the immediate area; and

(d) relevant indications of anticipated land use from an operator or owner, or both, of a coal-fired generating unit, affected property owners, and local planning officials.

(9) "Remediation" means all actions required by an applicable legal obligation directed exclusively toward achieving a degree of cleanup required in accordance with 75-8-107.

(10) "Retired" or "retire" means the complete and permanent closure of a coal-fired generating unit. Retirement occurs on the date that the coal-fired generating unit ceases combustion of fuel and permanently ceases to generate electricity.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 320, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 2021.

75-8-104. Integration — construction in event of conflict. (1) To avoid unnecessary duplication, the department shall integrate the provisions of this part with applicable legal obligations.

(2) If this part or any action taken by the department in accordance with this part conflicts with applicable legal obligations, the applicable legal obligations supersede the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

75-8-105. Remediation plan. (1) No later than 3 months after a coal-fired generating unit is retired and no earlier than 5 years prior to a coal-fired generating unit's planned retirement, an owner shall submit a proposed remediation plan that contains:

(a) the name of the operator of the coal-fired generating unit and the names and addresses of all owners of the coal-fired generating unit;

(b) a general overview of the site where the unit is located, the unit itself, and affected property;

(c) the current and reasonably anticipated future uses of affected property; and

(d) remediation information, including:

(i) a list of reports, studies, or other evaluations related to remediation and specific remediation measures already completed or under way pursuant to any applicable legal obligation; and

(ii) the manner in which the remediation measures satisfy the requirements of 75-8-107 and a description of how the owner will comply.

(2) (a) If a coal-fired generating unit has more than one owner, the owners may jointly submit a remediation plan in accordance with this part.

(b) If the owners are unable to submit a joint plan, then each owner of the coal-fired generating unit that is being retired or is retired is responsible for meeting the requirements of this part. If separate plans are filed, the department shall ensure that the plans detail legal obligations. If there is a conflict in the plans, the department shall reconcile the conflict to ensure that the plans are consistent with existing law and legal obligations.

(3) A plan required pursuant to subsection (1) may consist of a plan for more than one unit that is retired at the same time and planned for simultaneous remediation.

(4) The filing of a plan is not a commitment to retire a coal-fired generating unit on any particular date that is not otherwise required by an applicable legal obligation.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

75-8-106. Approval of plan — time limits — contents and expiration. (1) (a) The department shall review for completeness a remediation plan and provide a written completeness notice to an owner within 60 days of receipt of the remediation plan and within 30 days of receipt of responses to notices of deficiencies. The initial completeness notice must include all deficiencies identified in the information submitted.

(b) Review of the plan is not subject to Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3.

(c) During the review period provided in subsection (5), an owner may respond in writing to the comments received by the department during the public comment period.

(2) The department shall provide formal written notification of approval or modification within 120 days of determining a proposed remediation plan is complete, unless the owner and the department agree to an extension of the review to a date certain. Any modification by the department is limited to a modification necessary to conform the plan to applicable legal obligations.

(3) The department may access the site where the unit is located, the unit itself, and affected property, at reasonable times and after reasonable notice to the owner, during review of the plan to confirm information provided by the owner and is consistent with the proposed plan.

(4) The department shall approve a remediation plan if the department concludes that the plan meets the requirements of this part.

(5) Within 10 days of the date the department determines that a proposed remediation plan is complete, the department shall publish a notice and brief summary of the proposed remediation plan in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected and make the plan available to the public. The department also shall post the notice on its website. The

notice must provide 45 days for submission of written comments to the department regarding the plan. The notice must also advise the public of the time and place of a public meeting at or near the coal-fired generating unit site regarding the proposed remediation plan. The meeting must be held within 45 days of the date that written notice of the department's completeness determination is provided to the owner or operator. To the extent there is any conflict between the public notice provisions of this section and those contained in any applicable legal obligation, the provisions of the applicable legal obligation supersede the requirements of this subsection.

(6) If a remediation plan is modified by the department, the department shall promptly provide the public with notice through its website and the owner with notice through a written statement of the reasons for modification. A modification may be appealed in accordance with 75-8-108.

(7) To the extent costs are not recovered or recoverable under other applicable legal obligations, the department may recover its actual costs, including administrative costs, for its review of a plan and for its monitoring, inspection, and enforcement activities related to the approved plan. Recovered costs must be deposited in the environmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 320, L. 2017.**

75-8-107. Degree of cleanup required — labor requirements. (1) A remediation plan must demonstrate that it will meet the requirements of subsection (2) and attain a degree of cleanup of the affected property consistent with, but not more stringent than, applicable legal obligations, giving consideration to reasonably anticipated future uses of affected property.

(2) When contracting for the performance of construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair, or maintenance work to implement a remediation plan, an owner shall require that its contractors and any subcontractors use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all remediation. Contracts signed must require contractors and subcontractors to:

(a) pay the standard prevailing rate of wages as defined in 18-2-401 for remediation; and

(b) pay apprentice wage rates, as applicable, in accordance with 39-6-108 for remediation completed by an apprentice employed by a contractor or subcontractor.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 320, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 2019.**

75-8-108. Remediation plan — appeal — venue. (1) (a) Subject to subsection (1)(b), an owner or any person whose interests are or may be materially adversely affected by a final decision of the department to approve or modify a remediation plan under this part may file for judicial review of the department's decision. The request for judicial review and a statement of the basis for the review must be filed with the court within 30 days of the department's decision.

(b) In order for a person to file a request for review under subsection (1)(a), a person must have either submitted comments to the department on a remediation plan or submitted comments at a public meeting held in accordance with 75-8-106(5), or the person must be challenging a change made by the department between the draft and final plan.

(2) An owner may appeal the department's decision on a plan by submitting a request for judicial review. The request for judicial review and the statement of the basis for the review must be filed with the court within 30 days of the department's decision.

(3) In considering a request for review under this part, the court shall uphold the decision made by the department unless the objecting person can demonstrate, on the administrative record, that the department's decision was arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with the law.

(4) A petition for judicial review under this section must be brought in the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 320, L. 2017.**

75-8-109. Enforcement of plan — penalty. (1) If the department finds that an owner has failed to file a plan or implement an approved plan, it may serve written notice of the violation, by certified mail, on the owner. The notice must specify the provisions of this part and the facts alleged to constitute a violation. The notice must include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time. The time period must be stated in the order. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) The department's order becomes final unless, within 30 days after notice of the department's decision or determination, the owner submits to the department a written request for a hearing specifying the grounds for the appeal.

(3) (a) An action initiated under this section may include an administrative penalty determined by the department for each day of a violation. If an order issued by the department under this section requires the payment of an administrative civil penalty, the department shall state findings and conclusions describing the basis for its penalty assessment.

(b) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the environmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

(c) In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed for an alleged violation under this section, the department shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(d) The department may bring a judicial action to enforce a final administrative order issued pursuant to this subsection (3). The action must be filed in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

75-8-110. Water feasibility study. (1) On or before November 1, 2022, the owners of a coal-fired generating unit shall complete a water feasibility study in accordance with subsection (2). Costs of completing the study must be shared among the owners based on each owner's individual ownership interest in the coal-fired generating unit.

(2) The study required in subsection (1) must include:

(a) planning to ensure a local government attendant to a coal-fired generating unit is able to access the local government's water rights and related infrastructure in the event of closure of the coal-fired generating unit;

(b) an estimation of potential conveyance costs that could be incurred by a local government for up to a 30-year timeline following closure of a facility; and

(c) recommendations, developed in consultation with the community attendant to a coal-fired generating unit, for meeting financial obligations necessary to ensure the affected local government is able to maintain its water supply and water rights.

(3) The study must be submitted to the department and included in remediation plans required in accordance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 2021.

Part 2
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75-8-201. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 553, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 553, L. 2021.

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Chapter Cross-References

County control of litter, 7-5-2109.
Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Littering on highways prohibited, 61-8-365.
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Memorandum of agreement with Department of Agriculture, 80-8-110.
Forfeiture of hunting or fishing license for littering, 87-6-920.

Part 1
Plans, Funds, and Administration

75-10-101. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to encourage the good management of solid waste and the conservation of natural resources through the promotion or development of systems to collect, separate, reclaim, recycle, and dispose of solid waste for energy production purposes when economically feasible and to provide a coordinated state solid waste management and resource recovery plan.

History: En. 69-4012 by Sec. 2, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4012(part); amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

75-10-102. Public policies. (1) To implement this part, the following are declared to be public policies of this state:

(a) Maximum recycling from solid waste is necessary to protect the public health, welfare, and quality of the natural environment.

(b) Solid waste management systems must be developed, financed, planned, designed, constructed, and operated for the benefit of the people of this state.

(c) Private industry is to be utilized to the maximum extent possible in planning, designing, managing, constructing, operating, manufacturing, and marketing functions related to solid waste management systems.

(d) Local governments shall retain primary responsibility for adequate solid waste management with the state preserving those functions necessary to ensure effective solid waste management systems throughout the state.

(e) Costs for the management and regulation of solid waste management systems should be charged to those persons generating solid waste in order to encourage the reduction of the solid waste stream.

(f) Encouragement and support should be given to individuals and municipalities to separate solid waste at its source in order to maximize the value of those wastes for reuse.

(g) The state shall provide technical advisory assistance to local governments and other affected persons in the planning, developing, financing, and implementation of solid waste management systems.

(h) Actions and activities performed or carried out by persons and their contractors in accordance with this part must be in conformity with the state solid waste management and resource recovery plan.

(i) When licensing a solid waste management system, the department shall consult with units of local government that have jurisdiction over the area encompassing the proposed system.

(2) This part is in addition and supplemental to any other law providing for the financing of a solid waste management system and does not amend or repeal any other law.

History: En. 69-4012, 69-4019 by Secs. 2, 9, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4012(part), 69-4019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 215, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 643, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-10-103. Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Container site" means a solid waste management facility that:

(a) is generally open to the public for the collection of solid waste that is generated by more than one household or firm and that is collected in a refuse container with a total capacity of not more than 50 cubic yards; or

(b) receives waste from waste collection vehicles and:

(i) receives no more than 3,000 tons of waste each year;

(ii) has control measures in place, including onsite staffing, to adequately contain solid wastes and blowing litter on the site and to minimize spills and leakage of liquid wastes; and

(iii) is a site at which a local government unit requires commercial waste haulers to deposit wastes at the site only during hours that the site is staffed.

(3) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(4) "Local government" means a county, incorporated city or town, or solid waste management district organized under the laws of this state.

(5) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town, or local governmental entity or any other state, federal, or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(6) "Resource recovery facility" means any facility at which solid waste is processed for the purpose of extracting, converting to energy, or otherwise separating and preparing solid waste for reuse.

(7) (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not limited to garbage, rubbish, refuse, ashes, sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead animals, including offal; discarded home and industrial appliances; and wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials.

(b) Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department, slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the department of natural resources and conservation, or marketable byproducts.

(8) "Solid waste management system" means any system that controls the storage, treatment, recycling, recovery, or disposal of solid waste. For the purposes of this definition, a container site is not a component of a solid waste management system.

(9) "State solid waste management and resource recovery plan" means the statewide plan formulated by the department as authorized by this part.

History: En. 69-4013 by Sec. 3, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 482, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 192, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 526, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 405, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

75-10-104. Duties of department. The department shall:

(1) prepare, adopt, and implement a state solid waste management and resource recovery plan as required by 75-10-111 and 75-10-807;

(2) adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this part, including but not limited to rules:

(a) governing the submission of plans for a solid waste management system;

(b) (i) establishing, for the purpose of determining the tonnage or volume-based solid waste management fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(c), methods for determining or estimating the amount of solid waste incinerated or disposed of at a facility; and

(ii) governing the application fee, flat annual license renewal fee, and tonnage or volume-based renewal fee for solid waste management systems;

(c) establishing the license application fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(a);

(d) establishing the flat annual license renewal fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(b);

(e) establishing the tonnage or volume-based annual renewal fee that a facility is subject to under 75-10-115(1)(c); and

(f) providing procedures for the quarterly collection of the solid waste management fee provided for in 75-10-204(6);

(3) provide technical assistance to persons within the state for planning, designing, constructing, financing, and operating:

(a) a solid waste management system in order to ensure that the system conforms to the state plan;

(b) integrated waste management programs; and

(c) collection, disposal, reduction, and educational programs for household hazardous waste and small quantities of hazardous waste that are exempt from regulation under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4;

(4) enforce and administer the provisions of this part;

(5) approve plans for a proposed solid waste management system submitted by a local government; and

(6) serve as a clearinghouse for information on waste reduction and reuse, recycling technology and markets, composting, and household hazardous waste disposal, including chemical compatibility.

History: En. 69-4014 by Sec. 4, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4014(1); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 398, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 643, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 170, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 405, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-10-105. Powers of department. The department may:
(1) accept loans and grants from the federal government and other sources to carry out the rovisions of this part; and
(2) collect the solid waste management fees provided for in 75-10-115.

History: En. 69-4014 by Sec. 4, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4014(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 482, L. 1981; md. Sec. 11, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 398, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 145, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 170, . 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

75-10-106. Repealed. Sec. 111, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

History: En. 69-4015 by Sec. 5, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 482, L. 1981; amd. ec. 4, Ch. 170, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 405, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 54, L. 2007.

75-10-107. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or uidelines. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless equired by state law, the department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is nore stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same ircumstances. The department may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations r guidelines.
(2) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent han comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the department makes a written inding after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:
(a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment f the state; and
(b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health r environment and is achievable under current technology.
(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies ontained in the record that forms the basis for the department's conclusion. The written finding nust also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated ommunity that are directly attributable to the proposed state standard or requirement.
(4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the department adopted after January 1, 1990, and efore April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal egulations or guidelines may petition the department to review the rule. If the department etermines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines, he department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the ederal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection 2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the hallenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed 250.
(b) A person may also petition the department for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if he department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or uidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations r guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted department rule.
(5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking rovisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 471, L. 1995.

75-10-108 and 75-10-109 reserved.

75-10-110. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 696, L. 1989.

75-10-111. State solid waste management and resource recovery plan — earings. The department shall adopt the solid waste management and resource recovery plan equired in 75-10-104 and 75-10-807 according to the rulemaking procedures of the Montana dministrative Procedure Act under Title 2, chapter 4, part 3. The department shall prepare he plan in conjunction with local governments in the state, citizens, solid waste and recycling ndustries, environmental organizations, and others involved or interested in the management f solid waste. Within 3 days after the notice of proposed rulemaking to adopt the plan is ublished pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 3, the department shall mail a copy of the notice and the proposed plan to the board of county commissioners in each county in the state, the governing body of every incorporated city or town in the state, any person responsible for the operation of a solid waste management system under the provisions of Title 75, chapter 10, parts 1 and 2, the governor, the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210, and any other interested person. During the period for receipt of comments on the proposed rulemaking concerning the plan, the department shall hold at least one public hearing.

History: En. 69-4016 by Sec. 6, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4016; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 54, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — rulemaking, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 75, ch. 1, part 3.

75-10-112. Powers and duties of local government. A local government may:

(1) plan, develop, and implement a solid waste management system consistent with the state's solid waste management and resource recovery plan and propose modifications to the state's solid waste management and resource recovery plan;

(2) upon adoption of the state plan, pass an ordinance or resolution to exempt the local jurisdiction from complying with the state plan and subsequent rules implementing the state plan. The ordinance or resolution must include a means to provide solid waste disposal to the citizens of the jurisdiction as required in part 2 of this chapter.

(3) employ appropriate personnel to carry out the provisions of this part;

(4) purchase, rent, or execute leasing agreements for equipment and material necessary for the implementation of a solid waste management system;

(5) cooperate with and enter into agreements with any persons in order to implement an effective solid waste management system;

(6) receive gifts, grants, or donations or acquire by gift, deed, or purchase land necessary for the implementation of any provision of this part;

(7) enforce the rules of the department or a local board of health pertaining to solid waste management through the appropriate county attorney;

(8) apply for and utilize state, federal, or other available money for developing or operating a solid waste management system;

(9) borrow from any lending agency funds available for assistance in planning a solid waste management system;

(10) finance a solid waste management system by:

(a) subject to 15-10-420, fixing the assessment of a tax as authorized by state law; and

(b) as provided in 7-13-4108, fixing and collecting by ordinance or resolution the rates, rentals, and charges for a solid waste management system on system customers;

(11) sell on an installment sales contract or lease to a person all or a portion of a solid waste management system that the local government plans, designs, or constructs for the consideration and upon the terms established by the local governments and consistent with the loan requirements set forth in this part and rules adopted to implement this part;

(12) procure insurance against any loss in connection with property, assets, or activities;

(13) mortgage or otherwise encumber all or a portion of a solid waste management system when the local government finds that the action is necessary to implement the purposes of this part, as long as the action is consistent with the loan requirements set forth in this part and rules adopted to implement this part;

(14) hold or dispose of real property and, subject to agreements with lessors and lessees, develop or alter the property by making improvements or betterments for the purpose of enhancing the value and usefulness of the property;

(15) finance, design, construct, own, and operate a solid waste management system or contract for any or all of the powers authorized under this part;

(16) control the disposition of solid waste generated within the jurisdiction of the local government, except that, in the absence of an imminent threat to public health, safety, or the environment, a local government may not adopt a flow control or similar ordinance to require use of a specific transfer station or landfill for disposal of solid waste;

(17) enter into long-term contracts with local governments and private entities for:

(a) financing, designing, constructing, and operating a solid waste management system;

(b) marketing all raw or processed material recovered from solid waste;

(c) marketing energy products or byproducts resulting from processing or utilization of solid waste;

(18) finance an areawide solid waste management system through the use of any of the sources of revenue available to the implementation entity for public works projects, by the use of revenue bonds issued by the city or county, or by fees levied by a solid waste management district, whichever is appropriate;

(19) enter into interlocal agreements in order to achieve and implement the powers enumerated in this part;

(20) regulate the siting and operation of container sites.

History: En. 69-4017 by Sec. 7, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 145, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 201, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 136, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 187, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.

Municipal taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 44.

75-10-113. User's fee assessed. In the event the revenues of a solid waste management system are insufficient to pay the costs, a local government may levy a pro rata fee against the users of the solid waste management district. The pro rata fee shall be based on a per ton, per pound, or volume assessment.

History: En. 69-4018 by Sec. 8, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4018(6); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 68, L. 1979.

75-10-114 reserved.

75-10-115. Solid waste management fee. (1) The department may adopt rules, pursuant to 75-10-104, that set fees for the management and regulation of solid waste at facilities subject to regulation pursuant to part 2 of this chapter. Upon adoption, the department may collect the fees. These fees may include:

(a) a license application fee that reflects the cost of reviewing a new solid waste management system or a substantial change to an existing facility from the time an application is made until the license is issued or denied;

(b) a flat annual license renewal fee that reflects a minimal base fee related to the fixed costs of an annual inspection and license renewal. The initial annual fee year for a new facility commences on the date that the facility initially receives waste. The fee must be based upon the categorization of solid waste management systems into separate classes identified by the following criteria:

(i) the quantity of solid waste received by the solid waste management system;

(ii) the nature of the solid waste received; and

(iii) the nature of the waste management occurring within the solid waste management system.

(c) a tonnage or volume-based fee on solid waste disposal.

(2) All fees collected must be deposited in the solid waste management account provided for in 75-10-117.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 643, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 170, L. 2001; amd. Sec. , Ch. 229, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-10-116. Penalties for failure to pay fee. A person who owns a solid waste disposal facility that is subject to the fees under 75-10-115 and who fails to pay the fee in the manner provided by department rule is subject to a fine of not more than $2,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both, and shall reimburse the department for the amount of the fee owed and interest calculated at a rate equal to the previous fiscal year's average rate of return on the board of investments' short-term investment pool.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 398, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 145, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 2001.

75-10-117. Solid waste management account. (1) There is a solid waste management account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be deposited in the account:

(a) all revenue from the solid waste management fees provided for in 75-10-115; and

(b) money received by the department in the form of legislative appropriations, reimbursements, gifts, federal funds, or appropriations from any source that is intended to be used for the purposes of the account.

(3) The account may be used by the department only for the administration of 75-2-215, part 2 of this chapter, and this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 398, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 145, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 170, L. 2001.

75-10-118. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 170, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 398, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1993.

75-10-119 and 75-10-120 reserved.

75-10-121. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

History: En. 69-4018 by Sec. 8, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4018(1), (3); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 68, L. 1979.

75-10-122. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

History: En. 69-4018 by Sec. 8, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4018(2).

75-10-123. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

History: En. 69-4020 by Sec. 10, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4020.

75-10-124. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

History: En. 69-4018 by Sec. 8, Ch. 575, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4018(4), (5), (7).

75-10-125. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 405, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 482, L. 1981.

Part 2

Licensing of Refuse Disposal and Transportation Montana Solid Waste Management Act

Part Cross-References

Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.

Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.

75-10-201. Short title. This part may be cited as "The Montana Solid Waste Management Act".

History: En. 69-4001.1 by Sec. 2, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4001.1.

75-10-202. Legislative intent, findings, and policy. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted The Montana Solid Waste Management Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) It is hereby found and declared that the health and welfare of Montana citizens are being endangered by improperly operated solid waste management systems and by the improper and unregulated disposal of wastes. It is declared the public policy of this state to control solid waste management systems to protect the public health and safety and to conserve natural resources whenever possible.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-10-203. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any solid waste into or onto the land so that the solid waste or any

onstituent of it may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any vaters, including ground water.

(4) "Household hazardous waste" means products commonly used in the home that due o corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity, toxicity, or other chemical or physical properties are langerous to human health or the environment. Household hazardous waste includes but is ot limited to cleaning, home maintenance, automobile, personal care, and yard maintenance roducts.

(5) "Household waste" means any solid waste derived from households, including single nd multiple residences, hotels, and motels, crew quarters, and campgrounds and other public ecreation and public land management facilities.

(6) (a) "Municipal solid waste landfill" means any publicly or privately owned landfill or andfill unit that receives household waste or other types of waste, including commercial waste, onhazardous sludge, and industrial solid waste.

(b) The term does not include land application units, surface impoundments, injection vells, or waste piles.

(7) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, ity, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity, whether rganized for profit or not.

(8) "Resource recovery" means the recovery of material or energy from solid waste.

(9) "Resource recovery facility" means a facility at which solid waste is processed for the urpose of extracting, converting to energy, or otherwise separating and preparing solid waste or reuse.

(10) "Resource recovery system" means a solid waste management system that provides or the collection, separation, recycling, or recovery of solid wastes, including disposal of onrecoverable waste residues.

(11) (a) "Solid waste" means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not imited to garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply reatment plants, or air pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead nimals, including offal; discarded home and industrial appliances; and wood products or wood yproducts and inert materials.

(b) Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining vastes regulated under the mining and reclamation laws administered by the department f environmental quality, slash and forest debris regulated under laws administered by the lepartment of natural resources and conservation, or marketable byproducts.

(12) "Solid waste management system" means a system that controls the storage, treatment, ecycling, recovery, or disposal of solid waste. For the purposes of this definition, a container ite, as defined in 75-10-103, is not a component of a solid waste management system.

(13) "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of wastes, either on a temporary asis or for a period of years.

(14) "Transport" means the movement of wastes from the point of generation to any ntermediate points and finally to the point of ultimate storage or disposal.

(15) "Treatment" means a method, technique, or process, including neutralization, designed o change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any solid waste so as o neutralize the waste or so as to render it safer for transport, amenable for recovery, amenable or storage, or reduced in volume.

(16) "Waste tire" means a tire that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose ecause of wear, damage, or defect.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4002; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 677, L. 1989; amd. ec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 527, 568, Ch. 46, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1997.

ross-References

Securing of load — requirement, 61-8-370.

75-10-204. Powers and duties of department. The department shall, subject to the rovisions of 75-10-107, adopt rules governing solid waste management systems that must nclude but are not limited to:

(1) requirements for the plan of operation and maintenance that must be submitted with an application under this part;

(2) the classification of disposal sites according to the physical capabilities of the site to contain the type of solid waste to be disposed of;

(3) the procedures to be followed in the disposal, treatment, or transport of solid wastes;

(4) the suitability of the site from a public health standpoint when hydrology, geology, and climatology are considered;

(5) requirements relating to ground water monitoring, including but not limited to:

(a) information that owners and operators of municipal solid waste landfills and other disposal sites specified in 75-10-207 are required to submit to the department to enable the department to prepare the priority compliance list authorized by 75-10-207(3);

(b) the content of plans for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of monitoring wells and monitoring systems; and

(c) recordkeeping and reporting;

(6) the imposition of a quarterly fee based on the justifiable direct and indirect costs to the state of administering Title 75, chapter 10, parts 1 and 2, for solid waste generated outside Montana and disposed of or incinerated within Montana;

(7) requirements to maintain financial assurance payable to the state of Montana with a surety satisfactory to the department in an amount sufficient to provide for waste tire treatment, removal, transportation, and disposal, fire suppression, or other measures necessary to protect the environment and the health, safety, and welfare of the public;

(8) requirements for coal combustion residues at electrical generation facilities in order to provide for state implementation of federal legislation or federal environmental protection agency regulations that contain legislative or regulatory requirements pertaining to coal combustion residues and that become effective on or after May 6, 2013; and

(9) any other factors relating to the sanitary disposal or management of solid wastes.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4007(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 677, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 643, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 373, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 170, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-10-205. Inspections. The department has continuing authority and responsibility to inspect a solid waste management system under the provisions of this part. Inspections may be conducted only during reasonable hours and only after presentation of appropriate credentials identifying the inspector as a duly authorized employee of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4007(2).**

Cross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individual to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

75-10-206. Variance. (1) A person may apply to the board for a variance from rules adopted by the department pursuant to 75-10-204, except for rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-204(6). The board may grant a variance if it finds that:

(a) failure to comply with the rules does not result in a danger to public health or safety; or

(b) compliance with the rules from which a variance is sought would produce hardship without producing benefits to the health and safety of the public that outweigh the hardship.

(2) A variance may not be granted pursuant to this section except after a hearing pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act and consideration by the board of the relative interests of the applicant and owners of the property likely to be affected by the waste disposal system under consideration.

(3) This section may not be construed as relieving the board from the obligation to comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, or as allowing the board to grant a variance less restrictive than that act.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 273, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 170, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-207. Ground water monitoring. (1) Owners and operators of municipal solid waste landfills and other disposal sites that at any time accepted household waste, that are in operation as of October 1, 1989, and that serve a geographic area with a population of 5,000 or more persons as determined by the most recent census are required to monitor ground water as specified by the department.

(2) If the owner or operator of a municipal solid waste landfill or other disposal site specified in subsection (1) can demonstrate to the department that there is no potential for migration of constituents from the site that could cause pollution of ground water during the active life of the site, including the closure period, and during postclosure care, the requirement for ground water monitoring specified in subsection (1) does not apply. The information provided to the department to make this demonstration must be certified by a qualified geologist, hydrogeologist, or geotechnical engineer and must include reliable site-specific data.

(3) Based on site-specific information that owners and operators of municipal solid waste andfills and other disposal sites specified in subsection (1) provide to the department, the department shall establish a priority compliance list that identifies those sites where there is the greatest risk that constituents from the sites may cause pollution of ground water, considering:

(a) proximity to current and potential drinking water supplies;

(b) site hydrologic and geologic characteristics; and

(c) age and design of the site.

(4) Owners and operators of municipal solid waste landfills and other disposal sites specified in subsection (1) shall submit proposed plans to the department for accomplishing ground water monitoring, consistent with requirements specified by department rules. The plans may be based on the information owners and operators provide to the department as specified in subsection (3). The department may approve the plans as submitted or require modifications to the plans as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(5) All sites included on the priority compliance list authorized by subsection (3) must comply with this section by January 1, 1991. All other sites subject to this section must comply by January 1, 1992.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 677, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.

75-10-208. Department rulemaking authority for infectious waste. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department shall adopt rules governing the inspection and regulation of the transportation and management of infectious waste as defined in 75-10-1003.

(2) The department may not adopt rules to regulate:

(a) the generation of infectious waste; or

(b) infectious waste storage or transportation that is regulated under 75-10-1006.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 97, L. 2007.

75-10-209. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 170, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 649, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1993.

75-10-210. Repealed. Sec. 35, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 16, Sp. L. July 1992.

75-10-211. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4005.

75-10-212. Disposal in unauthorized area prohibited — exception. (1) A person may not dispose of solid waste except as permitted under this part.

(2) It is unlawful to dump or leave any garbage, dead animal, or other debris or refuse:

(a) in or upon any highway, road, street, or alley of this state;

(b) in or upon any public property, highway, street, or alley under the control of the state of Montana or any political subdivision of the state or any officer or agent or department of the state or political subdivision of the state;

(c) within 200 yards of a public highway, road, street, or alley or public property;

(d) on privately owned property where hunting, fishing, or other recreation is permitted however, this subsection does not apply to the owner, the owner's agents, or those disposing o debris or refuse with the owner's consent.

(3) A person in violation of this section is absolutely liable, as provided in 45-2-104, and is subject to the civil penalties provided in 75-10-233.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 542, L. 1977; Sec. 69-4003, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En Sec. 11-110, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1969; Sec. 32-4410, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4410(1) 69-4003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 461, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2499, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Littering on highways prohibited, 61-8-365.
Dumping penalty — enforcement, 75-10-233.
Game wardens — duty to enforce, 87-1-504.
Forfeiture of hunting or fishing license for littering, 87-6-920.

75-10-213. Unlawful disposition of dead animals — exception. It is unlawful to:

(1) place all or any part of a dead animal in any lake, river, creek, pond, reservoir, road street, alley, lot, or field;

(2) place all or any part of a dead animal within 1 mile of the residence of any person unless the dead animal or part of a dead animal is:

(a) burned or buried at least 2 feet underground; or

(b) placed in an animal composting facility that is licensed under Title 75, chapter 10, part 2; or

(3) being the owner, permit all or any part of a dead animal to remain in the places specified in subsections (1) and (2) except as provided in subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 95, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4518; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Disposition of dead animal in cave unlawful, 23-2-905.
Dead or fallen animals — rendering plants, Title 81, ch. 9, part 3.

75-10-214. Exclusions — exceptions to exclusions. (1) (a) This part may not be construed to prohibit a person from disposing of the person's own solid waste that is generated in reasonable association with the person's household or agricultural operations upon land owned or leased by that person or covered by easement or permit as long as the disposal does not create a nuisance or public health hazard or violate the laws governing the disposal of hazardous or deleterious substances.

(b) Except as provided in 75-10-204(8), this part does not apply to the operation of an electric generating facility, to the drilling, production, or refining of natural gas or petroleum, or to the operation of a mine, mill, smelter, or electrolytic reduction facility.

(2) The exclusions contained in subsection (1) do not apply to a division of land of 5 acres or less made after July 1, 1977, that falls within the definition of subdivision in Title 76, chapter 4, part 1, or the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act in Title 76, chapter 3.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4008(1) thru (3), (5); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 696 L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 565, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2500, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 411, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Private nuisance, 27-30-102.
Public nuisance, 27-30-102, 45-8-111.

75-10-215. Statewide household hazardous waste public education program. The department shall implement a statewide household hazardous waste public education program. The program must include but is not limited to providing information about:

(1) alternatives to disposal of household hazardous waste at municipal solid waste landfills and other disposal sites;

(2) options for recycling or the safe disposal of electronic waste, including but not limited to video, audio, and telecommunications equipment, computers, and household appliances;

(3) methods of reusing or recycling household hazardous waste; and

(4) alternatives to the use of products that lead to the generation of household hazardous waste.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 407, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 2007.

Cross-References
Household hazardous waste defined, 75-10-203.

75-10-216. Waste tire disposal sites — financial assurance required. (1) A solid waste management system licensed pursuant to 75-10-221 for the sole or primary purpose of storage, treatment, processing, or disposal of waste tires is required to provide and maintain financial assurance in accordance with rules of the department.

(2) Financial assurance required by this section must be sufficient to cover the cost of proper management of the waste tires stored at the facility, including but not limited to waste tire treatment, removal, transportation, disposal, fire suppression, or other measures necessary to protect the environment and the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The licensee may elect to provide financial assurance by any one method or a combination of methods satisfactory to the department, including but not limited to insurance, a guarantee, performance, or other surety bond, a letter of credit, qualification as a self-insurer, or other demonstration of financial capability.

(3) The department may require the owner or operator of the facility to modify the terms and conditions of financial assurance provided for the purposes of this section to adjust for changing circumstances at the facility, including but not limited to the number of waste tires accumulated without processing or disposal, availability of alternative waste tire markets, the financial viability of the facility operation, and the estimated costs of waste tire treatment, processing, transportation, and disposal alternatives.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 373, L. 1997.**

75-10-217 reserved.

75-10-218. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 145, L. 1993.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 696, L. 1989.**

75-10-219 and 75-10-220 reserved.

75-10-221. License required — application. (1) Except as provided in 75-10-214, a person may not dispose of solid waste or operate a solid waste management system without a license from the department.

(2) The department shall provide application forms for a license as provided in this part.

(3) The application must contain the name and business address of the applicant, the location of the proposed solid waste management system, a plan of operation and maintenance, and other information that the department may by rule require.

(4) The license provided for in this section is for a period not to exceed 12 months unless renewed by the department.

(5) The department may require submission of a new application if the department determines that the plan of operation, the management of the solid waste system, or the geological or ground water conditions have changed since the license was initially approved.

(6) In preparing rules that establish fees for licenses and the review of applications pursuant to 75-10-104(2), the department shall consider the tonnage or volume of waste to be managed and the size of the proposed solid waste management system. The fees adopted must encourage reduction in the tonnage or volume of waste to be managed and cover the costs to the department of initially reviewing and annually licensing the solid waste management system.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4004(1); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 643, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 170, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

75-10-222. Notification of and validation by local health officer. (1) When the department receives an application for a license pursuant to the provisions of this part, the local health officer in the county where the solid waste management system will be located shall be notified in writing of the application within 15 days after the department has received the application.

(2) If the department decides to issue a license pursuant to the provisions of this part, the department shall notify the local health officer in writing.

(3) A license issued by the department under this section shall not be valid until signed by the local health officer having jurisdiction in the county in which the solid waste management system will be operated.

(4) The local health officer shall, within 15 days after the department has notified the loca health officer of its decision to issue a license under this part, make a final decision on whether the license will be validated.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec 5, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4004(part).**

75-10-223. Refusal by local health officer — appeal to board. (1) The local health officer may refuse to validate a license issued under this part only upon a finding that the requirements of this part and the rules implementing this part cannot be satisfied. If the loca health officer refuses to validate the license, the local health officer shall notify the applicant the department, and any other interested person in writing.

(2) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the local health officer not to validate a license may appeal the decision to the board within 30 days after receiving written notice of the local health officer's decision.

(3) The hearing before the board must be held pursuant to the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec 5, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4004(part); amd. Sec. 2501, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-224. Revocation or denial of license by department. The department may deny or revoke a license to operate a solid waste management system after giving the applicant and the local health officer written notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the board The decision to deny or revoke a license may be made only after a finding that a solid waste management system cannot be operated or is not being operated in compliance with this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part. The hearing held before the board on a denial or revocation shall be held pursuant to the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4006.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-225. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4008(4).**

75-10-226 reserved.

75-10-227. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department believes that a violation of part 1 or this part, a violation of a rule adopted under part 1 or this part, a violation of an order issued under this part, or a violation of a permit provision has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of law, rule, or permit alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order, an order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to 75-10-228, or both. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named requests in writing a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request, the board shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after a hearing, the board finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.

(3) Instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may either:

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice and answer the charges; or

(b) initiate action under part 1 or this part.

(4) This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

(5) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 696, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 2005.**

75-10-228. Civil penalties. (1) A person who violates a provision of this part, a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a license provision is subject to an administrative penalty not to exceed $250 or a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings under this section. The enforcement or collection action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county where the violation occurred shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty.

(3) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(4) Fines and penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the solid waste management account provided for in 75-10-117.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 696, L. 1989; (3)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 565, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 443, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

75-10-229 and 75-10-230 reserved.

75-10-231. Actions. The department may, through the attorney general or appropriate county attorney, initiate and maintain in district court enforcement actions as provided in this part, including actions to collect a criminal penalty or to enjoin the transportation of solid waste or the operation of a solid waste management system that is in violation of this part or a rule adopted by the department or order issued as provided in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 542, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4007(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Injunctions — Supreme Court original jurisdiction, 3-2-205.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-10-232. Penalty for violations. (1) A person violating this part or regulations prescribed by the department under this part, except 75-10-212(2), is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $500.

(2) Each day upon which a violation occurs is a separate violation.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 9, Ch. 35, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 349, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 542, L. 1977; Sec. 69-4009, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 96, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 349, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1975; Sec. 69-4519, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-4009, 69-4519(3), (4); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 358, L. 1981.**

Cross-References

Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

75-10-233. Dumping penalty — enforcement. (1) A person found guilty of a violation of 75-10-212 shall be fined in the sum not exceeding $500.

(2) A person found absolutely liable under 75-10-212 is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $5,000.

(3) The provisions of 75-10-212 must be enforced by all highway patrol officers, sheriffs, and police officers and by all other enforcement agencies and officers of the state of Montana. In addition, game wardens have the right to enforce the provisions of 75-10-212 on public property and on private property where public recreation is permitted.

History: **En. Sec. 11-110, Ch. 197, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4410(2), (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 461, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2502, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 77, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Local government law enforcement, Title 7, ch. 32.

Highway patrol, Title 44, ch. 1.

Game wardens, Title 87, ch. 1, part 5.

75-10-234. Liability — defense and exclusions. (1) A person has a defense agains liability in a tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission that constitutes violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a condition of a permit or authorizatio required by a rule adopted under this part if the person can establish by a preponderance of th evidence that:

(a) the person is a government entity that acquired ownership or control throug bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or lien foreclosure in which the government entit acquired title by virtue of the government entity's authority;

(b) the person has not caused or contributed to the violation; and

(c) the person is making an effort to abate the violation.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "government entity" includes a consolidated city-county a county, and an incorporated city or town.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 2013.

75-10-235 through 75-10-239 reserved.

75-10-240. Disposal of coal combustion residues — cost benefit analysis required (1) The department shall establish guidelines to compare costs and benefits of continued disposa of coal combustion residues at electrical generation facilities versus economical ways to reus coal combustion residues.

(2) The guidelines must include requirements for promptly determining when cost-benefit analysis under this section is appropriate and necessary.

(3) Proposals for analysis under this section must be consistent with the size and scope o the waste disposal options under consideration or at least demonstrate significant quantifiabl environmental impacts, economic impacts, or both and meet other beneficial use requirements.

(4) An analysis under this section that favors a beneficial use must be transmitted to th governor. The governor may:

(a) approve the document and order the prompt execution of the proposal;

(b) return the document to the department for suggested revisions and resubmission t the governor; or

(c) deny the proposal.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 553, L. 2021.

75-10-241 through 75-10-249 reserved.

75-10-250. Baled waste tires prohibited — exception — department rules. (1) Waste tires that are mechanically compressed or baled and bound together with cable, straps wires, or other nonpermanent mechanical devices may not be used for any aboveground purpos within 500 feet of any road, commercial business, or private residence without the consent o the owner of the business or residence unless they are encased in a material that will maintai the integrity of the bale upon failure of the bale restraining devices. Notwithstanding any othe provision of law, the department shall adopt rules authorizing other aboveground uses for bale waste tires, whether or not they are defined as solid waste.

(2) Baled waste tires, as described in subsection (1), may not be placed under water unde any circumstances or in a location where they are likely to enter any state waters.

(3) A bale of waste tires that loses its integrity is solid waste and is subject to disposal requirements and penalties as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 2003.

Part 3
Detachable Beverage Container Openers (Repealed)

75-10-301. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2023.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1981.

75-10-302. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2023.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 185, L. 1981.

75-10-303. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 2023.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 185, L. 1981.

Part 4
Hazardous Waste Management

Part Cross-References

Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account — bonds, 75-10-621 through 75-10-623.
Licensing of underground storage tank installers, Title 75, ch. 11, part 2.
Petroleum storage tank cleanup, Title 75, ch. 11, part 3.

75-10-401. Short title. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Hazardous Waste Act".

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-10-402. Intent, findings, and purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Montana Hazardous Waste Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) The legislature finds that the safe and proper management of hazardous wastes and used oil, the permitting of hazardous waste facilities, and the siting of facilities are matters for statewide regulation and are environmental issues that should properly be addressed and controlled by the state rather than by the federal government.

(3) It is the purpose of this part and it is the policy of this state to protect the public health and safety, the health of living organisms, and the environment from the effects of the improper, inadequate, or unsound management of hazardous wastes and used oil; to establish a program of regulation over used oil and the generation, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of hazardous wastes; to ensure the safe and adequate management of hazardous wastes and used oil within this state; and to authorize the department to adopt, administer, and enforce a hazardous waste program pursuant to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987), as amended.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-10-403. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any hazardous waste into or onto the land or water so that the hazardous waste or any constituent of the hazardous waste may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters, including ground water.

(4) "Environmental protection law" means a law contained in or an administrative rule adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 2, 5, 10, or 11.

(5) "Facility" or "hazardous waste management facility" means all contiguous land and structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land used for treating, storing, or disposing of hazardous waste. A facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units.

(6) "Generation" means the act or process of producing waste material.

(7) "Generator" means any person, by site, whose act or process produces hazardous waste or whose act first causes a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation under this part.

(8) (a) "Hazardous waste" means a waste or combination of wastes that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may:

(i) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness; or

(ii) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environmen when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of or otherwise managed.

(b) Hazardous wastes do not include those substances governed by Title 82, chapter 4 part 2.

(9) "Hazardous waste management" means the management of the collection, sourc separation, storage, transportation, processing, treatment, recovery, and disposal of hazardou wastes.

(10) "Hazardous waste transfer facility" means any land, structure, or improvement including loading docks, parking areas, holding sites, and other similar areas, used for th transfer and temporary storage of hazardous wastes and where shipments of hazardous wast are temporarily held for a period of 10 days or less during the normal course of transportatio up to but not including the point of ultimate treatment, storage, or disposal.

(11) "Manifest" means the shipping document that is originated and signed by the generato and that is used to identify the hazardous waste and its quantity, origin, and destination durin its transportation.

(12) "Person" means the United States, an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership company, association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or any othe governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(13) "Remediation waste" means, for the purposes of fee assessment only, all hazardou waste, debris, and media, including ground water, surface water, soils, and sediments, that ar managed for implementing cleanup.

(14) "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of hazardous wastes, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years.

(15) "Transportation" means the movement of hazardous wastes from the point o generation to any intermediate points and finally to the point of ultimate storage or disposal.

(16) "Transporter" means a person engaged in the offsite transportation of hazardous wast by air, rail, highway, or water.

(17) "Treatment" means a method, technique, or process, including neutralization, designe to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous wast so as to neutralize the waste or so as to render it nonhazardous, safer for transportation amenable for recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in volume.

(18) "Used oil" means any oil that has been refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil, eithe of which has been used and as a result of that use is contaminated by physical or chemica impurities.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 633, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 562, L. 1987; amd. Sec 3, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 418, L. 1995 amd. Secs. 528, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 568, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1 Ch. 156, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 2015.**

75-10-404. Powers of department. (1) The department may:

(a) administer and enforce the provisions of this part, rules implementing this part, and orders and permits issued pursuant to this part;

(b) conduct and publish studies on hazardous wastes and hazardous waste management;

(c) initiate, conduct, and support research, demonstration projects, and investigation, as its resources may allow, and coordinate state agency research programs pertaining to hazardous waste management;

(d) accept and administer grants from the federal government and from other sources, public and private; and

(e) abate public nuisances that affect the public health and welfare or the environment and that arise from or in connection with the past or present handling or disposal of any hazardous waste.

(2) The department shall integrate all provisions of this part with other laws administered by the department to avoid unnecessary duplication. Furthermore, the department shall coordinate its activities under this part with the program administered by the department of agriculture under the Montana Pesticides Act, the programs administered by the department of environmental quality related to mining and mine reclamation, the program administered by the department of public service regulation related to hazardous material transportation, and

provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act. The integration and coordination must be effected only to the extent that it can be done in a manner consistent with the goals and policies of this part and the other laws referred to in this section.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 112, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, ch. 20.

75-10-405. Administrative rules. (1) The department may, subject to the provisions of 75-10-107, adopt, amend, or repeal rules governing hazardous waste and used oil, including but not limited to the following:

(a) identification and classification of those hazardous wastes that are subject to regulation and those that are not;

(b) requirements for the proper treatment, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste;

(c) requirements for siting, design, operation, maintenance, monitoring, inspection, closure, postclosure, and reclamation of hazardous waste management facilities;

(d) requirements for the issuance, denial, reissuance, modification, and revocation of permits for hazardous waste management facilities;

(e) requirements for corrective action within and outside facility boundaries and for financial assurance of that corrective action;

(f) requirements for manifests and the manifest system for tracking hazardous waste and for reporting and recordkeeping by generators, transporters, and owners and operators of hazardous waste management facilities;

(g) requirements for training of facility personnel, for financial assurance of facility owners and operators, and for liability of guarantors providing financial assurance;

(h) requirements for registration of generators and transporters;

(i) establishing a schedule of fees and procedures for the collection of fees for:

(i) the filing and review of hazardous waste management facility permits as provided in 75-10-432;

(ii) hazardous waste management as provided in 75-10-433;

(iii) the reissuance and modification of hazardous waste management facility permits; and

(iv) the registration of hazardous waste generators. Fees imposed for a facility or a site as a result of the generation of remediation waste may not exceed $25,000 annually.

(j) a schedule of fees to defray a portion of the costs of establishing, operating, and maintaining any state hazardous waste management facility authorized by 75-10-412;

(k) requirements for availability to the public of information obtained by the department regarding facilities and sites used for the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes;

(l) procedures for the assessment of administrative penalties as authorized by 75-10-424;

(m) identification and classification of used oil that is subject to regulation and used oil that is not subject to regulation;

(n) requirements for the proper management of used oil; and

(o) other rules that are necessary to obtain and maintain authorization under the federal program.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of 75-10-107, the department may not adopt rules under this part that are more restrictive than those promulgated by the federal government under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, except that the department:

(a) may require the registration of transporters not otherwise required to register with the state of Montana pursuant to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended;

(b) may require hazardous waste generators and hazardous waste management facilities to report on an annual rather than on a biennial basis;

(c) may adopt regulatory requirements for hazardous waste transfer facilities;

(d) shall require the owner or manager of any proposed commercial facility for the storage, collection, or transfer of hazardous waste to conduct a public hearing, as provided for in 75-10-441; and

(e) may adopt rules and performance standards for industrial furnaces and boilers that burn hazardous wastes. The rules and performance standards:

(i) may be adopted if there are no federal regulations; or

(ii) may be more restrictive than federal regulations.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 255, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 633, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 562, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 400, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 706, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 360, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-10-406. Permits. (1) A person may not construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility without first obtaining a permit from the department for the facility, except that the department may, by rule, prescribe conditions under which specified hazardous wastes or specified quantities of hazardous waste may be disposed of at solid waste disposal sites licensed by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 2.

(2) Any person who wishes to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility shall apply to the department for a permit on forms provided by the department. An application must contain, at a minimum, the name and business address of the applicant, the location of the proposed facility, a plan of operation and maintenance, and a description of pertinent site characteristics.

(3) A permit may be issued for a period specified by the department and is subject to renewal by the department upon a showing that the facility has been operated in accordance with the terms of the permit and the rules applicable to the facility and in compliance with the provisions of this part and any applicable order of the board or department.

(4) Any permit issued is subject to revocation by the department for failure of the permittee to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, the department rules, an order of the board or the department, or the provisions of this part. Any person who is denied a permit by the department or who has a permit revoked or modified shall be afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the board upon written application made within 30 days after service of notice of denial, revocation, or modification by mail. Service by mail is complete upon mailing.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, the department may, in the event of an imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment, issue a temporary emergency permit to any person for treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste or to any facility to handle hazardous waste not covered by the existing facility permit. Emergency permits may be oral or written, may not exceed 90 days in duration, and may be terminated by the department at any time prior to 90 days.

(6) The department may, as it considers appropriate, grant permits by rule to classes or categories of hazardous waste management facilities where the facility owner or operator is already licensed or permitted by the department pursuant to other state environmental statutes or where an interim period exists until final administrative disposition of a permit application is made.

(7) In permits issued under this section, the department shall require corrective action for all releases of hazardous waste or constituents at a treatment, storage, or disposal facility, including corrective action for releases that extend beyond the facility boundaries if necessary to protect public health or the environment. A permit must contain a schedule of compliance for corrective action and requirements for assurance of financial responsibility for completion of the corrective action.

(8) Each permit issued by the department to a person owning or operating a facility must contain the terms and conditions the department considers necessary to protect human health and the environment.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 336, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 386, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

Corrective action orders — judicial action, 75-10-425.

75-10-407. Concurrent permit and major facility siting decisions. If it is determined that an application for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, Title 75, chapter 20, will result in the generation, transportation, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes as defined in 75-10-403, the department shall conduct its review under the provisions of this part concurrently with the studies of air and water quality conducted under the provisions of the Montana Major Facility Siting Act. A decision to grant or deny a permit for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes under the provisions of 75-10-406 is appealable concurrently with and subject to the same procedures established for the appeal of the department's air and water quality certification decision under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act. If the initial permit has been granted as specified in this section, all renewals or modifications of a permit or enforcement actions concerning alleged violations of the permit and the provisions of this part shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures and enforcement provisions established in this part.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

75-10-408. Variances — renewals. (1) A person who is a generator or transporter of hazardous wastes or who owns or operates a hazardous waste management facility may apply to the board for a variance or partial variance from the application of or compliance with any requirement of this part or any rule adopted under this part. The board may grant a variance or partial variance if it finds that:

(a) the applicant's actions or proposed actions regarding generation, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes do not constitute a danger to public health or safety or cause substantially adverse environmental effects; and

(b) the application of or compliance with the requirement or rule would produce unreasonable hardship without equal or greater benefits to the public.

(2) No variance or partial variance may be granted except after public hearing on due notice and until the board has considered the relative interests of the applicant, other persons specifically affected, and the general public.

(3) No variance or partial variance may be granted for a period to exceed 1 year, but the variance or partial variance may be renewed for like periods if no complaint is made to the board because of it or if, after the complaint has been made and duly considered at a public hearing held by the board on due notice, the board finds that renewal is justified. No renewal may be granted except on application therefor. An application for renewal shall be made in the manner and upon such notice as specified in rules promulgated under this part. A renewal pursuant to this subsection shall be on the same grounds and subject to the same limitations and requirements as provided in subsection (1).

(4) A variance, partial variance, or renewal thereof is not a right of the applicant or holder thereof but shall be granted at the discretion of the board. However, a person adversely affected by a variance, partial variance, or renewal granted by the board may obtain judicial review thereof as provided by the judicial review of contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(5) Nothing in this section and no variance, partial variance, or renewal granted pursuant to this section may be construed to prevent or limit the application of the emergency provisions and procedures of 75-10-415.

(6) Under no conditions may a variance be granted by the board that would result in a less stringent requirement or degree of control than would be imposed by the applicable federal regulations adopted under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-409. Compliance monitoring and reporting. (1) The department may, as a condition of a permit, require the owner or operator of a facility to install equipment, collect and analyze samples, and maintain records in order to monitor and demonstrate compliance with this part, rules adopted under this part, any order of the board or department, and permit conditions.

(2) The department may require the owner or operator of a facility to submit reports on the compliance monitoring activities, including notice to the department of any noncompliance with permit conditions, rules adopted under this part, the provisions of this part, or any orders of the department or board.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 633, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-10-410. Inspections — sampling. (1) (a) An employee or agent of the department, at any reasonable time and upon presentation of credentials, may enter upon and inspect any property, premises, or place at which:

(i) hazardous wastes are or have been generated, stored, treated, disposed of, or loaded for transportation;

(ii) used oil is or has been generated, stored, treated, disposed of, or loaded for transportation; or

(iii) records pertinent to the used oil or hazardous waste activities are maintained.

(b) The employee or agent of the department may have access to and may copy any records relating to the used oil or hazardous wastes for the purposes of developing rules under this part or enforcing the provisions of this part, rules adopted under this part, or a permit or an order issued under this part.

(2) In the course of an inspection under this section, the employee or agent of the department may take samples of any substances, used oil, or wastes, including samples from any soil or ground water or from any vehicle in which used oil or wastes are transported, or samples of any containers or labeling for the substances, used oil, or wastes. If the employee or agent of the department takes a sample of any used oil, hazardous waste, or suspected hazardous waste, the employee or agent shall, prior to leaving the premises, give to the owner, operator, or agent in charge a receipt describing the sample taken and, if requested, a portion of each sample equal in volume or weight to the portion retained. If any analysis is made of the samples, a copy of the results of the analysis must be furnished to the owner, operator, or agent in charge.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individual to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

75-10-411. Hazardous waste site inventory. (1) The department is authorized to conduct an inventory of sites and locations in the state where hazardous wastes have been stored or disposed of at any time.

(2) If the department determines that the presence of a hazardous waste or the release of the waste or any waste constituent may present a substantial hazard to the public health or the environment, it may issue an order requiring the owner or operator of the facility or site to conduct reasonable monitoring, testing, analysis, and reporting with respect to the site in order to ascertain the nature and extent of the hazard.

(3) In the case of any facility or site not in operation at the time that a determination is made under subsection (2) with respect to the facility or site, if the department finds that the owner of the facility or site could not reasonably be expected to have actual knowledge of the presence of hazardous waste at the facility or site and of its potential for release, it may issue an order requiring the most recent previous owner or operator of the facility or site who could reasonably be expected to have actual knowledge to carry out the actions referred to in subsection (2).

(4) An order issued under subsection (2) or (3) must require that the person to whom the order is issued submit to the department within 30 days a proposal for carrying out the required monitoring, testing, analysis, and reporting.

(5) If the department determines that the owner or operator referred to in subsection (2) or (3) is not able to conduct monitoring, testing, and analysis in a satisfactory manner, the department may conduct the activities.

(6) For the purposes of carrying out this section, the department may exercise the powers set forth in 75-10-410.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-10-412. State hazardous waste management facilities. (1) The department may:

(a) if it considers such action to be necessary, establish, maintain, and operate state hazardous waste management facilities to provide for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes;

(b) acquire interests in real property by gift, purchase, lease, or other means in order to develop any such facility;

(c) operate and maintain such a facility directly or through agreement with public or private persons; and

(d) collect reasonable fees to defray a portion of the costs of establishing, maintaining, and operating the facility.

(2) A state facility must meet all applicable requirements for a hazardous waste management facility under this part.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 1985.

75-10-413. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department believes that a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit provision has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part, the rule, or the permit provision alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request, the board shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after hearing, the board finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.

(3) In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board or department, by subpoena or subpoena duces tecum, for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice to answer the charges complained of or to provide information regarding the alleged violation or its actual or potential impact on public health and welfare or the environment; or

(b) initiate action under 75-10-414, 75-10-417, or 75-10-418.

(4) In the case of disobedience of any subpoena issued and served under this section or of the refusal of any witness to testify as to any material matter with regard to which the witness may be interrogated in a hearing or investigation before the board or the department, the board or department may apply to any district court in the state for an order to compel compliance with the subpoena or the giving of testimony. The court shall hear the matter as expeditiously as possible. If the disobedience or refusal is found to be unjustified, the court shall enter an order requiring compliance. Disobedience of the order is punishable by contempt of court in the same manner and by the same procedures as is provided for like conduct committed in the course of civil actions in district court.

(5) This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 281, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
Corrective action orders — judicial action, 75-10-425.

75-10-414. Injunctions. The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state actions for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

(1) immediately restrain any person from engaging in any unauthorized activity which is endangering or causing damage to public health or the environment;

(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order of the department or the board, or a permit provision without the necessity of prior revocation of the permit; or

(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order of the department or the board, or a permit provision.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Injunctions — Supreme Court jurisdiction, 3-2-205.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Corrective action orders — judicial action, 75-10-425.

75-10-415. Imminent hazard. Upon receipt of evidence that the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or disposal of any used oil or hazardous waste may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or the environment, the department may commence legal proceedings to immediately restrain or enjoin any person (including any past or present generator, past or present transporter, and past or present owner or operator of a treatment, storage, or disposal facility) who has contributed to or who is contributing to the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or disposal from engaging in these activities or order the person to take other action as may be necessary, or both. The department may also take appropriate action as may be necessary under this section, including issuing orders necessary or appropriate to protect the public health and the environment.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 112, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Corrective action orders — judicial action, 75-10-425.

75-10-416. Cleanup orders. The department may issue a cleanup order to any person who has discharged, deposited, or spilled any used oil or hazardous waste into or onto any land or water in an unlawful or unapproved manner or who has discharged, deposited, or spilled any material or substance into or onto any land or water so as to result in unlawful or unapproved disposal of used oil or hazardous waste. The order must direct the person to clean up and remove the used oil or hazardous waste, to treat the used oil or hazardous waste so as to render it nonhazardous, or to take other actions as may be considered reasonable by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 112, L. 1997.**

75-10-417. Civil penalties. (1) A person who violates any provision of this part, a rule adopted under this part, an order of the department or the board, or a permit is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation. Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings under this section. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county of violation shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty. An action to recover penalties must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(3) Action under this section does not bar:

(a) enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, orders of the department or the board, or permits by injunction or other appropriate remedy; or

(b) action under 75-10-418.

(4) Money collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 150, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-10-418. Criminal penalties. (1) A person is guilty of an offense under this section if the person knowingly:

(a) transports any hazardous waste to an unpermitted facility;

(b) treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste subject to regulation under this part or the rules adopted under this part without a permit or contrary to a material permit condition;

(c) omits material information or makes any false statement or representation in any application, label, manifest, record, report, permit, or other document filed, maintained, or used for compliance with provisions of this part or rules adopted under this part pertaining to the handling of hazardous waste;

(d) generates, stores, treats, transports, disposes of, or otherwise handles any used oil or hazardous waste regulated under this part or rules adopted under this part and knowingly destroys, alters, conceals, or fails to file any record, application, manifest, report, or other document required to be maintained or filed in compliance with the provisions of this part, an order issued under this part, or rules adopted under this part; or

(e) transports or causes to be transported without a manifest any hazardous waste required to be accompanied by a manifest.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offense under subsection (1) is subject to a fine of not more than $25,000 per violation or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 3 years, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(3) A person who knowingly violates any requirement of this part or any rule or material permit condition issued pursuant to this part (except those violations specified in subsection (1)) regarding any hazardous waste that is subject to regulation is guilty of an offense and subject to a fine of up to $5,000 per violation or subject to imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(4) Upon a second conviction for a violation of this section, the maximum penalties specified in this section must be doubled.

(5) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules made under this part, orders of the department or the board, or permits by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

(6) Money collected under this section, except money collected in a justice's court, must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 28, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

75-10-419. Department designated agency for federal program participation — interstate cooperation. (1) The department is designated as the official agency for the state for all purposes of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987), as amended, and for the purpose of such other state or federal legislation as has or may be enacted after October 1, 1981, to assist in the management of hazardous wastes.

(2) The legislature of this state encourages cooperative activities by the department with other states for the improved management of hazardous wastes and, so far as is practicable, encourages the adoption of uniform state laws relating to the management of hazardous wastes and compacts between this and other states for the improved management of hazardous wastes. The department may enter into agreements with the responsible authorities of the United States and of other states, subject to approval by the governor, relative to policies, methods, means, and procedures to be employed in the management of hazardous wastes not inconsistent with the provisions of this part and may carry out the agreements.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

75-10-420. Venue for legal actions. All legal actions affecting hazardous waste management facilities in the state must be brought in the county in which the facility is located or is proposed to be located.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 358, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

75-10-421. Construction in event of conflict — remedies cumulative. (1) The provisions of this part and rules promulgated pursuant to this part govern if they conflict with other provisions of Montana law or any action taken by the department under such provisions.

(2) The remedies provided for in this part are cumulative with other remedies provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 358, L. 1981.

75-10-422. Unlawful disposal. It is unlawful to dispose of used oil or hazardous waste, as defined in this part or by rule, without a permit or, if a permit is not required under this part or rules adopted under this part, by any other means not authorized by law.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 386, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 28, L. 1995.

75-10-423. Renumbered 75-11-525. Sec. 36(2), Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-10-424. Administrative penalty. (1) The department may assess a person who violates a provision of this part or a rule adopted under this part an administrative penalty, not to exceed $10,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation, but the maximum penalty may not exceed $100,000 for any related series of violations. Assessment of an administrative penalty under this section must be made in conjunction with an order or administrative action authorized by this chapter.

(2) An administrative penalty may not be assessed under this section unless the alleged violator is given notice and opportunity for a hearing before the board pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

(3) In determining the appropriate amount of an administrative penalty, the department shall consider the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(4) If the department is unable to collect the administrative penalty or if a person fails to pay all or any portion of the administrative penalty as determined by the department, the department may file an action to recover the amount not paid. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(5) Action under this section does not bar action under 75-10-413 through 75-10-418 or any other appropriate remedy.

(6) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 28, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

75-10-425. Corrective action orders — judicial action. Whenever, on the basis of any information, the department determines and verifies that there is or has been a release of hazardous waste or constituents into the environment from any facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste, whether or not the facility is authorized to operate under 75-10-406, the department may:

(1) commence a civil action for appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, in the district court in the district in which the facility is located; or

(2) issue an order requiring corrective action or any other response measure that the department considers necessary to protect human health or the environment. An order may include a suspension or revocation of authorization to operate under 75-10-406. An order must state with reasonable specificity the nature of the required corrective action or other response measure and must specify a time for compliance.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.
Remedies for public nuisances, 27-30-202.

75-10-426. Disclosure statement required. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (4), a permit that is required for a hazardous waste management facility under 75-10-406 may not be issued, reissued, renewed, or modified without the filing of a disclosure statement as required under this section. Before an application for the issuance, reissuance, renewal, or modification of a permit under 75-10-406 for a hazardous waste management facility may be approved, the applicant shall submit to the department a disclosure statement containing the following information:

(a) the name, business address, and social security number of the applicant;

(b) a description of any civil complaint filed and administrative enforcement action taken within 5 years before the date of the application against the applicant for the violation of an environmental protection law and a statement regarding whether the complaint or action resulted in a civil or administrative penalty;

(c) a description of all judgments of criminal conviction entered against the applicant for the violation of an environmental protection law within 5 years before the date of the application; and

(d) a description of all judgments of criminal conviction for activities directly associated with a hazardous waste management facility entered against the applicant for the violation of an environmental protection law of another state within 5 years before the date of the application.

For the purposes of this subsection (d), “environmental protection law of another state” means a aw or administrative rule adopted pursuant to a law:

(i) regulating solid or hazardous waste or underground storage tanks; or

(ii) protecting the air or water resource.

(2) A disclosure statement, as required in subsection (1), must be executed under oath or affirmation and is subject to the penalty for perjury. The department may verify and investigate the information contained in a disclosure statement required under this section.

(3) A person required to file a disclosure statement under this section shall provide assistance or information requested by the department that is related to the statement and shall cooperate in an inquiry or investigation conducted by the department under subsection (2).

(4) (a) This section does not apply to the issuance of a temporary emergency permit under 75-10-406(5) or to the modification of a permit that does not reflect a change in the owner or operator of the hazardous waste management facility.

(b) A person is not required to comply with the provisions of 75-10-427 or this section for:

(i) the reissuance, renewal, or modification of a valid hazardous waste management facility permit issued prior to January 1, 1995; or

(ii) an application for a new hazardous waste management facility permit for a facility when a permit was issued prior to January 1, 1995, if the new permit is not because of a change n the owner or operator at that facility.

(5) For the purposes of this section, “applicant” includes a subsidiary or successor in nterest with respect to the applicant.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1995.**

75-10-427. Denial or modification of permit — mitigating factors. (1) The department may deny an application for the issuance, reissuance, renewal, or modification of a permit for a hazardous waste management facility or impose additional conditions on a permit pursuant to subsection (2) if within 5 years before the date of the application:

(a) a civil complaint or administrative enforcement action for a violation of an environmental protection law has resulted in the assessment of a penalty against the applicant;

(b) a judgment of criminal conviction of an environmental protection law has been entered against the applicant;

(c) the applicant has a history of repeated violations of environmental protection laws; or

(d) a judgment or criminal conviction for a violation described in 75-10-426(1)(d) has been entered against the applicant.

(2) As provided under subsection (1), the department may impose additional conditions on a permit related to permit length, inspections, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

(3) In making the decision to deny an application or to impose conditions on a permit pursuant to subsection (1), the department shall consider the following mitigating factors:

(a) the number, nature, and gravity of the violations of environmental protection laws or violations described in 75-10-426(1)(d);

(b) the degree of culpability of the applicant;

(c) the applicant’s cooperation with the state or federal agencies involved in the complaints, enforcement actions, and convictions referred to in 75-10-426; and

(d) the applicant’s dissociation from other persons or entities involved in the complaints or enforcement actions or convicted of acts referred to in 75-10-426.

(4) For the purposes of this section, “applicant” includes a subsidiary or successor in nterest with respect to the applicant.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 218, L. 1995.**

75-10-428. Liability — defense and exclusions. (1) A person has a defense against iability in a tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission that constitutes a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule adopted under this part if the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the person is a government entity that acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or lien foreclosure in which the government entity acquired title by virtue of the government entity’s authority;

(b) the person has not caused or contributed to the violation; and
(c) the person is making an effort to abate the violation.
(2) For the purposes of this part, "government entity" includes a consolidated city-county, a county, and an incorporated city or town.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 159, L. 2013.

75-10-429 and 75-10-430 reserved.

75-10-431. Definitions. As used in 75-10-432, the following definitions apply:
(1) "Class I facility" means a hazardous waste management facility that:
(a) contains one or more regulated landfill units, surface impoundments, land treatment units, incinerators, boilers, or industrial furnaces; and
(b) primarily receives hazardous waste generated by offsite sources not owned, controlled, or operated by the facility owner or operator.
(2) "Class II facility" means a hazardous waste management facility that is neither a class I facility nor a class III facility.
(3) "Class III facility" means a hazardous waste management facility that:
(a) does not contain a regulated landfill unit, surface impoundment, land treatment unit, incinerator, boiler, or industrial furnace; and
(b) primarily receives hazardous waste generated either onsite or by offsite sources that are owned, controlled, or operated by the facility owner or operator.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 341, L. 1993.

75-10-432. Hazardous waste management facility filing and review fees. (1) The department may establish and collect fees for the filing and review of hazardous waste management facility permits. The fees must be based upon the following schedule:
(a) for class I facilities, a maximum fee of $150,000, payable as follows:
(i) a nonrefundable payment of $50,000 due when an applicant files for a permit;
(ii) a payment of $50,000 due when the department notifies the applicant that the application is complete; and
(iii) an additional payment of up to $50,000 for the portion of the department's actual costs of review that exceed $100,000. This payment is due 30 days after the department's final decision on the application.
(b) for class II facilities, a maximum fee of $90,000, payable as follows:
(i) a nonrefundable payment of $40,000 due when an applicant files for a permit; and
(ii) an additional payment of up to $50,000 for the portion of the department's actual costs of review that exceed $40,000. This payment is due 30 days after the department's final decision on the application.
(c) for class III facilities, a maximum fee of $25,000, payable as follows:
(i) a nonrefundable payment of $10,000 due when an applicant files for a permit; and
(ii) an additional payment of up to $15,000 for the portion of the department's actual costs of review that exceed $10,000. This payment is due 30 days after the department's final decision on the application.
(2) If, after receipt of the payment required in subsection (1)(a)(ii), the applicant notifies the department in writing of its intent to withdraw the application, the department shall return to the applicant any portion of the payment received pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(ii) in excess of the department's actual costs of permit review.
(3) The department shall deposit all fees collected pursuant to this section into an account in the state special revenue fund as provided in 75-10-434.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 341, L. 1993.

75-10-433. Hazardous waste management fees. (1) An owner or operator of a hazardous waste management facility that primarily receives waste generated by offsite sources that are not owned, controlled, or operated by the facility owner or operator or site owner shall collect from generators and remit quarterly to the department a fee of:
(a) $8 per ton on all hazardous waste received at the facility or site for management in regulated landfill units, surface impoundments, land treatment units, incinerators, boilers, or industrial furnaces; and

(b) $4 per ton on all hazardous waste received at the facility or site for management in any egulated unit or units other than those units described in subsection (1)(a).

(2) The fees established in subsection (1) may be prorated for amounts of hazardous waste eceived that are less than 1 ton in weight.

(3) The department shall remit 15% of the fees received under this section from a facility o the county in which the facility is located. The county may use the money for the purpose of mplementing hazardous material or hazardous waste monitoring and response programs.

(4) The department shall deposit all fees collected under this section, except fees paid to a ounty, into an account in the state special revenue fund as provided in 75-10-434.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 341, L. 1993.

75-10-434. Deposit of hazardous waste management fees. (1) There must be credited o an account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102:

(a) all fees collected under 75-10-432;

(b) all fees collected under 75-10-433, except fees paid to a county;

(c) all fees collected for the registration of hazardous waste generators; and

(d) all fees collected for the reissuance or modification of hazardous waste management acility permits.

(2) Money in the account may be used by the department only for the administration of he hazardous waste provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 341, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 84, L. 1997.

75-10-435 through 75-10-440 reserved.

75-10-441. Hazardous waste site — public hearing required before operation. 1) The owner or manager of a proposed commercial facility for the storage, collection, or ransfer of hazardous waste (whether or not the proposed facility is subject to permitting under 75-10-406) shall conduct a public hearing in the nearest population center to provide information nd answer questions on:

(a) facility plans and operating procedures;

(b) emergency response plans and the manner in which neighboring population densities ave been considered in the facility siting decision;

(c) the kinds of substances to be handled and any applicable state and federal requirements or the provision of public information on these substances;

(d) procedures that will be used to inform the public of any changes in the kinds of ubstances to be handled; and

(e) any other matters related to the operation of the facility that are pertinent to protecting ublic health, safety, and the environment.

(2) The hearing must be conducted no later than 60 days prior to the commencement of ommercial hazardous waste storage, collection, or transfer operations at the facility.

(3) The hearing must be preceded by written notice:

(a) posted in no fewer than 25 locations of high public visibility and geographically istributed in neighborhoods within one-half mile of the facility;

(b) published in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for the 3 weeks immediately receding the hearing; and

(c) delivered to the department not less than 30 days prior to the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1987.

75-10-442. Moratorium on certain hazardous waste facility permits. (1) Until October 1, 1993, the department may not issue a permit under 75-10-406 for a boiler or industrial furnace that burns hazardous waste or hazardous waste-derived fuel.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of (1), the department shall proceed in a reasonable and timely manner in adopting rules implementing 75-10-406 and in processing applications required under 75-10-406.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 16, Sp. L. July 1992.

75-10-443 through 75-10-446 reserved.

75-10-447. Renumbered 75-11-526. Sec. 36(2), Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-10-448 through 75-10-450 reserved.

75-10-451. Halogenated solvents — sale restricted — proof of registration required — procedure. (1) It is unlawful for any person to distribute, sell, or offer for sale within the state quantities of 20 gallons or more of halogenated solvent annually to a single purchaser for commercial or government use unless the purchaser possesses proof of registration with the department.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to annually use 20 gallons or more of a halogenated solvent for commercial purposes without registering with the department.

(3) Under this section, halogenated solvents include but are not limited to solvents containing tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and other hazardous wastes referenced in 40 CFR 261.31, United States environmental protection agency hazardous waste numbers F001 and F002, as amended.

(4) To register with the department, a person or government unit shall file a statement indicating the following:

(a) the person's or government unit's name and business address;

(b) the estimated volume of halogenated solvent used annually for commercial or government purposes; and

(c) the method of waste disposal in accordance with requirements specified by department rules, including:

(i) treatment or disposal in an onsite facility;

(ii) delivery to an appropriate offsite storage, treatment, or disposal facility;

(iii) beneficial use or reuse; or

(iv) legitimate recycling or reclamation.

(5) Pursuant to the requirements of subsection (4), the department shall:

(a) notify affected persons and government units of the requirements;

(b) prepare and distribute forms for the statement;

(c) prepare and distribute information to assist persons and government units in selecting appropriate methods to use, dispose of, or reuse waste halogenated solvents; and

(d) register any person or government unit who files a completed statement.

(6) This section does not authorize the department to impose new or additional requirements for waste disposal on commercial or government users of halogenated solvents.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1989.

Part 5
Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal

Part Cross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Junked motor vehicles as reinforcement prohibited — penalty, 75-7-106.

75-10-501. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Component part" means any identifiable part of a discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled motor vehicle, including but not limited to fenders, doors, hoods, engine blocks, motor parts, transmissions, frames, axles, wheels, tires, and passenger compartment fixtures.

(3) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(4) "Junk mobile home" means a mobile home as defined in 15-24-201 that is wrecked, ruined, dismantled, or abandoned and is no longer fit for human habitation.

(5) "Junk nonmotorized vehicle" means an inoperative vehicle that is not constructed with a motor and that is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled.

(6) (a) "Junk vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including component parts:

(i) that is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled;

(ii) that, except as provided in subsection (6)(b), is not lawfully and validly licensed; and

(iii) that remains inoperative or incapable of being driven.

(b) If a vehicle is permanently registered under 61-3-562 and meets the criteria for a junk vehicle under subsection (6)(a), the vehicle is a junk vehicle.

(7) "Motor vehicle graveyard" means a collection point established by a county for junk motor vehicles prior to their disposal.

(8) (a) "Motor vehicle wrecking facility" means:

(i) a facility buying, selling, or dealing in four or more vehicles a year, of a type required to be licensed, for the purpose of wrecking, dismantling, disassembling, or substantially changing the form of the motor vehicle; or

(ii) a facility that buys or sells component parts, in whole or in part, and deals in secondhand motor vehicle parts. A facility that buys or sells component parts of a motor vehicle, in whole or in part, is a motor vehicle wrecking facility whether or not the buying or selling price is based upon weight or any other type of classification.

(b) The term does not include a garage where wrecked or disabled motor vehicles are temporarily stored for a reasonable period of time for inspection, repairs, or subsequent removal to a junkyard.

(9) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(10) "Public view" means any point 6 feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which junk vehicles can be seen.

(11) "Shielding" means the construction or use of fencing or constructed or natural barriers to conceal junk vehicles from public view.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 529, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 265, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2503, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 427, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 1, Ch. 454, L. 2023, repealed sec. 5, Ch. 427, L. 2019, and sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2021, which terminated the 2019 amendments to this section June 30, 2023. Effective May 8, 2023.

75-10-502. Possession of junk vehicles as prima facie evidence of motor vehicle wrecking facility. Possession at a single location of four or more junk vehicles of a type required to be licensed is prima facie evidence that the possessor is operating a motor vehicle wrecking facility.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6803.

75-10-503. Adoption of rules. (1) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this part, except 75-10-520, including but not limited to rules pertaining to:

(a) the establishment, control, operation, and licensing of motor vehicle wrecking facilities and graveyards;

(b) the control of junk vehicles in locations other than motor vehicle wrecking facilities and graveyards;

(c) the inspection and evaluation of premises and records subject to or required by this part;

(d) the development of budget and fiscal forms and procedures for counties;

(e) the review, approval, and control procedures for county motor vehicle graveyards developed under this part; and

(f) the shielding of a junk vehicle and motor vehicle wrecking facility and graveyard from public view. The department may not adopt a rule that requires any motor vehicle wrecking facility that existed prior to July 1, 1973, and that has been continuously used as a motor vehicle wrecking facility to construct a fence or barrier that would be in excess of 12 feet in height.

(2) The department shall adopt rules authorizing the sale of junk vehicles by county motor vehicle graveyards to licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities.

(3) The department shall adopt rules providing for the reimbursement of hired removal charges of certain abandoned vehicles in accordance with 61-12-401.

History: (1)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6808(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 28, L. 1983; (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 698, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 513, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-10-504. Shielding — new facility. A motor vehicle wrecking facility or graveyard site established or proposed on or after July 1, 1973, may not be approved for use or licensed if the proposed facility cannot be shielded from public view on the date it is initially established or proposed to the department for licensure. The prohibition concerning approval of a new motor vehicle wrecking facility or graveyard site does not apply to a facility site that was licensed as such at any time within the 18 months immediately preceding the date an application is made for licensure of such site.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6808(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 28, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Rules governing shielding by Department of Transportation, 75-15-222.

75-10-505. Shielding and removal of junk vehicles generally. Notwithstanding the provisions of this part, any person possessing one or more junk vehicles, regardless of ownership, shall shield the vehicles from public view or remove the vehicles to a licensed motor vehicle wrecking facility or to a licensed motor vehicle graveyard after the vehicles are released from the owner. Small accumulations of salvageable vehicles or component parts, none of which are offered for sale, retained by active farming or ranching operations for repair and maintenance of vehicles, or agricultural equipment used in their operations, are exempted from this requirement.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 572, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Component part defined, 75-10-501.

75-10-506 through 75-10-510 reserved.

75-10-511. Motor vehicle wrecking facility and motor vehicle graveyard licenses. (1) A person may not conduct, maintain, or operate a motor vehicle wrecking facility or motor vehicle graveyard without a license issued by the department.

(2) Application for the license must be made on forms furnished by the department.

(3) An annual fee of $100 must be paid to the department for the license. The fee may be quarterly prorated for new facilities.

(4) A motor vehicle graveyard is excluded from paying the annual license fee but must meet all other requirements of this part.

(5) A license must be displayed in a prominent place in the licensed facility or graveyard.

(6) The license expires on December 31 of the year issued.

(7) If a motor vehicle wrecking facility ceases to do business, the license must be surrendered to the department. The license is not transferable.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6802(1) thru (6); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 317, L. 2001.

75-10-512. Records required of facilities. (1) Each motor vehicle wrecking facility shall maintain books or files in which are kept a record and description of every junk vehicle obtained by it, together with the name and address of the person from whom the vehicle was purchased.

(2) This record must also contain:

(a) the certificate of title, sheriff's certificate of sale, notarized bill of sale from the former owner or person selling the vehicle, release of ownership or interest in the motor vehicle, or sheriff's release;

(b) the name of the state where the vehicle was last registered;

(c) the make of the vehicle;

(d) the vehicle identification number, as defined in 61-3-210, or the motor number, identification number, or serial number;

(e) the date purchased;

(f) the disposition of the vehicle.

(3) An authorized representative of the department of justice who presents credentials may also inspect, have access to, and copy records required under this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6804(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 427, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 477, L. 2003.

75-10-513. Disposal of junk vehicles — records. (1) If a person owning or operating a notor vehicle wrecking facility submits a junk vehicle to the disposal program, the vehicle is hen the property of the state.

(2) A person owning or operating a motor vehicle graveyard shall submit to the department he records, documents, and other information concerning junk vehicles received by that person hat are required by rules of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 410, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6804(3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 427, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 13, h. 503, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 18, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 281, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 477, L. 2003; amd. ec. 3, Ch. 53, L. 2007.**

75-10-514. Denial, suspension, or revocation of license — grounds. (1) The lepartment may deny or suspend a motor vehicle wrecking facility's license on any of the ollowing grounds:

(a) The applicant or licensee sold or otherwise disposed of a motor vehicle, trailer, or any art of a motor vehicle or trailer when it knew the vehicle or part was stolen or was appropriated vithout the consent of the owner.

(b) The applicant or licensee committed forgery on a certificate of title covering a vehicle hat has been reassembled from parts obtained from the disassembling of other vehicles.

(c) The applicant or licensee committed any illegal act or omission that has caused loss as he result of a sale of a motor vehicle, trailer, or part of a motor vehicle or trailer.

(d) The applicant or licensee failed to comply with this part or with a rule of the department.

(e) The applicant or licensee obtained a license fraudulently.

(2) The department may revoke a motor vehicle wrecking facility's license on the following rounds:

(a) the license was suspended pursuant to subsection (1)(d) and the facility failed to cure he defect or defects underlying the suspension during the period of suspension; or

(b) the license was suspended pursuant to subsection (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(e) and, fter suspension, the licensee performed an act that is grounds for suspension pursuant to ubsections (1)(a) through (1)(e) at any time during the remaining active life of the facility.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 410, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6809; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 1997.**

75-10-515. Appeals. A decision by the department to issue, deny, or revoke a motor vehicle vrecking facility or graveyard license may be appealed to the board within 30 days after receipt of official notice of the department's decision.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6802(7).**

75-10-516. Motor vehicle wrecking facilities and motor vehicle graveyards — icensing process — decision criteria. (1) When an application for a motor vehicle wrecking acility or motor vehicle graveyard is filed with the department, the department shall notify by nail:

(a) each owner of property adjoining the proposed facility;

(b) the governing body of the county in which the proposed facility is to be located; and

(c) a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the proposed facility is to be ocated.

(2) Within 30 days of receipt of the notification in subsection (1)(b), the governing body of he county may:

(a) conduct a public hearing to determine whether the proposed facility will significantly ffect the quality of life of adjoining landowners and the surrounding community; and

(b) adopt a resolution in support of or opposition to the location of the proposed facility and ransmit a copy of the resolution to the department.

(3) The department may not grant a license to a facility that a governing body has opposed nder subsection (2)(b).

(4) In making its decision to grant or deny a license application, the department shall onsider the effect of the proposed facility on adjoining landowners and land uses.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 607, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Motor vehicle graveyard and motor vehicle wrecking facility defined, 75-10-501.

75-10-517 through 75-10-519 reserved.

75-10-520. Disposal of damaged vehicle when insurance company settles at total loss. An insurance company settling an insurance claim on a damaged motor vehicle as a total loss less salvage may dispose of the motor vehicle at a motor vehicle wrecking facility only if it is licensed under the provisions of 75-10-511.

History: En Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Transfer of ownership of vehicle by insurance company, 61-3-205.

75-10-521. Powers and duties of county motor vehicle recycling and disposal programs. (1) (a) Each county shall acquire, develop, and maintain property for free motor vehicle graveyards. The property may be acquired by purchase, lease, or otherwise.

(b) As an alternative, the county may contract for the maintenance and operation of a motor vehicle graveyard or graveyards, but any such contract may be entered into only with a motor vehicle wrecking facility licensed under the provisions of this part.

(2) Two or more counties may join to form a district for the purpose stated in this section. If a district is formed, all provisions of this part pertaining to a county also apply to a district formed under this subsection.

(3) When there is an accumulation of at least 200 junk vehicles in the graveyard, the county shall notify the department for disposal purposes.

(4) The county commissioners of each county shall designate a representative to be responsible for implementing this part.

(5) Each county, through its designated representative, shall inspect each licensed motor vehicle wrecking facility within its boundaries, consistent with rules adopted by the department.

(6) Each county may sell junk vehicles from the motor vehicle graveyard to licensed motor vehicle wrecking facilities. The sales may be conducted only pursuant to a plan that has been approved by the department for consistency with its rules.

(7) A county shall submit to the department for approval a plan for the collection of junk vehicles and the establishment and operation of the motor vehicle graveyard.

(8) (a) The county shall submit to the department for approval a proposed budget for the succeeding fiscal year.

(b) The budget must be for the amounts required by the county for collection costs, acquisition, maintenance, and operation of the graveyard, for funding of a motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund established pursuant to subsection (9), if applicable, and for other duties relating to implementation of this part.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (8)(f), up to 10% of the budget may be designated to a motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund established pursuant to subsection (9).

(d) If a county agrees to accept junk nonmotorized vehicles or junk mobile homes for recycling and disposal as provided in subsection (10), no more than 20% of the budget may be used to dispose of junk nonmotorized vehicles and junk mobile homes.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (8)(f), at the end of a fiscal year, unspent money may be transferred to a motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund established pursuant to subsection (9).

(f) No allocations pursuant to this section may be made to a county's motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund if the fund balance exceeds $200,000. The fund may continue to earn interest and income from investments.

(g) Any proposed change in the budget or plan must be approved by the department.

(9) (a) A county may establish a motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund in accordance with the provisions of 7-6-616.

(b) Money in a motor vehicle recycling and disposal capital improvement fund may be spent only for the replacement and acquisition of property, capital improvements, and equipment necessary to maintain and improve the county's motor vehicle recycling and disposal program.

(10) (a) A county may accept for recycling and disposal junk nonmotorized vehicles and junk mobile homes that cause:

(i) a public nuisance as provided in 45-8-111; or

(ii) conditions of community decay as provided in 7-5-2110.

(b) If a county agrees to accept junk nonmotorized vehicles or junk mobile homes pursuant to subsection (10)(a):

(i) prior to recycling and disposal of a junk nonmotorized vehicle, the junk nonmotorized vehicle must be released to the county by the owner or by law enforcement officials in accordance with 61-12-402(7)(a); and

(ii) prior to recycling and disposal of a junk mobile home:

(A) if the junk mobile home is on private property, the junk mobile home may be released to the county only by written consent of the owner. The county may dispose of a junk mobile home on private property only if the county has also received the permission of the property owner where the junk mobile home is located.

(B) if a junk mobile home is abandoned on public property for more than 2 weeks, the county may dispose of the junk mobile home after first sending a certified letter to the last-known owner of the junk mobile home or, if no owner information is available, after notice has been placed in a paper of general circulation. If the junk mobile home remains on the public property after 2 weeks from when the notice is sent or published, the county may dispose of the junk mobile home. If an owner can be identified for the junk mobile home, the county may require that the owner reimburse the cost of transport and disposal of the junk mobile home.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 251, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6805; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 572, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 427, L. 2019.

Compiler's Comments

Termination Provision Repealed: Section 1, Ch. 454, L. 2023, repealed sec. 5, Ch. 427, L. 2019, and sec. 1, Ch. 72, L. 2021, which terminated the 2019 amendments to this section June 30, 2023. Effective May 8, 2023.

Cross-References

Interlocal agreements, Title 7, ch. 11, part 1.

75-10-522. Use of motor vehicle graveyards by individuals. An individual may dispose of a junk vehicle by delivering the vehicle to a motor vehicle graveyard and by delivering to the department the certificate or evidence of title to the vehicle or a written release of the vehicle.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6806(4).

Cross-References

Certificates of title, Title 61, ch. 3, part 2.

75-10-523 through 75-10-530 reserved.

75-10-531. Crushing and recycling of junk vehicles. (1) The department shall contract for final disposition of junk vehicles accumulated in motor vehicle graveyards and shall provide for crushing and recycling the material from the vehicles.

(2) The department may also contract to dispose of, by crushing and recycling, junk vehicles accumulated in the yard of a motor vehicle wrecking facility. The department may so contract only upon the request of the facility and only if there is an accumulation of at least 200 vehicles at the facility.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6806(1), (2).

75-10-532. Disposition of money collected. All money received from the sale of junk vehicles or from recycling of the material and all motor vehicle wrecking facility license fees must be remitted to the state, as provided in 15-1-504. Subject to legislative fund transfers, the money must be used for the control, collection, recycling, and disposal of junk vehicles and component parts and for the removal of abandoned vehicles.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 6, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 252, L. 1977; Sec. 69-6806, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 7, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 252, L. 1977; Sec. 69-6807, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6806(3), 69-6807(1); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 241, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 633, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 718, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 513, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 317, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 281, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 235, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 312, L. 2011.

75-10-533. Department to report fees. The department shall report to the office of budget and program planning, as a part of the information required by 17-7-111, the amount collected under this part and the cost of administration of this part, except 75-10-520, to date so that any necessary adjustment of the amount of the fee may be made to ensure that no more than the actual cost of operation of the program is collected.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1945, 69-6807(3); amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 188, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

75-10-534. Department to pay approved county budget. The department shall pay to a county the amount of the approved junk vehicle collection and graveyard budget of the county. The yearly payment may not exceed $1.40 for each motor vehicle under 8,001 pounds gross vehicle weight that is licensed in that county. However, for those counties that have fewer than 5,000 motor vehicles under 8,001 pounds gross vehicle weight, the department may pay up to $7,500 if the county can justify this payment. Counties realizing revenue from the sale of junk vehicles shall return to the state junk vehicle program revenue account money equal to the salvage value of each vehicle sold. The salvage value of a vehicle must be the average contract value of a crushed ton of junk vehicles as determined by the statewide salvage bids received by the department during the current fiscal year. Any additional revenue realized from the sale of junk vehicles may be retained by the county for use in the county's junk vehicle program in addition to the approved junk vehicle collection and graveyard budget of the county.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 520, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1945, 69-6807(4); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 572, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 2007.

75-10-535 through 75-10-539 reserved.

75-10-540. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department determines that a violation of this part, a violation of a rule adopted or an order issued under this part, or a violation of a license provision has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the law, rule, or license provision alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time, an order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to 75-10-542, or both. The order becomes final 30 days after the notice is served unless the person named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request for a hearing, the board shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or change the department's order. An order may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after a hearing, the board finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.

(3) The department shall make efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means before issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1).

(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-541. Injunction — action to collect civil penalty — authority of department of justice. (1) The department may sue to enjoin the operation or maintenance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility or graveyard either permanently or until compliance with this part, the rules of the department, or an order issued pursuant to this part has been demonstrated.

(2) The department may sue in district court to collect a civil penalty as provided in 75-10-542.

(3) Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county in which a motor vehicle wrecking facility or graveyard is located may petition the district court to enjoin further operation or maintenance of a motor vehicle wrecking facility or graveyard or to impose, assess, and recover a civil penalty, as appropriate.

(4) The department of justice, through the attorney general or the county attorney of the county in which a facility is located, may sue in district court to collect a civil penalty as provided in 75-10-542 for violations of 75-10-512 discovered during department of justice inspections.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6810; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 572, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 725, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 53, L. 2007.**

Cross-References
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-10-542. Penalties. (1) A person who purposely or knowingly violates this part, except 75-10-520, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $250, be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 30 days, or both.

(2) A person who violates a provision of this part, except 75-10-520, a rule of the department, or an order issued as provided in this part is subject to an administrative penalty of not more than $50 or a civil penalty of not more than $250. Each day upon which a violation of this part, a rule, or an order occurs is a separate violation.

(3) Penalties assessed under subsection (2) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001. The penalties provided for in this section are recoverable in an enforcement or collection action brought by the department. An action to recover penalties must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

History: **En. 69-6812 by Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-6812; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 443, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References
Execution of criminal fine, 46-19-102.

Part 6
State Participation in CERCLA

Part Cross-References
Allocation of junk vehicle regulatory fees to Department for implementation of part, 75-10-532.

75-10-601. Purpose. The legislature finds that the existence of hazardous substances and contaminants in the environment and hazardous waste disposal sites poses a significant health hazard through potential and actual contamination of the environment. This part is therefore enacted to protect the public health, safety, and welfare through cooperation with the federal government under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide for the disposal and control of such hazardous substances and contaminants in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1983.**

75-10-602. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "CERCLA" means the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, Public Law 96-510.

(2) (a) "Contaminant" includes but is not limited to any element, substance, compound, or mixture, including disease-causing agents, that after release into the environment and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions (including malfunctions in reproduction), or physical deformations in the organisms or their offspring.

(b) The term does not include petroleum (including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is not specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance as provided in subsection (4)(a)) or natural gas, liquefied natural gas, synthetic gas of pipeline quality, or mixtures of natural gas and synthetic gas.

(3) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(4) (a) "Hazardous substance" means:

(i) any substance designated pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act;

(ii) any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated a hazardous substance by regulations promulgated by the administrator of the federal environmental protection agency pursuant to section 102 of CERCLA;

(iii) any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under or listed pursuant to section 3001 of the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act (but not including any waste the regulation of which under the Solid Waste Disposal Act has been suspended by act of congress);

(iv) any toxic pollutant listed under section 307(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act;

(v) any hazardous air pollutant listed under section 112 of the federal Clean Air Act; and

(vi) any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the administrator of the environmental protection agency has taken action pursuant to section 7 of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

(b) The term does not include petroleum (including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is not specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance as provided in subsection (4)(a)) or natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, synthetic gas usable for fuel, or mixtures of natural gas and synthetic gas.

(5) "Hazardous waste" means a solid waste or combination of solid wastes that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may:

(a) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness; or

(b) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of or otherwise managed.

(6) "President" means the president of the United States.

(7) "Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment but excludes:

(a) any release that results in exposure to persons solely within a workplace, with respect to a claim that persons may assert against their employer;

(b) emissions from the engine exhaust of a motor vehicle, rolling stock, aircraft, vessel, or pipeline pumping station engine;

(c) (i) the release of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material from a nuclear incident, as those terms are defined in the federal Atomic Energy Act of 1954, if the release is subject to requirements with respect to financial protection established by the nuclear regulatory commission under section 170 of that act; or

(ii) for the purposes of section 104 of CERCLA or any other response action, any release of source byproduct or special nuclear material from any processing site designated under section 102(a)(1) or 302(a) of the federal Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978; and

(d) the normal application of fertilizer.

(8) (a) "Remedial action" means those actions consistent with a permanent remedy taken instead of or in addition to removal actions in the event of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance into the environment that prevent or minimize the release of hazardous substances so that they do not migrate to cause substantial danger to the present or future public health or welfare or the environment. The term includes but is not limited to those actions at the location of the release as storage; confinement; perimeter protection using dikes, trenches, or ditches; clay cover; neutralization; cleanup of released hazardous substances or contaminated materials; recycling or reuse; diversion; destruction; segregation of reactive wastes; dredging or excavations; repair or replacement of leaking containers; collection of leachate and runoff; onsite treatment or incineration; provision of alternative water supplies; and any monitoring reasonably required to ensure that the actions protect the public health and welfare and the environment. The term includes the costs of permanent relocation of residents and businesses and community facilities if the president determines that, alone or in combination with other measures, the relocation is more cost-effective than and environmentally preferable to the transportation, storage, treatment, destruction, or secure disposition offsite of hazardous substances or is otherwise necessary to protect the public health or welfare.

(b) The term does not include offsite transport of hazardous substances or the storage, treatment, destruction, or secure disposition offsite of the hazardous substances or contaminated materials unless the president determines that the actions:

(i) are more cost-effective than other remedial actions;

(ii) will create a new capacity to manage, in compliance with subtitle C of the federal Solid Vaste Disposal Act, hazardous substances in addition to those located at the affected facility; or

(iii) are necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment from a present r potential risk that may be created by further exposure to the continued presence of the ubstances or materials.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 241, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

75-10-603. Cooperative agreement — authority of department. (1) In order to assist n implementation of CERCLA, the department may, subject to the provisions of 75-10-107:

(a) participate in the determination of appropriate remedial action to deal with the release r threatened release within Montana of:

(i) any contaminant presenting an imminent and substantial danger to public health or velfare; or

(ii) any hazardous substance;

(b) in the event of the release or threatened release of any of the substances described in ubsection (1)(a), negotiate the terms of a cooperative agreement with the federal government ontaining mutual commitments of each party to remedial action, including the elements equired by subsection (2).

(2) A cooperative agreement may contain the following assurances:

(a) the state of Montana will ensure the future maintenance of the removal and remedial ctions agreed upon for the expected life of the actions;

(b) a hazardous waste disposal facility is available to the state of Montana that meets he specifications of the president and complies with the requirements of subtitle C of the ederal Solid Waste Disposal Act for necessary offsite storage, destruction, treatment, or secure lisposition of the hazardous substances; and

(c) the state of Montana will pay or ensure payment of a share of the costs of the remedial ction, including all future maintenance.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 241, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 471, L. 1995.**

75-10-604. Cooperative agreement — when effective. (1) If a cooperative agreement equires expenditure of state and federal funds which, together with the monetary obligation ontained in any prior cooperative agreement made during the same biennium, exceeds the mount appropriated for that biennium for implementation of this part, the agreement is not ffective until it is approved by the legislature and an appropriation is made providing the level f funding necessitated by the agreement.

(2) A cooperative agreement that does not require expenditure of funds exceeding the ppropriation for the biennium for implementation of this part is effective when signed by the overnor and the president or their respective representatives.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 241, L. 1983.**

75-10-605 through 75-10-620 reserved.

75-10-621. Hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account. (1) There is a hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be paid into the hazardous waste/CERCLA account:

(a) proceeds from the resource indemnity and ground water assessment tax as provided by 15-38-106;

(b) revenue obtained from the interest income of the resource indemnity trust fund under the provisions of 15-38-202, together with interest accruing on that revenue;

(c) all proceeds of bonds or notes issued under 75-10-623 and all interest earned on proceeds of the bonds or notes; and

(d) revenue from penalties or damages collected under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended in 1986 (CERCLA).

(3) Appropriations may be made from the hazardous waste/CERCLA account only for the following purposes and subject to the following conditions:

(a) not more than one-half of the interest income received for any biennium from the resource indemnity trust fund may be appropriated on a biennial basis for:

(i) implementation of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act, including regulation of underground storage tanks and the state share to obtain matching federal funds;

(ii) implementation of Title 75, chapter 10, part 6, pertaining to state assistance to and cooperation with the federal government for remedial action under CERCLA;

(iii) expenses of the department in administering and overseeing the implementation of Title 75, chapter 10, parts 4 and 6; and

(iv) state expenses relating to investigation and remedial action for any hazardous substance defined in 75-10-602; and

(b) to the extent funds are available after the appropriations in subsection (3)(a), the department may, as appropriate, seek authorization from the legislature or, when the legislature is not in session, through the budget amendment process provided for in Title 17, chapter 7, part 4, to spend funds for:

(i) state participation in remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA;

(ii) state costs for maintenance of sites at which remedial action under CERCLA has been completed; and

(iii) the state share to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage tank corrective action.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), the legislature finds that a need for state special revenue to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage tank corrective action or for remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA constitutes a serious unforeseen and unanticipated circumstance for the purpose of meeting the definition of "emergency" in 17-7-102. The legislature further finds that the inability of the department to match the federal funds as the funds become available would seriously impair the functions of the department in carrying out its responsibilities under Title 75, chapter 10, parts 4 and 6.

(5) There is no dollar limit to the hazardous waste/CERCLA account. Unused balances remain in the account until appropriated by the legislature for the purposes specified in this section.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 787, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 16, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 496, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 432, L. 2007.

75-10-622. CERCLA match debt service fund. (1) There is a CERCLA match debt service fund within the debt service fund type established in 17-2-102.

(2) The state pledges, allocates, and directs to be credited to the CERCLA match debt service fund money from the resource indemnity and ground water assessment tax, as provided in 15-38-106, and from the CERCLA cost recovery account, as provided in 75-10-631.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 496, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 426, L. 2009.

75-10-623. CERCLA bonds. (1) When authorized by the legislature and within limits of the authorization and the further limitations established in this section, the board of examiners may issue and sell CERCLA bonds of the state in the amount and manner it considers necessary and proper to fund state participation in remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA, as amended, state costs for maintenance of sites at which remedial action under CERCLA has been completed, the state share required to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage tank corrective action, and costs of issuing the bonds or notes. The full faith and credit and taxing powers of the state are pledged for the prompt and full payment of all bonds issued and interest and redemption premiums payable on the bonds according to their terms.

(2) Each series of CERCLA bonds may be issued by the board of examiners upon request of the department of environmental quality, at public or private sale, in the denominations and forms, whether payable to bearer with attached interest coupons or registered as to principal or as to both principal and interest, with provisions for conversion or exchange and for the issuance of notes in anticipation of the issuance of definitive bonds, bearing interest at a rate or rates, maturing at a rate or rates, maturing at the time or times not exceeding 30 years from date of issue, subject to optional or mandatory redemption at earlier times and prices and upon notice, with provisions for payment and discharge by the deposit of funds or securities in escrow for that purpose, and payable at the office of the banking institution or institutions within or outside the state, as the board of examiners determines, subject to the limitations contained in 17-5-731 and this section.

(3) In the issuance of each series of CERCLA bonds, the interest rates, maturities, and any mandatory redemption provisions of the bonds must be established in a manner that the funds then specifically pledged and appropriated by law to the CERCLA match debt service fund will, in the judgment of the board of examiners, be received in an amount sufficient in each year to pay all principal, redemption premiums, and interest due and payable in that year with respect to that and all prior series of the bonds, except outstanding bonds as to which the obligation of the state has been discharged by the deposit of funds or securities sufficient for their payment in accordance with the terms of the resolutions by which they are authorized to be issued.

(4) In all other respects, the board of examiners is authorized to prescribe the form and terms of the bonds and notes and shall do whatever is lawful and necessary for their issuance and payment. The bonds, notes, and any interest coupons appurtenant to the bonds and notes must be signed by the members of the board of examiners, and the bonds and notes must be issued under the great seal of the state of Montana. The bonds, notes, and coupons may be executed with facsimile signatures and seal in the manner and subject to the limitations prescribed by law. The state treasurer shall keep a record of all the bonds and notes issued and sold.

(5) All proceeds of bonds or notes issued under this section must be deposited in the hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account established in 75-10-621.

(6) All actions taken by the board of examiners under this section must be authorized by a vote of a majority of the members.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 496, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

State debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

75-10-624 reserved.

75-10-625. Authorization for sale of CERCLA bonds. The board of examiners is authorized to issue and sell CERCLA general obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding $10 million upon the request of the department of environmental quality, as provided for in 75-10-623. Proceeds of the bonds or notes must be deposited in the hazardous waste/CERCLA special revenue account provided for in 75-10-621 to fund state participation in remedial action under section 104 of CERCLA, as amended, state costs for maintenance of sites at which remedial action under CERCLA has been completed, the state share required to obtain matching federal funds for underground storage tank corrective action, and costs of issuance of the bonds or notes.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 435, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 10, L. 2009.**

75-10-626. Agreement with department of environmental quality. For the proceeds of bonds or notes authorized by this part, the board of examiners and the department of environmental quality may enter into an agreement under the terms of which the department shall pay the state treasurer, for deposit in accordance with 17-2-101 through 17-2-107, as determined by the state treasurer, an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest as due on the bonds or notes and to accumulate and maintain reserves as may be required under the bonds. The agreement must further provide that income from the investment of bond proceeds and the reserves not required for the purposes presented in 75-10-625 must be credited against the department's payment obligation. The agreement must also allow for the accumulation of reserves during the first year that the bonds are outstanding, if required. Payments by the department must be made from available funds.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 435, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 10, L. 2009.**

75-10-627. Benefit of state. The agreement made pursuant to 75-10-626 is solely for the benefit of the state of Montana and is not enforceable by bondholders or other third-party beneficiaries.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 435, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 83, L. 1989.**

75-10-628. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 435, L. 1987.**

75-10-629 and 75-10-630 reserved.

75-10-631. CERCLA cost recovery account. (1) There is a CERCLA cost recovery special revenue account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be deposited in the CERCLA cost recovery account amounts obtained by the department through cost recovery under CERCLA for costs paid, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of CERCLA bonds authorized in 75-10-623, together with interest on the proceeds.

(3) (a) Money in the CERCLA cost recovery account must be transferred to the CERCLA match debt service fund in each fiscal year in an amount then available, but not to exceed the amount necessary to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the bonds and notes issued pursuant to 75-10-623 to become due in the next fiscal year, or as appropriate, to pay the redemption price of the bonds or notes.

(b) Money in the CERCLA cost recovery account, including interest on the money in the account, that is not transferred to the CERCLA match debt service fund must be retained in the CERCLA cost recovery account as long as any principal of, premium, if any, or interest on the CERCLA bonds or notes authorized in 75-10-623, the proceeds of which were applied, in whole or in part, to costs associated with the cost recovery, remains unpaid or the payment of the costs associated with cost recovery has not been provided for in a manner that would cause the defeasance of bonds.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 496, L. 2003.

Part 7
Remedial Action Upon Release of Hazardous Substance

Part Cross-References

Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act, Title 50, ch. 78.

75-10-701. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department.

(3) "Environment" means any surface water, ground water, drinking water supply, land surface or subsurface strata, or ambient air within the state of Montana or under the jurisdiction of the state of Montana.

(4) (a) "Facility" means:

(i) any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, or aircraft; or

(ii) any site or area where a hazardous or deleterious substance has been deposited, stored, disposed of, placed, or otherwise come to be located.

(b) The term does not include any consumer product in consumer use.

(5) "Fiduciary" means a trustee, executor, administrator, personal representative, custodian, conservator, guardian, or receiver acting or holding property for the exclusive benefit of another person. The term does not include:

(a) a person who has previously owned or operated the property in a nonfiduciary capacity; or

(b) a person acting as fiduciary with respect to a trust or other fiduciary estate that has no objectively reasonable or substantial purpose apart from avoidance of or limitation of liability under this part. For the purposes of 75-10-715(9), the term does not include the state, a state agency, or a political subdivision of the state acting as trustee of natural resources within the state of Montana.

(6) "Foreclosure" means acquisition of title to property through foreclosure, purchase at foreclosure sale, assignment or acquisition of title in lieu of foreclosure, repossession in the case of a lease financing transaction, or acquisition of a right to title or other agreement in full or partial settlement of a loan obligation.

(7) "Fund" means the environmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

(8) "Hazardous or deleterious substance" means a substance that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may pose an imminent and substantial threat to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment and is:

(a) a substance that is defined as a hazardous substance by section 101(14) of the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. 9601(14);

(b) a substance identified by the administrator of the United States environmental protection agency as a hazardous substance pursuant to section 102 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9602;

(c) a substance that is defined as a hazardous waste pursuant to section 1004(5) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6903(5), including a substance listed or identified in 40 CFR 261; or

(d) any petroleum product.

(9) "Household" means single and multiple residences, hotels and motels, bunkhouses, ranger stations, crew quarters, campgrounds, picnic grounds, day-use recreational areas, or similar structures or areas.

(10) "Household refuse" means garbage, trash, and sanitary wastes in septic tanks that are derived from a household.

(11) "Institutional control" means a restriction on the use of real property that mitigates the risk posed to public health, safety, and welfare and the environment. Institutional controls include but are not limited to:

(a) deed restrictions;

(b) easements;

(c) reservations;

(d) covenants, either restrictive or affirmative; and

(e) other mechanisms or physical restrictions for controlling present and future land use, including controlled ground water areas, that are placed upon real property to mitigate the risk to public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.

(12) "Natural resources" means land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, surface water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and any other resources within the state of Montana owned, managed, held in trust, or otherwise controlled by or appertaining to the state of Montana or a political subdivision of the state.

(13) "Orphan share" means the percentage share of remedial action costs for a facility that is attributable, under the procedures in 75-10-742 through 75-10-751, to identified but bankrupt or defunct persons who are not an affiliate of any viable person, unless affiliated by stock ownership.

(14) "Orphan share fund" means the fund for the orphan share account established in 75-10-743.

(15) (a) "Owns or operates" means owning, leasing, operating, managing activities at, or exercising control over the operation of a facility.

(b) The term does not include holding the indicia of ownership of a facility primarily to protect a security interest in the facility or other location unless the holder has participated in the management of the facility. The term does not apply to the state or a local government that acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, lien foreclosure, or other circumstances in which the government acquires title by virtue of its function as sovereign, unless the state or local government has caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance from the facility. The term also does not include the owner or operator of the Milltown dam licensed under part 1 of the Federal Power Act (FERC license No. 2543-004) if a hazardous or deleterious substance has been released into the environment upstream of the dam and has subsequently come to be located in the reservoir created by the dam unless the owner or operator is a person who would otherwise be liable for a release or threatened release under 75-10-715(1).

(16) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint-stock company, joint venture, consortium, commercial entity, partnership, association, corporation, commission, state or state agency, political subdivision of the state, interstate body, or the federal government, including a federal agency.

(17) "Petroleum product" includes gasoline, crude oil (except for crude oil at production facilities subject to regulation under Title 82), fuel oil, diesel oil or fuel, lubricating oil, oil sludge or refuse, and any other petroleum-related product or waste or fraction of the product or waste that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (60 degrees F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute).

(18) "Reasonably anticipated future uses" means likely future land or resource uses that take into consideration:

(a) local land and resource use regulations, ordinances, restrictions, or covenants;

(b) historical and anticipated uses of the facility;

(c) patterns of development in the immediate area; and

(d) relevant indications of anticipated land use from the owner of the facility and local planning officials.

(19) "Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing of a hazardous or deleterious substance directly into the environment (including the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles containing any hazardous or deleterious substance), but excludes releases confined to the indoor workplace environment, the use of pesticides as defined in 80-8-102 when they are applied in accordance with approved federal and state labels, and the use of commercial fertilizers, as defined in 80-10-101, when applied as part of accepted agricultural practice.

(20) "Remedial action" includes all notification, investigation, administration, monitoring, cleanup, restoration, mitigation, abatement, removal, replacement, acquisition, enforcement, legal action, health studies, feasibility studies, and other actions necessary or appropriate to respond to a release or threatened release.

(21) "Remedial action contract" means a written contract or agreement entered into by a remedial action contractor with the state, or with a potentially liable person acting pursuant to an order or request issued by the department, the United States, or any federal agency, to provide a remedial action with respect to a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance.

(22) "Remedial action contractor" means:

(a) any person who enters into and is carrying out a remedial action contract; or

(b) any person who is retained or hired by a person described in subsection (22)(a) to provide services relating to a remedial action.

(23) "Remedial action costs" means reasonable costs that are attributable to or associated with a remedial action at a facility, including but not limited to the costs of administration, investigation, legal or enforcement activities, contracts, feasibility studies, or health studies.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 203, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 395, L. 2009.**

75-10-702. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department is authorized to adopt rules for the implementation of this part, including but not limited to:

(a) rules for listing and delisting facilities on a priority list, required by 75-10-704, based on the following criteria:

(i) a facility eligible for listing must have a confirmed release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous or deleterious substance that may pose an imminent and substantial threat to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment and the department shall provide a written description of the nature and severity of the threat;

(ii) if remedial actions to address the hazardous or deleterious substances are required at the facility by another state program, the department shall explain, in writing, its rationale for listing the facility;

(iii) listing and delisting must be done through a formal process that provides for public participation, including participation of the affected or potentially liable persons in the decisionmaking process, by giving public notice and providing opportunity for at least one public meeting in the community most likely to be threatened by the facility that is proposed for listing or delisting; and

(iv) a facility must be delisted when another state program assumes jurisdiction or when further remedial actions are not necessary;

(b) rules for establishing and implementing a system for prioritizing facilities, including categories for maximum and high-priority facilities, as required by 75-10-704, for remedial action based on potential effects on human health and the environment.

(2) The rulemaking authority granted in subsection (1) may not invalidate the existing priorities list. Rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (1) must provide for the reevaluation of facilities on the existing priorities list. A decision by the department to list, delist, or establish a priority for a facility must be made in writing.

(3) The department shall adopt, amend, or repeal rules that allow for the joint selection of remedial action contractors acceptable to the department and any person liable for remedial action under 75-10-715.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 415, L. 1997; (3)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 539, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

75-10-703. Actions — general provisions. (1) No action taken by any person to contain or remove a release, whether the action is taken voluntarily or at the request of the department or its designee, may be construed as an admission of liability for the discharge.

(2) Actions taken by the department pursuant to 75-10-711 and 75-10-712 are not subject to the public bidding requirements of Title 18.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 711, L. 1985.

75-10-704. Environmental quality protection fund. (1) Subject to legislative fund transfers, there is in the state special revenue fund an environmental quality protection fund to be administered as a revolving fund by the department. The department is authorized to expend amounts from the fund necessary to carry out the purposes of this part.

(2) The fund may be used by the department only to carry out the provisions of this part and for remedial actions taken by the department pursuant to this part in response to a release of hazardous or deleterious substances.

(3) The department shall:

(a) except as provided in subsection (7), establish and implement a system, including the preparation of a priority list, for prioritizing sites for remedial action based on potential effects on human health and the environment; and

(b) investigate, negotiate, and take legal action, as appropriate, to identify liable persons, to obtain the participation and financial contribution of liable persons for the remedial action, to achieve remedial action, and to recover costs and damages incurred by the state.

(4) There must be deposited in the fund:

(a) all penalties, forfeited financial assurance, natural resource damages, and remedial action costs recovered pursuant to 75-10-715;

(b) all administrative penalties assessed pursuant to 75-10-714 and all civil penalties assessed pursuant to 75-10-711(5);

(c) funds allocated to the fund by the legislature;

(d) proceeds from the resource indemnity and ground water assessment tax as authorized by 15-38-106;

(e) funds received from the interest income of the resource indemnity trust fund pursuant to 15-38-202;

(f) funds received from the interest income of the fund;

(g) funds received from settlements pursuant to 75-10-719(7);

(h) funds received from the interest paid pursuant to 75-10-722;

(i) costs recovered pursuant to 75-8-106(7) and penalties recovered pursuant to 75-8-109; and

(j) funds transferred from the orphan share account pursuant to 75-10-743(10). The full amount of these funds must be dedicated each fiscal year as follows:

(i) 50% to the state's contribution for cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance costs at the Libby asbestos superfund site and allocated pursuant to 75-10-1603 and 75-10-1604; and

(ii) 50% to metal mine reclamation projects at abandoned mine sites, as provided in 82-4-371. This subsection (4)(j)(ii) does not apply to exploration or mining work performed after March 9, 1971. Projects funded under this subsection (4)(j)(ii) are not subject to the requirements of Title 75, chapter 10, part 7.

(5) Whenever a legislative appropriation is insufficient to carry out the provisions of this part and additional money remains in the fund, the department shall seek additional authority to spend money from the fund through the budget amendment process provided for in Title 17, chapter 7, part 4.

(6) Whenever the amount of money in the fund is insufficient to carry out remedial action, the department may apply to the governor for a grant from the environmental contingency account established pursuant to 75-1-1101.

(7) (a) There is established a state special revenue account for all funds donated or granted from private parties to remediate a specific release at a specific facility. There must be deposited into the account the interest income earned on the account. A person is not liable under 75-10-715 solely as a result of contributing to this account.

(b) Funds donated or granted for a specific project pursuant to this subsection (7) must be accumulated in the fund until the balance of the donated or granted funds is sufficient, as determined by the department, to remediate the facility pursuant to the requirements of 75-10-721 for which the funds are donated.

(c) If the balance of the fund created in this subsection (7), as determined by the department pursuant to the requirements of 75-10-721, is not sufficient to remediate the facility within 1 year from the date of the initial contribution, all donated or granted funds, including any interest on those donated or granted funds, must be returned to the grantor.

(d) If the balance for a specific project is determined by the department to be sufficient to remediate the facility pursuant to the requirements of 75-10-721, the department shall give that site high priority for remedial action, using the funds donated under this subsection (7).

(e) This subsection (7) is not intended to delay, to interfere with, or to diminish the authority or actions of the department to investigate, negotiate, and take legal action, as appropriate, to identify liable persons, to obtain the participation and financial contribution of liable persons for the remedial action, to achieve remedial action, and to recover costs and damages incurred by the state.

(f) The department shall expend the funds in a manner that maximizes the application of the funds to physically remediating the specific release.

(8) (a) A person may donate in-kind services to remediate a specific release at a specific facility pursuant to subsection (7). A person who donates in-kind services is not liable under 75-10-715 solely as a result of the contribution of in-kind services.

(b) A person who donates in-kind services with respect to remediating a specific release at a specific facility is not liable under this part to any person for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liability that results from the release or threatened release, including but not limited to claims for indemnification or contribution and claims by third parties for death, personal injury, illness, loss of or damage to property, or economic loss.

(c) Immunity from liability, pursuant to subsection (8)(b), does not apply in the case of a release that is caused by conduct of the entity providing in-kind services that is negligent or grossly negligent or that constitutes intentional misconduct.

(d) When a person is liable under 75-10-715 for costs or damages incurred as a result of a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance, the person may not avoid that liability or responsibility under 75-10-711 by subsequent donations of money or in-kind services under the provisions of subsection (7) and this subsection (8).

(e) Any donated in-kind services that are employed as part of a remedial action pursuant to this subsection (8) must be approved by the department as appropriate remedial action. *(Subsection (4)(j) terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 2015.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 555, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 675, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 752, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 349, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 86, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 425, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 432, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 486, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 387, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 317, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 320, L. 2017.

Cross-References
Fund structure, 17-2-102.

75-10-705. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 709, L. 1989.

75-10-706. Purpose — intent. (1) The purposes of this part are to:

(a) protect the public health and welfare of all Montana citizens against the dangers arising from releases of hazardous or deleterious substances;

(b) encourage private parties to clean up sites within the state at which releases of hazardous or deleterious substances have occurred, resulting in adverse impacts on the health and welfare of the citizens of the state and on the state's natural, environmental, and biological systems; and

(c) provide for funding to study, plan, and undertake the rehabilitation, removal, and cleanup of sites within the state at which no voluntary action has been taken.

(2) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 342, L. 2013.

75-10-707. Information gathering and access. (1) The department may undertake any investigative or other information-gathering action that it considers necessary or appropriate for determining the need for remedial action, choosing or taking a remedial action, or otherwise enforcing the provisions of this part.

(2) Any authorized officer, employee, or representative of the department may require a person who has or may have information relevant to a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance to furnish, upon request, any information or documents relating to but not limited to the following matters:

(a) the identification, nature, and quantity of a hazardous or deleterious substance that has been or is being generated, treated, stored, or disposed of at or transported from a facility;

(b) the nature or extent of a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance at or from a facility;

(c) information relating to the ability of a person to pay for or to perform a cleanup; and

(d) any other information relevant to the department's determination of the appropriate remedial action to be taken or to the enforcement of this part.

(3) For purposes of assisting the department in acquiring information relevant to the need for, the determination of, or the taking of remedial action or otherwise enforcing the provisions of this part, any authorized officer, employee, or representative of the department is authorized to:

(a) enter or have access at reasonable times to any facility or other place or property where:

(i) a hazardous or deleterious substance may be or has been generated, stored, treated, disposed of, or transported from;

(ii) there has been or may be a release of a hazardous or deleterious substance;

(iii) records or other relevant information regarding a release or threatened release is located;

(iv) entry is necessary to determine the need for any appropriate remedial action; or

(v) entry is necessary to effectuate a remedial action under this part; and

(b) inspect and obtain samples from the facility or other place or property referred to in subsection (3)(a) or from any location where a suspected hazardous or deleterious substance may be located. Any authorized officer, employee, or representative of the department is authorized to inspect and obtain samples of containers or labeling for suspected hazardous or deleterious substances. Each inspection must be completed with reasonable promptness. If the authorized officer, employee, or representative obtains samples, before leaving the premises that person shall give to the owner, operator, tenant, or other person in charge of the place from which the samples were obtained a receipt describing the sample obtained and, if requested, a portion of each sample. A copy of the results of any analysis made of the samples must be furnished promptly to the owner, operator, tenant, or other person in charge if that person can be located.

(4) The department may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, or documents relating to the matters in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(d). The method for service of subpoenas and payment of witness fees and mileage is the same as that required in civil actions in the district courts of the state. In case of a refusal to obey a subpoena issued and served upon a person pursuant to this subsection, the district court for a district in which the person is found, resides, or transacts business, upon application of the department and after notice to the person, has jurisdiction to issue an order requiring the person to appear and either give testimony or produce documents, or both, before a hearings officer. A failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt.

(5) If consent is not granted regarding a request made by an authorized officer, employee, or representative under this section, the director of the department may issue an order directing compliance with the request.

(6) The department may commence a civil action to compel compliance with an order issued pursuant to this section.

(7) In any action commenced pursuant to subsection (6) when the court determines that there may be an imminent and substantial threat to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment, the court shall enjoin any activity that constitutes a failure to comply with the order and shall direct compliance with the order unless, under the circumstances of the case, the order is arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law.

(8) Persons subject to the requirements of this section may make a written claim of confidentiality for information unique to the owner or operator of a facility that would, if disclosed, reveal methods or processes entitled to protection as trade secrets. The claim of confidentiality must be clearly designated on the materials at the time they are obtained by the department. If the department accepts the characterization, it shall maintain that information as confidential. Information describing physical or chemical characteristics of hazardous or deleterious substances that have been or may be released into the environment are not considered confidential. The department has access to and may use any trade secret information in carrying out the activities of this part as may be necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment while maintaining the information as confidential.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 270, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Uniform Trade Secrets Act, Title 30, ch. 14, part 4.

75-10-708 through 75-10-710 reserved.

75-10-711. Remedial action — orders — penalties — judicial proceedings. (1) The department may take remedial action whenever:

(a) there has been a release or there is a substantial threat of a release into the environment that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment; and

(b) none of the persons who are liable or potentially liable under 75-10-715(1) and who have been given the opportunity by letter to properly and expeditiously perform the appropriate remedial action will properly and expeditiously perform the appropriate remedial action. Any person liable under 75-10-715(1) shall take immediate action to contain, remove, and abate the release.

(2) Whenever the department is authorized to act pursuant to subsection (1) or has reason to believe that a release has occurred or is about to occur, the department may undertake remedial action in the form of any investigation, monitoring, survey, testing, or other information gathering as authorized by 75-10-707 that is necessary and appropriate to identify the existence, nature, origin, and extent of the release or the threat of release and the extent and imminence of the danger to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment.

(3) Except as provided in 75-10-712, the department is authorized to draw on the fund o take action under subsection (1) if it has made diligent good faith efforts to determine the dentity of the person or persons liable for the release or threatened release and:

(a) is unable to determine the identity of the liable person or persons in a manner onsistent with the need to take timely remedial action; or

(b) a person or persons determined by the department to be liable or potentially liable nder 75-10-715(1) have been informed in writing of the department's determination and ave been requested by the department to take appropriate remedial action but are unable or nwilling to take action in a timely manner; and

(c) the written notice informs the person that if subsequently found liable pursuant to 5-10-715(1), the person may be required to reimburse the fund for the state's remedial action osts and may be subject to penalties pursuant to this part.

(4) Whenever the department is authorized to act pursuant to subsection (1), it may issue o any person liable under 75-10-715(1) cease and desist, remedial, or other orders as may be ecessary or appropriate to protect the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.

(5) (a) A person who violates or fails to comply with or refuses to comply with an order ssued under 75-10-707 or this section may, in an action brought to enforce the order, be assessed civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each day in which a violation occurs or a failure or efusal to comply continues. In determining the amount of any penalty assessed, the court may ake into account:

(i) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the noncompliance;

(ii) with respect to the person liable under 75-10-715(1):

(A) the person's ability to pay;

(B) any prior history of violations;

(C) the degree of culpability; and

(D) the economic benefit or savings, if any, resulting from the noncompliance; and

(iii) any other matters as justice may require.

(b) Civil penalties collected under subsection (5)(a) must be deposited into the nvironmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

(6) A court has jurisdiction to review an order issued under 75-10-707 or this section only n the following actions:

(a) an action under 75-10-715 to recover remedial action costs or penalties or for ontribution;

(b) an action to enforce an order issued under 75-10-707 or this section;

(c) an action to recover a civil penalty for violation of or failure or refusal to comply with n order issued under 75-10-707 or this section; or

(d) an action by a person to whom an order has been issued to determine the validity of he order, only if the person has been in compliance and continues in compliance with the order ending a decision of the court.

(7) In considering objections raised in a judicial action regarding orders issued under this art, the court shall uphold and enforce an order issued by the department unless the objecting arty can demonstrate, on the administrative record, that the department's decision to issue the rder was arbitrary and capricious or otherwise not in accordance with law.

(8) Instead of issuing a notification or an order under this section, the department may ring an action for legal or equitable relief in the district court of the county where the release r threatened release occurred as may be necessary to abate any imminent and substantial ndangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment resulting from the elease or threatened release.

(9) If a state or federal administrative or judicial order is issued relative to a facility, the rder and any remedial activity conducted pursuant to the order may be admissible in a civil ction pertaining to the facility or property adjacent to or allegedly impacted by the facility rovided that the reviewing court in its discretion determines the order to be relevant and the robative value is not substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice. Admission f this evidence does not make the department a necessary party to the action. Remedial ction performed in accordance with this part is intended to provide for the protection of the nvironmental life support system from degradation and to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(10) The department may take remedial action pursuant to subsection (1) at a site that is regulated under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, Public Law 96-510, if the department determines that remedial action is necessary to carry out the purposes of this part.

(11) The department may take remedial action as provided for in 75-10-743(12).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 752, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 539, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 342, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 119, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 535, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 572, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

Nuisances — public and private, Title 27, ch. 30.

75-10-712. Emergency action. If the department determines that immediate response to an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment is necessary to avoid substantial injury or damage to persons, property, or resources, remedial action may be taken pursuant to 75-10-711(1) without the prior written notice required by 75-10-711(3). The department shall give subsequent written notice to a person who is liable or potentially liable under 75-10-715(1) within 30 days after the action is taken, describing the circumstances that required the action to be taken without prior notice.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 2001.

75-10-713. Public notice of remedial action, administrative order, or consent decree — comments — meeting — response. (1) (a) Except as provided in 75-10-712, before final approval by the director of the department of any administrative order on consent, issued pursuant to 75-10-711, or before judicial approval of a consent decree issued pursuant to this part, the department shall:

(i) publish a notice and brief description of the proposed order or decree in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected and make copies of the proposal available to the public;

(ii) provide at least 30 days (or whatever additional time the department may in its discretion grant upon written request) for submission of written comments regarding the proposed order or decree and upon written request by 10 or more persons or by a group having 10 or more members (but not including a liable person), conduct a public meeting at or near the facility for the purpose of receiving verbal comment regarding the proposed order or decree; and

(iii) consider and respond to relevant written or verbal comments properly submitted during the comment period or at the public meeting.

(b) The administrative record supporting the department's approved order or decree must contain the department's response summary prepared pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(iii).

(2) Except as provided in 75-10-712, upon making a final decision regarding the proposed remedial action, order, or decree, the department shall publish notice, as provided under subsection (1), and make copies of the final decision on the approved order or decree available to the public.

(3) Except as provided in 75-10-712, the department shall:

(a) notify the county commissioners and governing bodies of cities, towns, and consolidated local governments impacted by a proposed remedial action; and

(b) at the request of the county commissioners or the governing body of a city or town or of a consolidated local government impacted by a remedial action, conduct a public meeting.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 752, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

75-10-714. Administrative penalties. (1) In lieu of proceeding under 75-10-711(5), the department may assess penalties of not more than $1,000 a day for each violation against a person liable under 75-10-715(1) for a release or threat of release who has failed or refused to comply with an order issued by the department pursuant to 75-10-711(4) or against a person who has failed or refused to comply with an order issued by the department pursuant to 75-10-707(5).

(2) In determining the amount of any penalty assessed pursuant to this section, the department shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the noncompliance and, with respect to the person liable under 75-10-715(1):

(a) the person's ability to pay;

(b) any prior history of violations;

(c) the degree of culpability;

(d) the economic benefit or savings, if any, resulting from the noncompliance; and

(e) any other matters that justice may require.

(3) An administrative penalty may not be collected pursuant to this section unless the person charged with the noncompliance is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to the noncompliance. The hearing is before the board of environmental review. A hearing may be requested by submitting a written request stating the reason for the request within 30 days after receipt of the notice of penalty assessment.

(4) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

(5) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the environmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 79, L. 2001.**

75-10-715. Liability — reimbursement and penalties — proceedings — defenses and exclusions. (1) Except as provided in 70-30-323 and 75-10-742 through 75-10-751, notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject only to the defenses set forth in subsection (5) and the exclusions set forth in subsection (7), the following persons are jointly and severally liable for a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance from a facility:

(a) a person who owns or operates a facility where a hazardous or deleterious substance was disposed of;

(b) a person who at the time of disposal of a hazardous or deleterious substance owned or operated a facility where the hazardous or deleterious substance was disposed of;

(c) a person who generated, possessed, or was otherwise responsible for a hazardous or deleterious substance and who, by contract, agreement, or otherwise, arranged for disposal or treatment of the substance or arranged with a transporter for transport of the substance for disposal or treatment; and

(d) a person who accepts or has accepted a hazardous or deleterious substance for transport to a disposal or treatment facility.

(2) A person identified in subsection (1) is liable for the following costs:

(a) all remedial action costs incurred by the state; and

(b) damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources caused by the release or threatened release, including the reasonable technical and legal costs of assessing and enforcing a claim for the injury, destruction, or loss resulting from the release, unless the impaired natural resources were specifically identified as an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of natural resources in an approved final state or federal environmental impact statement or other comparable approved final environmental analysis for a project or facility that was the subject of a governmental permit or license and the project or facility was being operated within the terms of its permit or license.

(3) If the person liable under subsection (1) fails, without sufficient cause, to comply with a department order issued pursuant to 75-10-711(4) or to properly provide remedial action upon notification by the department pursuant to 75-10-711(3), the person may be liable for penalties in an amount not to exceed two times the amount of any costs incurred by the state pursuant to this section.

(4) The department may initiate civil proceedings in district court to recover remedial action costs, natural resource damages, or penalties under subsections (1), (2), and (3). Proceedings to recover costs and penalties must be conducted in accordance with 75-10-722. Venue for any action to recover costs, damages, or penalties lies in the county where the release occurred or where the person liable under subsection (1) resides or has its principal place of business.

(5) A person has a defense and is not liable under subsections (1), (2), and (3) if the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the department failed to provide notice to the person claiming the defense when required by 75-10-711. Establishment of this defense only prohibits the department from collecting those costs incurred or encumbered by the department prior to providing notice to the person and does not provide the person a defense to any other liability.

(b) the release did not emanate from any vessel, vehicle, or facility to which the person contributed any hazardous or deleterious substance or over which the person had any ownership, authority, or control and was not caused by any action or omission of the person;

(c) the release or threatened release occurred solely as a result of:

(i) an act or omission of a third party other than either an employee or agent of the person; or

(ii) an act or omission of a third party other than one whose act or omission occurs in connection with a contractual relationship, existing directly or indirectly, with the person, if the person establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the person:

(A) exercised due care with respect to the hazardous or deleterious substance concerned, taking into consideration the characteristics of the hazardous or deleterious substance in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and

(B) took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of a third party and the consequences that could foreseeably result from those acts or omissions;

(d) the release or threatened release occurred solely as the result of an act of God or an act of war;

(e) the release or threatened release was from a facility for which a permit had been issued by the department, the hazardous or deleterious substance was specifically identified in the permit, and the release was within the limits allowed in the permit;

(f) in the case of assessment of penalties under subsection (3), factors beyond the control of the person prevented the person from taking timely remedial action; or

(g) the person transported only household refuse, unless that person knew or reasonably should have known that the hazardous or deleterious substance was present in the refuse.

(6) (a) For the purpose of subsection (5)(c)(ii), the term “contractual relationship” includes but is not limited to land contracts, deeds, or other instruments transferring title or possession, unless the real property on which the facility is located was acquired by the person after the disposal or placement of the hazardous or deleterious substance on, in, or at the facility and one or more of the following circumstances is also established by the person by a preponderance of the evidence:

(i) At the time the person acquired the facility, the person did not know and had no reason to know that a hazardous or deleterious substance that is the subject of the release or threatened release was disposed of on, in, or at the facility.

(ii) The person is a governmental entity that acquired the facility by escheat, lien foreclosure, or through any other involuntary transfer or acquisition or through the exercise of eminent domain authority by purchase or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30.

(iii) The person acquired the facility by inheritance or bequest.

(b) In addition to establishing one or more of the circumstances in subsection (6)(a)(i) through (6)(a)(iii), the person shall establish that the person has satisfied the requirements of subsection (5)(c)(i) or (5)(c)(ii).

(c) To establish that the person had no reason to know, as provided in subsection (6)(a)(i), the person must have undertaken, at the time of acquisition, all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property consistent with good commercial or customary practice in an effort to minimize liability. For purposes of assessing this inquiry, the following must be taken into account:

(i) any specialized knowledge or experience on the part of the person;

(ii) the relationship of the purchase price to the value of the property if uncontaminated;

(iii) commonly known or reasonably ascertainable information about the property;

(iv) the obviousness of the presence or the likely presence of contamination on the property; and

(v) the ability to detect the contamination by appropriate inspection.

(d) (i) Subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c) or this subsection (6) may not diminish the liability of a previous owner or operator of the facility who would otherwise be liable under this part.

(ii) Notwithstanding this subsection (6), if the previous owner or operator obtained actual knowledge of the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance at the facility when the person owned the real property and then subsequently transferred ownership of the property to another person without disclosing the knowledge, the previous owner is liable under subsections (1), (2), and (3) and a defense under subsection (5)(b) or (5)(c) is not available to that person.

(e) This subsection (6) does not affect the liability under this part of a person who, by any act or omission, caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance that is the subject of the action relating to the facility.

(7) A person has an exclusion and is not liable under this section if:

(a) the person generated or disposed of only household refuse, unless the person knew or reasonably should have known that the hazardous or deleterious substance was present in the refuse;

(b) the person owns or operates real property where hazardous or deleterious substances have come to be located solely as a result of subsurface migration in an aquifer from a source or sources outside the person's property, provided that the following conditions are met:

(i) the owner or operator did not cause, contribute to, or exacerbate the release or threatened release of any hazardous or deleterious substances through any act or omission. The failure to take affirmative steps to mitigate or address contamination that has migrated from a source outside the owner's or operator's property does not, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, constitute an omission by the owner or operator.

(ii) the person who caused, contributed to, or exacerbated the release or threatened release of any hazardous or deleterious substance is not and was not an agent or employee of the owner or operator and is not or was not in a direct or indirect contractual relationship with the owner or operator, unless the department provides a written determination that an existing or proposed contractual relationship is an insufficient basis to establish liability under this section;

(iii) there is no other basis of liability under subsection (1) for the owner or operator for the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance; and

(iv) the owner or operator cooperates with the department and all persons conducting department-approved remedial actions on the property, including granting access and complying with and implementing all required institutional controls;

(c) the person owns or occupies real property of 20 acres or less for residential purposes, provided that the following conditions are met:

(i) the person did not cause, contribute to, or exacerbate the release or threatened release of any hazardous or deleterious substance through any act or omission;

(ii) the person uses or allows the use of the real property for residential purposes. This exclusion does not apply to any person who acquires or develops real property for commercial use or any use other than residential use.

(iii) at the time the person purchased or occupied the real property, there were no visible indications of contamination on the surface of the real property;

(iv) the person cooperates with the department and all persons conducting department-approved remedial actions on the property, including granting access and complying with and implementing all required institutional controls; and

(v) there is no other basis of liability under subsection (1) for the owner or occupier for the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance.

(8) A person is liable under this section if the department provides substantial credible evidence that the person fails to satisfy any element of each exclusion in subsections (7)(a) through (7)(c).

(9) The liability of a fiduciary under the provisions of this part for a release or a threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance from a facility held in a fiduciary capacity may not exceed the assets held in the fiduciary capacity that are available to indemnify the fiduciary unless the fiduciary is liable under this part independent of the person's ownership or actions taken in a fiduciary capacity.

(10) A person who holds indicia of ownership in a facility primarily to protect a securit interest is not liable under subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) for having participated in th management of a facility within the meaning of 75-10-701(15)(b) because of any one or an combination of the following:

(a) holding an interest in real or personal property when the interest is being held a security for payment or performance of an obligation, including but not limited to a mortgage deed of trust, lien, security interest, assignment, pledge, or other right or encumbrance agains real or personal property that is furnished by the owner to ensure repayment of a financia obligation;

(b) requiring or conducting financial or environmental assessments of a facility or portion of a facility, making financing conditional upon environmental compliance, or providin environmental information or reports;

(c) monitoring the operations conducted at a facility or providing access to a facility to th department or its agents or to remedial action contractors;

(d) having the mere capacity or unexercised right to influence a facility's management o hazardous or deleterious substances;

(e) giving advice, information, guidance, or direction concerning the administrative an financial aspects, as opposed to day-to-day operational aspects, of a borrower's operations;

(f) providing general information concerning federal, state, or local laws governing th transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous or deleterious substances an concerning the hiring of remedial action contractors;

(g) engaging in financial workouts, restructuring, or refinancing of a borrower's obligations

(h) collecting rent, maintaining utility services, securing a facility from unauthorize entry, or undertaking other activities to protect or preserve the value of the security interest i a facility;

(i) extending or denying credit to a person owning or in lawful possession of a facility;

(j) in an emergency, requiring or undertaking activities to prevent exposure of persons t hazardous or deleterious substances or to contain a release;

(k) requiring or conducting remedial action in response to a release or threatened releas if prior notice is given to the department and the department approves of the remedial action; o

(l) taking title to a facility by foreclosure, provided that the holder of indicia of ownership from the time the holder acquires title, undertakes to sell, re-lease property held pursuant t a lease financing transaction (whether by a new lease financing transaction or substitution o the lessee), or otherwise divest itself of the property in a reasonably expeditious manner, using whatever commercially reasonable means are relevant or appropriate with respect to the facility and taking all facts and circumstances into consideration and provided that the holder does not

(i) outbid or refuse a bid for fair consideration for the property or outbid or refuse a bid that would effectively compensate the holder for the amount secured by the facility;

(ii) worsen the contamination at the facility;

(iii) incur liability under subsection (1)(c) or (1)(d) by arranging for disposal of o transporting hazardous or deleterious substances; or

(iv) engage in conduct described in subsection (11).

(11) The protection from liability provided in subsections (9) and (10) is not available to a fiduciary or to a person holding indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest i the fiduciary or person through affirmative conduct:

(a) causes or contributes to a release of hazardous or deleterious substances from the facility;

(b) allows others to cause or contribute to a release of hazardous or deleterious substances; or

(c) in the case of a person holding indicia of ownership primarily to protect a security interest, actually participates in the management of a facility by:

(i) exercising decisionmaking control over environmental compliance; or

(ii) exercising control at a level comparable to that of a manager of the enterprise with responsibility for day-to-day decisionmaking either with respect to environmental compliance or substantially all of the operational, as opposed to financial or administrative, aspects of the facility.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 711, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 555, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 490, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 437, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

75-10-716. Definitions. As used in 75-10-717 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Emergency responder" means a public safety agency or a private entity acting under a request from or authority granted by a government agency, including law enforcement, firefighting, ambulance or medical, and civil defense, that provides services in an emergency situation.

(2) "Hazardous material incident" means a release involving a hazardous or deleterious substance that endangers property, public health, or public safety.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 464, L. 1991.**

75-10-717. Recovery of costs. An emergency responder has the right to recover from the responsible party the emergency responder's full costs directly related to a hazardous material incident.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 464, L. 1991.**

75-10-718. Liability of remedial action contractor. (1) A person who is a remedial action contractor with respect to a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance is not liable under this part to any person for injuries, costs, damages, expenses, or other liability that results from the release or threatened release, including but not limited to claims for indemnification or contribution and claims by third parties for death, personal injury, illness, loss or damage to property, or economic loss.

(2) Immunity from liability, pursuant to subsection (1), does not apply in the case of a release that is caused by conduct of the remedial action contractor that is negligent or grossly negligent or that constitutes intentional misconduct.

(3) This section does not affect the liability of a person under a warranty under federal, state, or common law or the liability to an employee of an employer who is a remedial action contractor under any provision of law, including any provision of a law relating to workers' compensation.

(4) A state agency or state employee or an employee of a political subdivision who provides services relating to remedial action while acting within the scope of the entity's or individual's authority as a governmental agency or employee has the same exemption from liability as is provided to the remedial action contractor under this section.

(5) The defense provided by 75-10-715(5)(c) is not available to a person liable under 75-10-715(1) with respect to remedial action costs or damages caused by an act or omission of a remedial action contractor.

(6) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5), this section does not affect the liability under this part of a person other than a remedial action contractor.

(7) This section does not affect the plaintiff's burden of establishing liability under this part.

(8) This section does not minimize the liability, lessen the standard of liability, or otherwise shield from liability a potentially liable person under 75-10-715 or section 107 of CERCLA for costs or damages incurred as a result of a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1995.**

75-10-719. Settlement — bar to contribution liability. (1) A person who has resolved that person's liability to the state arising under 75-10-715 or section 107(a)(1) through (a)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a)(1) through (a)(4), in an administrative or judicially approved settlement is not liable for claims for contribution regarding matters addressed in the settlement. The settlement does not discharge any of the other potentially liable persons unless its terms provide a discharge. The terms of the settlement may reduce the potential liability of the other potentially liable persons by the amount of the settlement.

(2) If the state has obtained less than complete relief from a person who has resolved that person's liability to the state in an administrative or judicially approved settlement, the state may bring an action against any other person who has not resolved that person's liability.

(3) A person who has resolved, in whole or in part, that person's liability to the state for the release or for remedial action costs in an administrative or judicially approved settlement may seek contribution from a person who is not party to a settlement referred to in subsection (1).

(4) Whenever practicable and in the public interest, as determined by the director of the department, the department may, as promptly as possible, reach a final settlement with a potentially liable or liable person under 75-10-715 in an administrative or civil action under 75-10-711 if the settlement involves only a minor portion of the remedial action costs at the facility concerned and, in the judgment of the department, taking into account the toxicity of the hazardous or deleterious substances involved and the person's contribution of hazardous or deleterious substances in relation to the total volume of hazardous or deleterious substances at the facility, the conditions in any of the following subsections (4)(a) through (4)(d) are met:

(a) the person is one whose liability is based solely on 75-10-715(1)(c) or (1)(d) and who presents substantial credible evidence that the person contributed less than 0.002% of the total volume or less than 100 gallons or 200 pounds of materials containing hazardous or deleterious substances at a facility that received hazardous or deleterious substances from multiple contributors. The department may not require the payment of remedial action costs from this person.

(b) (i) the person is one whose liability is based solely on 75-10-715(1)(c) or (1)(d) and who presents substantial credible evidence that the person arranged for disposal or treatment of less than 5% of the total quantity of solid waste or hazardous or deleterious substances disposed of at a facility that received solid waste or hazardous or deleterious substances from multiple contributors.

(ii) For the purposes of subsection (5)(a) and this subsection (4)(b) only, the term "solid waste" means:

(A) all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including garbage, rubbish, refuse, or ashes;

(B) sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply plants, or air pollution control facilities;

(C) construction and demolition wastes;

(D) dead animals, including offal;

(E) discarded home and industrial appliances; and

(F) wood products or wood byproducts and inert materials.

(c) (i) the person:

(A) is the owner of the real property on or in which the facility is located;

(B) did not conduct or permit the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, or disposal of any hazardous or deleterious substance at the facility; and

(C) did not contribute to the release or threat of release of a hazardous or deleterious substance at the facility through any action or omission.

(ii) This subsection (4)(c) does not apply if the person purchased the real property with actual or constructive knowledge that the property was used for the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, or disposal of any hazardous or deleterious substance.

(d) the person presents substantial credible evidence that the person has a defense under 75-10-715(5).

(5) When reaching a settlement under subsection (4)(b), (4)(c), or (4)(d), the department may require the payment of remedial action costs not to exceed two times the person's reasonably projected liability for remedial action costs as determined by the department. Except as provided in subsection (6), the settlement must contain a reservation of rights clause in the event that the department obtains new information showing that the settling person no longer qualifies for a settlement because:

(a) the solid waste or hazardous or deleterious substances contributed by the person was of a greater volume or toxicity than originally estimated; or

(b) the settlement was reached under subsection (4)(c) and, after settlement, the department finds that the person had actual or constructive knowledge that the property was used for the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, or disposal of any hazardous or deleterious substance.

(6) A person who agrees to a liability settlement may avoid the reservation of rights clause under subsection (5) by paying remedial action costs in the amount of four times the person's reasonably projected liability for remedial action costs as determined by the department.

(7) All funds received as a result of settlements under this section must be paid in the following order of priority:

(a) to the department as reimbursement for its remedial action costs at the facility;

(b) to liable persons as reimbursement for remedial action costs at the facility. In the event of an allocation under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751, the reimbursement must be in proportion to each liable person's share of liability as determined under the provisions of 75-10-750 or 75-10-751;

(c) the remainder, if any:

(i) to the orphan share fund provided in 75-10-743 if the facility went through the allocation process provided in 75-10-742 through 75-10-751; or

(ii) to the fund provided in 75-10-704 if the facility did not undergo the allocation process provided in 75-10-742 through 75-10-751.

(8) Any person who enters into a settlement under this section may not be subject to or assigned a share in the allocation process provided in 75-10-742 through 75-10-751.

(9) As part of an administrative or judicially approved settlement agreement, the department may require the liable person to provide financial assurance, in an amount determined by the department, to ensure the long-term operation and maintenance of the remedial action site. The liable person shall provide the financial assurance by any one method or combination of methods satisfactory to the department, including but not limited to insurance, guarantee, performance or other surety bond, letter of credit, qualification as a self-insurer, or other demonstration of financial capability.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 752, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 415, L. 1997.**

75-10-720. Condemnation — creation of state lien. (1) Whenever the department determines that property upon which a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance has occurred may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment, the department may condemn the property for public use to mitigate the threat. The taking of the property must be conducted in accordance with the procedure set forth in Title 70, chapter 30.

(2) All costs, penalties, and natural resource damages for which a person has been judicially determined to be liable to the state pursuant to 75-10-715 constitute a lien in favor of the state upon all property and rights to the property that belong to the person.

(3) The lien imposed by this section arises at the time notice incorporating a description of the property subject to the remedial action and an identification of the amount of costs, penalties, and natural resource damages is filed with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the real property is located. A copy of the notice must be served by certified mail upon the liable person.

(4) The costs, penalties, and natural resource damages constituting the lien may be recovered in an action in the district court for the district in which the property is located or in which the remedial action is occurring or has occurred. This section does not affect the right of the state to bring an action against a person to recover all costs, penalties, and natural resource damages for which that person is liable under this part or any other provision of state or federal law.

(5) The lien must continue until the liability for the costs and damages incurred as a result of the release of a hazardous or deleterious substance is satisfied.

(6) If the department expends money from the fund for orphan share remedial action costs at a facility or for a facility at which a reimbursed orphan share exists, the state has a lien upon the facility for the unrecovered costs. The lien:

(a) may not exceed the increase in fair market value of the property attributable to the unfunded portion of the remedial action at the time of a subsequent sale or other disposition of the property;

(b) arises at the time costs are first incurred by the department with respect to a remedial action at the facility;

(c) must be filed according to subsection (3); and

(d) continues until the earlier of satisfaction of the lien or recovery of all remedial action costs incurred at the facility.

(7) Payment of any liens under this section must be deposited in one of the two accounts from which the remedial action costs originated, including the fund established in 75-10-704 or the orphan share fund established in 75-10-743.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

75-10-721. Degree of cleanup required — permit exemption — financial assurance. (1) A remedial action performed under this part or a voluntary cleanup under 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 must attain a degree of cleanup of the hazardous or deleterious substance and control of a threatened release or further release of that substance that assures protection of public health, safety, and welfare and of the environment.

(2) In approving or carrying out remedial actions performed under this part, the department:

(a) except as provided in subsection (4), shall require cleanup consistent with applicable state or federal environmental requirements, criteria, or limitations;

(b) may consider substantive state or federal environmental requirements, criteria, or limitations that are relevant to the site conditions; and

(c) shall select remedial actions, considering present and reasonably anticipated future uses, giving due consideration to institutional controls, that:

(i) demonstrate acceptable mitigation of exposure to risks to the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment;

(ii) are effective and reliable in the short term and the long term;

(iii) are technically practicable and implementable;

(iv) use treatment technologies or resource recovery technologies if practicable, giving due consideration to engineering controls; and

(v) are cost-effective.

(3) In selecting remedial actions, the department shall consider the acceptability of the actions to the affected community, as indicated by community members and the local government.

(4) The department may select a remedial action that does not meet an applicable state environmental requirement, criteria, or limitation under any one of the following circumstances:

(a) The remedial action is an interim measure and will become part of a total remedial action that will attain the applicable requirement, criteria, or limitation.

(b) Compliance with the applicable requirement, criteria, or limitation will result in greater risk to human health and the environment than other remedial action alternatives.

(c) Compliance with the applicable requirement, criteria, or limitation is technically impracticable from an engineering perspective.

(d) The remedial action will attain a standard of performance that is equivalent to that required under the otherwise applicable requirement, criteria, or limitation through use of another method or approach.

(e) Compliance with the requirement would not be cost-effective.

(5) For purposes of this section, cost-effectiveness must be determined through an analysis of incremental costs and incremental risk reduction and other benefits of alternatives considered, taking into account the total anticipated short-term and long-term costs of remedial action alternatives considered, including the total anticipated cost of operation and maintenance activities.

(6) The department may exempt any portion of a remedial action that is conducted entirely on site from a state or local permit that would, in the absence of the remedial action, be required if the remedial action is carried out in accordance with the standards established under this section and this part.

(7) The department may require financial assurance from a liable person in an amount that the department determines will ensure the long-term operation and maintenance of the remedial action site. The liable person shall provide the financial assurance by any one method

or combination of methods satisfactory to the department, including but not limited to insurance, guarantee, performance or other surety bond, letter of credit, qualification as a self-insurer, or other demonstration of financial capability.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 752, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 437, L. 1999.**

75-10-722. Payment of state costs and penalties. (1) The department shall keep a record of the state's remedial action costs.

(2) Based on this record, the department may require a person liable under 75-10-715 to pay the amount of the state's remedial action costs, including interest and, if applicable, penalties under 75-10-715(3).

(3) If the state's remedial action costs and penalties are not paid by the liable person to the department after receipt of notice that the costs and penalties are due, the department may bring an action in the name of the state to recover the amount owed plus reasonable legal expenses.

(4) If the department provides a notice that the state's remedial action costs are due, the department shall assess and collect interest on the unpaid amount at the rate provided for in 25-9-205:

(a) after 30 days of receipt of the notice if the notice covers costs incurred during a time period that is 1 month or less;

(b) after 60 days of receipt of the notice if the notice covers costs incurred during a time period that is more than 1 month and not more than 3 months;

(c) after 90 days of receipt of the notice if the notice covers costs incurred during a time period that is more than 3 months and not more than 6 months; and

(d) after 120 days of receipt of the notice if the notice covers costs incurred during a time period that is more than 6 months.

(5) An action to recover remedial action costs and interest may be brought under this section at any time after any remedial action costs and interest have been incurred, and the court may enter a declaratory judgment on liability for remedial action costs and interest that is binding on any subsequent action or actions to recover further remedial action costs and interest. The court may disallow costs or damages only if the person liable under 75-10-715 can show on the record that the costs are not reasonable and are not consistent with this part. The court may disallow the associated interest if it determines, based on the record, that the liable person can show that the costs are not reasonable.

(6) An initial action brought under 75-10-715(4) or a contribution action for costs incurred under this part must be commenced within 6 years after initiation of physical onsite construction of the final permanent remedy.

(7) Remedial action costs, interest, and any penalties recovered by the state under 75-10-715 must be deposited into the environmental quality protection fund established in 75-10-704.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 490, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 326, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 2011.**

75-10-723. Agreements and administrative orders on consent to perform remedial action. (1) To expedite effective remedial actions and minimize litigation, the department, in its discretion and whenever practicable and in the public interest, may negotiate and enter into an agreement or an administrative order on consent with any person, including the owner or operator of the facility from which a release emanates, to perform a remedial action if the department determines that the action will be properly done by the person. The agreement must contain terms and conditions that the department in its discretion determines to be appropriate.

(2) Whenever the department enters into an administrative order on consent under this section for remedial action or for assessment or payment of natural resource damages, that administrative order on consent must be available for public comment for at least 30 days.

(3) A decision of the department to enter into or not enter into agreements or administrative orders on consent under this section is not subject to judicial review.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 1997.**

75-10-724. Private right of action. Any person who receives notice under 75-10-711, who is held jointly and severally liable under 75-10-715, or who initiates a voluntary cleanup under the provisions of 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 may bring a private right of action, including a claim for contribution or declaratory relief, against any other person who is liable or potentially liable under 75-10-715 for the recovery of remedial action costs. In resolving contribution claims, the court shall allocate remedial action costs among the liable persons based on the factors set out in 75-10-750.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 709, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-725. Immunity of fire agency and employees for hazardous or deleterious substance cleanup. A governmental fire agency organized under Title 7, chapter 33, and the employees of the agency are not liable for civil damages, except damages for gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, for their acts or omissions that are directly related to the hazardous material incident.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 367, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 449, L. 2007.

75-10-726. Citizens suit. (1) Any person may commence a civil action to compel compliance by any liable or potentially liable person under 75-10-715 alleged to be in violation of a rule, notice letter, order, or department-approved remedial action required pursuant to a notice letter or order under this chapter.

(2) At least 60 days before commencing the action, the person shall give notice of intent to sue to all liable or potentially liable persons under 75-10-715 who are contemplated to be defendants in the proposed action.

(3) An action may not be commenced under subsection (1) if the liable or potentially liable person is diligently coming into compliance with the rule, notice letter, order, or department-approved remedial action plan or if the department has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action to require compliance with the rule, notice letter, order, or department-approved remedial action plan.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-727. Institutional controls. (1) An owner of real property may, with department approval, restrict the use of the owner's real property to mitigate the risk posed to the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment by imposing on the real property, without conveying the property or creating a dominant and servient estate, an appropriate institutional control.

(2) An institutional control restricting present and future real property rights is placed on a property by filing a written instrument evidencing the restrictions to be placed on the use of the property with the county clerk in the county in which the property is located.

(3) An institutional control that restricts real property runs with the land and is binding on all successors in interest to real property until the institutional control is removed.

(4) An institutional control must be removed if there is not an unacceptable risk posed to public health, safety, and welfare and the environment. An owner may request department approval to remove all or a portion of the institutional controls from the real property. The department shall review the request and provide the owner with its decision to approve or deny the request within 120 days from the department's receipt of the request. If the department denies the request, it shall provide the owner with a written explanation of the denial. A department decision to deny the request may be appealed to the board of environmental review and conducted as a contested case proceeding pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4.

(5) If the department or the board approves an owner's request to remove all or a portion of the institutional controls, the owner shall file the approval with the county clerk in the county in which the real property is located.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 437, L. 1999.

75-10-728. Remedial action costs. (1) If a potentially liable person or assignee recovers remedial action costs at a particular site from a financially responsible party, reimbursement from the orphan share is proportionally reduced by the amount of remedial action costs recovered, less any litigation expenses, including attorney fees and costs.

(2) The department may, in defending the orphan share, initiate a court action against a potentially liable party, an affiliate, or another financially responsible party to recover the orphan's share.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 437, L. 1999.

75-10-729. Restoration damages. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), this section applies to civil claims brought in judicial proceedings on behalf of individuals and entities for the recovery of restoration damages to address impacts to real property caused by releases of hazardous or deleterious substances.

(2) Restoration damages may be awarded only for a claim alleging contamination of special use property and may be obtained only in accordance with the definitions and other requirements set forth in this section. The plaintiff bears the burden of proof to show that the property meets the definition of special use property.

(3) Restoration damages may not be awarded or used to alter an interim or final remedial action that has been or will be undertaken on, or will benefit, a special use property pursuant to any of the following authorities:

(a) a federal administrative order issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq., as of March 27, 2021;

(b) a state administrative order issued pursuant to this part;

(c) a judicially approved consent decree; or

(d) any other interim or final remedial action plan approved by the department pursuant to state statutory or administrative law.

(4) (a) Restoration damages awarded pursuant to subsection (2), exclusive of awards of attorney fees and costs, may be used only to conduct remedial and corrective action necessary to restore the special use property for which the damages were awarded. Restoration must commence within 3 years from the date the judgment is paid or settlement proceeds are received.

(b) If any awarded restoration damages remain after completion of the restoration work, the surplus must be refunded to the defendant. If the defendant is no longer viable or cannot be found, the funds must be remitted to the department.

(5) Any party may request that a court awarding restoration damages also order that those damages be deposited in a segregated trust or escrow account at a commercial bank or trust company to ensure compliance with subsection (4)(a). The plaintiff may create a trust or escrow account to be overseen by a qualified professional to restore the special use property.

(6) Nothing in this section precludes the award of other damages allowed under common law and statute.

(7) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Qualified professional" means a person who possesses sufficient specific education, training, and experience necessary to exercise professional judgment to design and oversee implementation of a restoration plan.

(b) "Restoration damages" means the amount of compensation determined reasonably necessary by a trier of fact to restore a contaminated special use property to its function, use, or condition prior to the contamination on which a civil claim is based, unless contamination was present at the time the plaintiff acquired the special use property, in which case the term means the amount of compensation determined necessary by a trier of fact to restore a contaminated special use property to the function, use, or condition that existed at the time the plaintiff acquired the special use property.

(c) "Special use property" means real property contaminated by a release of a hazardous or deleterious substance that is found by a trier of fact to have objectively reasonable personal value to the plaintiff not reflected in the market value of the property or to have unique public, historic, cultural, or religious value not reflected in the market value of the property.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 572, L. 2021.

75-10-730. Short title. Sections 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 may be cited as the "Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act".

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 584, L. 1995.

75-10-731. Purpose — legislative declaration. (1) (a) The purposes of 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 are to provide for the protection of the public health, welfare, and safety and of the environment and to foster the cleanup, transfer, reuse, or redevelopment of facilities where releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances exist.

(b) The legislature further declares that this program is intended to permit and encourage voluntary cleanup of facilities where releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances exist by providing interested persons with a method of determining what the cleanup responsibilities will be for reuse or redevelopment of existing facilities.

(2) The legislature further intends that this voluntary program:

(a) encourage and facilitate prompt cleanup activities;

(b) eliminate impediments to the sale or redevelopment of facilities where releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances exist; and

(c) minimize administrative processes and costs.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 584, L. 1995.

75-10-732. Eligibility. (1) A facility where there has been a release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment may be eligible for voluntary cleanup procedures under this part, except for facilities that meet one of the following criteria at the time of application for a voluntary cleanup plan:

(a) a facility that is listed or proposed for listing on the national priorities list pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.;

(b) a facility for which an order has been issued or consent decree has been entered into pursuant to this part;

(c) a facility that is the subject of an agency order or an action filed in district court by any state agency that addresses the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance; or

(d) a facility where the release or threatened release of a hazardous or deleterious substance is regulated by the Montana Hazardous Waste Act and regulations under that act; or

(e) a facility that is the subject of pending action under this part because the facility has been issued a notice commencing a specified period of negotiations on an administrative order on consent.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1)(b) through (1)(e), the department may agree to accept and may approve an application for a voluntary cleanup plan for a facility.

(3) The department may determine that a facility that is potentially eligible for voluntary cleanup exhibits complexities regarding protection of public health, safety, and welfare and the environment and that the complexities should be addressed under an administrative order or consent decree pursuant to this part. This determination may be made only after consultation with any person desiring to conduct a voluntary cleanup at the facility.

(4) If an applicant who submits an application for a voluntary cleanup plan disagrees with the department's decision to reject the filing of the application under subsection (1) or (3) or disagrees with the department's decision to disapprove the voluntary cleanup plan submitted pursuant to 75-10-736, the applicant may, within 30 days of receipt of the department's written decision pursuant to 75-10-736, submit a written request for a hearing before the board of environmental review. In reviewing a department decision to reject an application under subsection (1) or (3) or to disapprove a voluntary cleanup plan submitted pursuant to 75-10-736, the board shall apply the standards of review specified in 2-4-704. The hearing must be held within 2 months at the regular meeting of the board or at the time mutually agreed to by the board, the department, and the applicant. The hearing and any appeals must be conducted in accordance with the contested case proceedings pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, parts 6 and 7. A hearing before the board may not be requested regarding a decision of the department made pursuant to subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 539, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

75-10-733. Voluntary cleanup plan and reimbursement of remedial action costs. (1) Any person may submit an application for the approval of a voluntary cleanup plan to the department under the provisions of this section.

(2) A voluntary cleanup plan must include:

(a) an environmental assessment of the facility that includes the information required in 75-10-734;

(b) a remediation proposal that includes the information required in 75-10-734 and that meets the requirements of 75-10-721; and

(c) the written consent of current owners of the facility or property to allow:

(i) access to the facility by the applicant and its agents and the department; and

(ii) implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan when a remediation proposal includes the information required in 75-10-734 and meets the requirements of 75-10-721.

(3) (a) The applicant shall reimburse the department for any remedial action costs that the state incurs in the review and oversight of a voluntary cleanup plan.

(b) If the applicant does not reimburse the department for its remedial action costs in the time required under 75-10-722, the department may discontinue the review or approval process of the voluntary cleanup plan or void its approval of the voluntary cleanup plan. The department may also take action to recover its outstanding costs.

(4) The department may approve a voluntary cleanup plan that provides for phases of remediation or that addresses only a portion of the facility. To the extent that the original environmental assessment required under 75-10-734 addresses subsequent phases of remediation, the applicant may rely on that assessment when submitting voluntary cleanup plans for subsequent phases of remediation.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2019.**

75-10-734. Voluntary cleanup plans — requirements. (1) The department may only accept voluntary cleanup plans under 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 that are prepared by a qualified environmental professional. A qualified environmental professional is a person with education, training, and experience in preparing environmental studies and assessments.

(2) An environmental assessment described in this section must include the following information:

(a) the legal description of the facility and a map identifying the location and size of the facility and relevant features, such as property boundaries, surface topography, surface and subsurface structures, and utility lines;

(b) the physical characteristics of the facility and areas contiguous to the facility, including the location of any surface water bodies and ground water aquifers;

(c) the location of any wells located on the site or on areas within a one-half mile radius of the site and a description of the use of those wells;

(d) the current and reasonably anticipated future use of onsite ground and surface water;

(e) the operational history of the facility, including ownership, and the current use of the facility, including any readily available aerial photographs from within the state of Montana;

(f) the current and reasonably anticipated future uses of the facility and immediately adjacent properties;

(g) information on the methods and results of investigations concerning the nature and extent of any releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances that have occurred at the facility and a map showing general areas and concentrations of hazardous or deleterious substances;

(h) any sampling results or other data that characterizes the soil, air, ground water, or surface water on the site;

(i) a description of the human and environmental exposure to releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances at the facility based upon the current use of the facility and adjacent properties and any reasonably anticipated future uses of the facility; and

(j) readily available information on the environmental regulatory and compliance history of the facility, including all environmental permits.

(3) A remediation proposal must include the following information:

(a) a detailed description of the components of the remediation proposal, including, to the extent applicable:

(i) the proposed cleanup levels for the facility;

(ii) the manner in which the remediation plan satisfies the cleanup requirements of 75-10-721;

(iii) identification of sampling or treatability studies; and

(iv) a demonstration that exposures to risk affecting the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment at the facility will be substantially mitigated by the plan;

(b) a brief comparison of the remediation proposal to reasonable alternatives based on the remedy selection criteria specified in 75-10-721;

(c) a timetable for implementing the proposal and for any necessary monitoring of the facility after the proposed measures are completed;

(d) a statement that applicable health and safety regulations will be met during implementation of the remediation proposal;

(e) a description of how short-term disturbances during implementation of the remediation proposal will be minimized; and

(f) identification of any permits necessary to conduct the proposed remedies.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 584, L. 1995.

75-10-735. Public participation. (1) Upon determination by the department that an application for a voluntary cleanup plan is complete pursuant to 75-10-736(1) and (2), the department shall publish a notice and brief analysis of the proposed plan in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the area affected and make the plan available to the public.

(2) The notice must provide 30 days for submission of written comments to the department regarding the plan. Upon written request by 10 or more persons, by a group composed of 10 or more members, or by a local governing body of a city, town, or county within the comment period, the department shall conduct a public meeting at or near the facility regarding the proposed voluntary cleanup plan. The meeting must be held within 45 days of the date that written notice of the department's completeness determination is provided to the applicant under 75-10-736(2).

(3) The department shall consider and respond to relevant written or verbal comments submitted during the comment period or at the public meeting.

(4) The department's decision on the final plan and the reasons for any significant modification of the final plan must be published in accordance with subsection (1).

(5) Compliance with this section is considered to satisfy the public participation requirements of Title 75, chapter 1.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 117, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Right of participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.

75-10-736. Approval of voluntary cleanup plan — time limits — content of notice — expiration of approval. (1) The department shall review for completeness, including adequacy and accuracy, in accordance with the requirements of 75-10-734, the environmental assessment component of a voluntary cleanup plan and shall provide a written completeness notice to the applicant within 30 days of receipt. The completeness notice must note all deficiencies identified in the information submitted.

(2) Once the department determines that the environmental assessment component of a voluntary cleanup plan is complete, the applicant may submit the remediation proposal component. The department shall review the remediation proposal for completeness, including adequacy and accuracy, in accordance with the requirements of 75-10-734, and shall provide a written completeness notice to the applicant within 30 days of receipt. The completeness notice must note all deficiencies identified in the information submitted.

(3) Once the department determines that the application for a voluntary cleanup plan is complete pursuant to subsections (1) and (2), the department shall provide formal written notification of approval or disapproval within 60 days unless the applicant and the department agree to an extension of the review to a date certain. The review must be limited to a review of the materials submitted by the applicant, public comments, and documents or information readily available to the department. The department shall communicate with the applicant during the review period to ensure that the applicant has the opportunity to address the public comments.

(4) (a) If the department receives five applications for review of either component of a voluntary cleanup plan in a calendar month, including applications deferred from prior months, the department may notify any additional applicants in that month that their plans must

be reviewed in the order received. The 60-day period for department completeness review of deferred applications must begin on the first day of the subsequent month that each plan is eligible for review.

(b) The department shall discontinue accepting either component of voluntary cleanup applications when 15 applications are pending and are being reviewed by the department. The department shall establish a waiting list for applications and shall consider the applications in order of submittal.

(c) If the department has received multiple applications for a voluntary cleanup at the same facility, the department shall notify all of the applicants and offer them the opportunity to submit a joint application.

(5) Consistent with the provisions of 75-10-707, the department may access the facility during review of either component of the application and implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan to confirm information provided by the applicant and verify that the cleanup is being conducted consistent with the approved plan.

(6) (a) The department shall approve a voluntary cleanup plan if the department concludes that the plan meets the requirements specified in 75-10-734 and will attain a degree of cleanup and control of hazardous or deleterious substances that complies with the requirements of 75-10-721.

(b) Except for the period necessary for the operation and maintenance of the approved remediation proposal, the department may not approve a voluntary remediation proposal that would:

(i) take longer than 60 months after department approval to achieve the cleanup levels proposed by the applicant under 75-10-734(3)(a)(i) and approved by the department; or

(ii) take longer than 120 months after department approval to achieve the cleanup levels for ground water proposed by the applicant under 75-10-734(3)(a)(i) and approved by the department, including ground water standards identified as applicable or relevant state or federal environmental requirements, criteria, or limitations pursuant to 75-10-721.

(7) If a voluntary cleanup plan is not approved by the department, the department shall promptly provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for denial. The denial may be appealed to the board of environmental review in accordance with the provisions of 75-10-732(4).

(8) The approval of a voluntary cleanup plan by the department applies only to conditions at the facility that are known to the department at the time of department approval. If a voluntary remediation proposal is not initiated within 12 months and, except for the period necessary for the operation and maintenance of the approved remediation proposal, is not completed within 60 months after approval by the department, the department's approval lapses. However, the department may grant an extension of the time limit for completion of the voluntary cleanup plan.

(9) If conditions are discovered during implementation of a voluntary cleanup plan that were not identified in the environmental assessment component pursuant to subsection (1), affect the risk to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment, and change the scope of the approved plan, the applicant shall notify the department within 10 days of discovery. The department may require the applicant to submit an amendment to the approved plan to address the conditions or may determine that a voluntary cleanup plan is no longer appropriate pursuant to 75-10-732(3).

(10) Departmental approval is void if the applicant or the applicant's agents:

(a) fail to materially comply with the voluntary cleanup plan;

(b) submit materially misleading information in the application or during implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan; or

(c) fail to report any newly discovered information to the department during the application process or implementation of the voluntary cleanup plan regarding releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances within 10 days of discovery of that information.

(11) Within 60 days after completion of the approved remediation proposal described in the voluntary cleanup plan approved by the department, the applicant shall provide to the department a certification from a qualified environmental professional that the plan has

been fully implemented, including all documentation necessary to demonstrate the successful implementation of the plan, such as confirmation sampling, if necessary.

(12) Except as provided in 75-10-738(2)(b), the department may not require financial assurance under this part for voluntary cleanup plans approved under this section.

(13) If a person who would otherwise not be a liable person under 75-10-715(1) elects to undertake an approved voluntary cleanup plan, the person may not become a liable person under 75-10-715(1) by undertaking a voluntary cleanup if the person materially complies with the voluntary cleanup plan approved by the department pursuant to this section.

(14) Immunity from liability under this section does not apply to a release that is caused by conduct that is negligent or grossly negligent or that constitutes intentional misconduct.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 584, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 539, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 117, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 58, L. 2019.

75-10-737. Voluntary action to preclude remedial action by department. If a party has elected to undertake an approved voluntary cleanup and is diligently proceeding to implement the plan, the department may not, except as provided in 75-10-712, take remedial action under 75-10-711 with regard to those releases or threatened releases of hazardous or deleterious substances that are addressed by the approved voluntary cleanup plan.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 584, L. 1995.

75-10-738. Closure. (1) After completion of the voluntary cleanup plan, an applicant may petition the department for closure of the facility under 75-10-730 through 75-10-738.

(2) Within 60 days of receipt of a petition for closure, weather permitting, the department shall conduct a review to determine that the releases or threatened releases addressed in the voluntary cleanup plan do not pose a significant threat to public health, welfare, or safety or to the environment as determined in accordance with 75-10-721 and that the applicant has:

(a) implemented all appropriate remedial actions;

(b) if necessary, provided for long-term funding for facility maintenance or monitoring; and

(c) reimbursed the department for all remedial action costs of the voluntary cleanup.

(3) In the event that the petition for closure is not approved by the department, the department shall promptly provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for denial. Written notification that the petition is approved by the department must include the following language:

"Based upon the information provided by [insert name(s) of applicant(s)] concerning property located at [insert address], it is the opinion of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality that upon completion of the voluntary cleanup plan, no further action is required to ensure that this facility, when used for [insert purposes identified], is protective of existing and proposed uses and does not pose a significant risk to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment at the facility with regard to releases or threatened releases addressed in the voluntary cleanup plan. The department reserves the right to conduct or require further remedial action at this facility if a new release occurs or if the department receives new or different information than presented in the approved voluntary cleanup plan."

(4) After completion of a portion of a facility addressed in the voluntary cleanup plan, the department shall issue a letter of completion notice to the applicant if the department determines that the applicant has satisfied the requirements of subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 584, L. 1995.

75-10-739 through 75-10-741 reserved.

75-10-742. Short title. Sections 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 may be cited as the "Controlled Allocation of Liability Act".

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-743. Orphan share state special revenue account — reimbursement of claims — payment of department costs. (1) There is an orphan share account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102 that is to be administered by the department. Money in the account is available to the department by appropriation and, except as provided in subsections (9), (10), and (11), must be used to reimburse remedial action costs claimed pursuant to 75-10-742 through 75-10-751, to provide funding for the department of justice for investigations pursuant to its natural resource damage program, to pay costs incurred by the department in defending the orphan share, and to pay remedial action costs incurred by the department pursuant to subsection (12). Any amounts provided for investigations must be returned to the account, with interest, from the settlement proceeds of a claim made under the natural resource damage program within 30 days of receiving settlement proceeds.

(2) There must be deposited in the orphan share account:

(a) all penalties assessed pursuant to 75-10-750(12);

(b) funds received from the distribution of oil and natural gas production taxes pursuant to 15-36-331;

(c) unencumbered funds remaining in the abandoned mines state special revenue account;

(d) interest income on the account;

(e) funds received from settlements pursuant to 75-10-719(7); and

(f) funds received from reimbursement of the department's orphan share defense costs pursuant to subsection (6).

(3) If the orphan share account contains sufficient money, valid claims must be reimbursed subsequently in the order in which they were received by the department. If the orphan share account does not contain sufficient money to reimburse claims for completed remedial actions, a reimbursement may not be made and the orphan share account, the department, and the state are not liable for making any reimbursement for the costs. The department and the state are not liable for any penalties if the orphan share account does not contain sufficient money to reimburse claims, and interest may not accrue on outstanding claims.

(4) Except as provided in subsections (6) and (7), claims may not be submitted and remedial action costs may not be reimbursed from the orphan share account until all remedial actions, except for operation and maintenance, are completed at a facility.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6), reimbursement from the orphan share account must be limited to actual documented remedial action costs incurred after the date of a petition provided for in 75-10-745. Reimbursement may not be made for attorney fees, legal costs, or operation and maintenance costs.

(6) (a) The department's costs incurred in defending the orphan share must be paid by the persons participating in the allocation under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 in proportion to their allocated shares. The orphan share account is responsible for a portion of the department's costs ncurred in defending the orphan share in proportion to the orphan share's allocated share, as follows:

(i) If sufficient funds are available in the orphan share account, the department's costs incurred in defending the orphan share must be paid from the orphan share account in proportion to the share of liability allocated to the orphan share.

(ii) If sufficient funds are not available in the orphan share account, persons participating n the allocation under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 shall pay all the orphan share's allocated share of the department's costs incurred in defending the orphan share in proportion to each person's allocated share of liability.

(b) A person who pays the orphan share's proportional share of costs has a claim against the orphan share account and must be reimbursed as provided in subsection (3).

(c) A state agency that is liable for remedial action costs incurred has a claim against the orphan share account and must be reimbursed as provided in subsection (3). The agency may submit a claim before or after remedial action is complete. Reimbursement may not be made for attorney fees, legal costs, or operation and maintenance costs. The agency may be reimbursed only after:

(i) its liability has been determined pursuant to 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 or by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(ii) it has received a notice letter pursuant to 75-10-711; and

(iii) the department has approved the costs.

(7) (a) If the lead liable person under 75-10-746 presents evidence to the department that the person cannot complete the remedial actions without partial reimbursement and that a delay in reimbursement will cause undue financial hardship on the person, the department may allow the submission of claims and may reimburse the claims prior to the completion of

all remedial actions. A person is not eligible for early reimbursement unless the person is in substantial compliance with all department-approved remedial action plans.

(b) The department may reimburse claims from a lead liable person upon completion and department approval of a report evaluating the nature and extent of contamination and a report formulating and evaluating final remediation alternatives. This early reimbursement is limited to those eligible costs incurred by the lead liable person for the preparation of the reports.

(8) A person participating in the allocation process who received funds under the mixed funding pilot program provided for in sections 14 through 20, Chapter 584, Laws of 1995, may not claim or receive reimbursement from the orphan share account for the amount of funds received under the mixed funding pilot program that are later attributed to the orphan share under the allocation process.

(9) (a) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2005, up to $1.25 million may be used by the department to pay the costs incurred by the department in contracting for evaluating the extent of contamination and formulating final remediation alternatives for releases at the Kalispell pole and timber, reliance refinery company, and Yale oil corporation facility complex. If the department spends less than $1.25 million for those purposes, the remaining funds must be spent for remediation of the facility complex. The department may not seek recovery of the $1.25 million from potentially liable persons.

(b) The money spent pursuant to subsection (9)(a) must be credited against the amount owed by the state agency in a judgment or settlement agreement for payment of the remedial action costs at the facility for which the money was spent.

(10) (a) The department shall transfer from the orphan share account to the long-term or perpetual water treatment permanent trust fund provided for in 82-4-367 $1.2 million in each fiscal year until the board of investments makes the certification pursuant to subsection (10)(b) of this section.

(b) (i) The board of investments shall monitor the long-term or perpetual water treatment permanent trust fund provided for in 82-4-367 to determine when the amount of money in the long-term or perpetual water treatment permanent trust fund will be sufficient, with future earnings, to provide a fund balance of $19.3 million on January 1, 2018.

(ii) When the board of investments makes the determination pursuant to subsection (10)(b)(i), the board of investments shall notify the department and certify to the department the amount of money, if any, that must be transferred during the fiscal year in which the board of investments makes its determination pursuant to subsection (10)(b)(i) in order to provide a fund balance of $19.3 million on January 1, 2018.

(iii) In the fiscal year that the board of investments makes its determination and notifies the department, the department shall transfer only the amount certified by the board of investments, if any, and may not make additional transfers during subsequent fiscal years.

(c) After July 1, 2018, the department shall transfer $1.2 million in each fiscal year from the orphan share state special revenue account to the environmental quality protection fund provided in 75-10-704.

(11) The orphan share account is subject to legislative fund transfers.

(12) Except as provided in subsection (13), the department may use the orphan share account to:

(a) take remedial action at a facility where there has been a release or there is a substantial threat of a release into the environment that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment and there is no readily apparent person who is financially viable and potentially liable under 75-10-715 to conduct the remedial action; or

(b) fund the administration of data collection, the monitoring of the performance of remedial action, and the initial assessment of a facility to determine whether that facility may be closed or delisted.

(13) The department may not use for data collection, initial assessments, or monitoring pursuant to subsection (12)(b) more than 20% of the funds appropriated from the orphan share account for the bienniums beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2025. For the bienniums beginning July 1, 2025, no more than 15% of the funds appropriated from the orphan

share account may be used for data collection, initial assessments, or monitoring pursuant to subsection (12)(b).

(14) The department shall report annually to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210 the amount of funds from the orphan share account used pursuant to subsection (12), the type of expenditures made, and the identity and location of facilities addressed. *(Subsection (10)(c) terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 5, Ch. 387, L. 2015.)*

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 51, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 460, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 20, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 522, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 278, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 355, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 425, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 432, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 312, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 387, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 351, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Prohibited payments, Art. VIII, sec. 14, Mont. Const.

75-10-744. Eligibility — statute of limitations. (1) Except for a facility that is listed on the national priorities list pursuant to the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq., a facility listed on the priority list established pursuant to 75-10-702 is eligible for the allocation process under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751.

(2) Only liability for remedial action costs is eligible for allocation and reimbursement from the orphan share fund. Allocation of liability and reimbursement of costs for natural resource damages is not permitted under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751.

(3) Remedial action costs incurred prior to the date of the potentially liable person's written petition to the department as provided in 75-10-745 are not eligible for reimbursement from the orphan share fund.

(4) Only one allocation will be allowed for each facility unless:

(a) the department determines that an additional allocation is appropriate due to:

(i) the existence of more than one discrete unit of contamination at the facility;

(ii) the discovery of new releases after remedial actions at the facility are complete; or

(iii) other factors the department determines appropriate.

(b) all the liable or potentially liable persons under 75-10-715 agree in writing that an orphan share does not exist for the proposed allocation and either of the conditions in subsection (4)(a)(i) or (4)(a)(ii) is met.

(5) A liable or potentially liable person under 75-10-715 may not file a cost recovery or contribution action against any person participating in the allocation process provided for in 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 until the allocation process is complete. The statute of limitations on the filing of cost recovery or contribution actions is tolled from the first date of a petition for allocation on a facility until 30 days after the submittal of the allocation report provided for in 75-10-750, or until 30 days following the expiration of the time period for appeal or the final decision on appeal.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Statutes of limitations, Title 27, ch. 2.

75-10-745. Allocation of liability — process initiation. (1) For a facility at which the department has initiated a remedial action under 75-10-711 through the issuance of a notice letter prior to July 1, 1997, any person determined to be potentially liable under 75-10-715 may petition the department in writing to initiate the allocation process. The right to participate in the allocation process is waived if the written petition is not provided to the department prior to the completion of remedial actions, except for operation and maintenance, at the facility.

(2) For a facility at which the department has not initiated a remedial action through the issuance of a notice letter under 75-10-711, any person potentially liable under 75-10-715 who has received approval of a voluntary cleanup plan under 75-10-730 through 75-10-738 may petition the department in writing to initiate the allocation process. The right to participate in the allocation process is waived if the written petition is not provided to the department prior to the completion of remedial actions, except for operation and maintenance, at the facility.

(3) For a facility at which the department initiates a remedial action through the issuance of a notice letter under 75-10-711 after July 1, 1997, any person potentially liable under 75-10-715 may petition the department in writing within 60 days of the date of the notice letter to initiate

the allocation process. Any potentially liable person under 75-10-715 who does not provide a written petition to the department within this timeframe waives the right to participate in the allocation process and remains liable as provided in 75-10-715. The notice letter sent by the department must advise that a failure to petition the department for allocation as provided in this subsection will result in a waiver of the right to participate in the allocation process.

(4) The allocation process may be initiated and may proceed upon written petition of one or more potentially liable persons.

(5) Prior to the initiation of discovery as provided in 75-10-747, all persons who participate in the allocation process shall agree in writing that the allocator's decision is binding, subject only to the provisions of 75-10-750(9) and the appeal provisions of 75-10-751.

(6) All liable or potentially liable persons under 75-10-715 who do not participate in the allocation process under 75-10-742 through 75-10-751 remain liable as provided in 75-10-715.

(7) Upon receipt of a written petition under subsection (1) or (2) or when initiating actions at a facility without a prior notice letter under subsection (3), the department shall:

(a) make a diligent good faith effort to determine the identity of the person or persons liable for the release or threatened release; and

(b) issue notice letters to one or more of the persons it identifies as potentially liable under 75-10-715. If a person petitions the department to initiate the allocation process as provided for in subsection (8), the department shall issue notice letters or nomination letters pursuant to subsection (9) to the persons it identified as potentially liable under 75-10-715 who were not previously given notice.

(8) A person who receives a notice letter may, within 60 days from the date of the notice letter, petition the department in writing to participate in an allocation process and provide the department with the identity of other potentially liable persons under 75-10-715 who were not given notice by the department. When identifying additional potentially liable persons, the person given notice shall provide to the department a statement and credible evidence showing that there is a basis in law and fact to determine that the identified person is potentially liable under 75-10-715.

(9) Within 30 days of receipt of the information provided for in subsection (8), the department may issue a notice letter to an identified person whom the department determines is a potentially liable person under 75-10-715 or to a person whom the department identified in subsection (7) and who was not previously given notice. If the department does not issue a notice letter to an identified person, the department shall issue the person a nomination letter indicating that the person has been identified as potentially liable under 75-10-715. The nomination letter must state that the person has the right to participate in the allocation process and that if the person does not participate and is found liable, the person remains subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715. If the newly noticed or nominated person chooses to participate in the allocation process, the person shall provide a written petition of the person's intent to participate in the allocation process to the department within 30 days of the date of the notice or nomination letter. A failure to petition the department for allocation as provided in this subsection results in a waiver of the right to participate in the allocation process.

(10) If a person nominated under subsection (9) cannot be readily located, the department shall, within 30 days of receipt of the information provided for in subsection (8), publish one notice of the person's nomination, along with the information contained in a nomination letter under subsection (9), in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where all or a portion of the facility is located. The notice must state that the person has 30 days from the date of the notice to petition the department, in writing, to participate in the allocation process. A failure to petition the department for allocation as provided in this subsection results in a waiver of the right to participate in the allocation process.

(11) If one or more potentially liable persons petition in writing for an allocation process under subsection (1), (2), or (3) and the department determines that the facility has a potential orphan share, the department shall:

(a) publish a notice and brief description of the facility in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected and provide at least 30 days for submission of public comment on the identification of potentially liable persons under 75-10-715; and

(b) notify interested persons and the county commissioners of each county in which all or a portion of the facility is located and provide at least 30 days for submission of comments on the identification of potentially liable persons under 75-10-715.

(12) If a nominated person participates in the allocation and the person is assigned a zero share of liability by the allocator, that person's reasonable costs of participating in the allocation, including attorney fees, must be borne by the person who proposed the addition of the nominated person to the allocation.

(13) If the department anticipates that a facility may have an orphan share, the department shall represent the orphan share in the allocation process. If the state is a potentially liable person under 75-10-715, an agency or entity other than the department shall represent the state in the allocation process.

(14) Except as provided in subsection (15), whenever the department is involved in allocation processes on five facilities, other allocation processes may be stayed before the discovery stage provided in 75-10-747. Upon completion of an allocation provided in 75-10-750 or 75-10-751, execution of a stipulated agreement under 75-10-750, or a default to liability as provided in 75-10-715 for one of the five facilities, the department shall notify the potentially liable persons for the facility on the waiting list that has the earliest date of written petition. Discovery under 75-10-747 must begin within 10 days of department notification.

(15) A stay on the allocation process may not occur under subsection (14) if all persons participating in the allocation process agree in writing that there is no orphan share and that the state is not a potentially liable person under 75-10-715. The agreement is binding upon all noticed or nominated persons.

(16) If, after initiating the process, a potentially liable person elects to discontinue participation in the process, the person remains subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 415, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 266, L. 2009.

75-10-746. Emergency actions — remedial action requirements — designation of lead person — enforcement. (1) If the department determines that immediate response to an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or the environment is necessary to avoid substantial injury or damage to persons, property, or resources, the department may require any potentially liable person to take remedial actions without the prior written notice required by 75-10-711(3). The department has 30 days to comply with the notification requirements provided in 75-10-711(3) and 75-10-745 when requiring emergency remedial actions.

(2) Within 30 days of the issuance of the notice letters, the noticed persons shall designate a lead person who shall conduct remedial actions at the facility. Upon request of the noticed persons and for good cause shown, the department may grant a 30-day extension of time to identify the lead person.

(3) If the department determines that the identified lead person is financially or otherwise incapable of completing remedial actions required by the department, the department shall notify all noticed persons of this determination in writing and request that another lead person be designated within 15 days.

(4) The designated lead person shall undertake all remedial actions required by the department.

(5) If the noticed persons do not designate an approved lead person within the timeframes provided under subsection (2) or (3), the department shall designate a lead person to undertake required remedial actions.

(6) If the department finds that the lead person has not complied with the requirements of a notice letter, order, stipulated agreement, or any department-approved remedial action plan, the department shall notify all potentially liable persons of the noncompliance.

(7) If the noncompliance continues for 30 days after the date of the notice provided in subsection (6), the potentially liable persons have not demonstrated that the noncompliance is due to good cause, and the facility is a maximum or high-priority facility on the department's priority list established pursuant to 75-10-702, the department shall take one or more of the following actions:

(a) issue a unilateral order requiring the potentially liable persons to comply with the requirements of the notice letter, order, stipulated agreement, or department-approved remedial action plan;

(b) file a civil action as provided in 75-10-711;

(c) conduct the required remedial actions and seek cost recovery and penalties as provided in 75-10-711;

(d) file a cost recovery action as provided in 75-10-722; or

(e) void approval of the voluntary cleanup plan as provided in 75-10-736.

(8) If the noncompliance continues for 30 days after the date of the notice provided in subsection (6), the potentially liable persons have not demonstrated that the noncompliance is due to good cause, and the facility is not a maximum or high-priority facility on the department's priority list, the department may take one or more of the actions provided for in subsection (7).

(9) For purposes of subsections (7), (8), and (10), "good cause" means factors beyond a person's control that include severe weather conditions, third-party interference, an act of God, or an act of war. Before a person may claim good cause due to third-party interference, the person shall show that the person used reasonable efforts to obtain cooperation or compliance from the third party.

(10) If the lead person fails to comply with the requirements of a notice letter, order, stipulated agreement, or other department-approved remedial action plan, the facility and all noticed persons remain subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715 unless another person assumes the lead role in implementing the required remedial actions or the lead person can establish that the noncompliance is due to good cause.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 415, L. 1997.**

75-10-747. Discovery. (1) Each person participating in the allocation process for a facility may conduct discovery for a period of not more than 90 days from the date of the last notice or nomination letter. Discovery requests by each person participating in the allocation process, including the orphan share representative, are limited to the following unless otherwise agreed to by all persons participating in the allocation, including the orphan share representative:

(a) 5 1-day oral depositions not to exceed 8 hours each;

(b) 25 written interrogatories, including subparts;

(c) 50 requests for admission; and

(d) 50 requests for production of documents.

(2) The persons participating in the allocation process may extend the discovery period for up to 30 days if all persons agree to the extension in writing.

(3) Any participating person who is not responsive to discovery requests or who does not participate in the subsequent allocation proceeding and is allocated a share of liability remains subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 415, L. 1997.**

75-10-748. Preallocation negotiations. (1) After discovery pursuant to 75-10-747 closes, all persons participating in the allocation process shall conduct good faith settlement negotiations for a period of 30 days.

(2) The participating potentially liable persons may use an impartial mediator when conducting settlement negotiations.

(3) If a settlement is reached under subsection (1), the persons shall execute a stipulated agreement as provided in 75-10-750.

(4) If a stipulated agreement is not executed as provided in 75-10-750, the persons shall select an allocator as provided in 75-10-749.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 415, L. 1997.**

75-10-749. Allocator selection — payment of fees. (1) If the preallocation negotiations pursuant to 75-10-748 fail to produce a stipulated agreement within the timeframe provided in 75-10-748, the participating persons shall select an allocator within 30 days after the preallocation negotiations end. All participating persons shall agree on the selected allocator.

(2) Before selection or appointment as an allocator, a person shall disclose all conflicts of interest, including whether the allocator is or has been a relative, attorney, agent, employee, creditor, or contractor of, or in any manner is or has been interested financially or personally with, any person involved in the allocation.

(3) If the participating persons are unable to agree on an allocator within the required 30 days, one or more of the participating persons shall apply for judicial resolution, within 10 days,

to the district court in the county where the release occurred or where any potentially liable person under 75-10-715 resides or has a principal place of business or in the district court of the first judicial district. If an application to the district court is not made within 10 days, all persons remain subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715 and the allocation process ends.

(4) Upon selection or appointment of the allocator, the lead person shall advance, if required by the allocator, up to $5,000 toward the allocator's expenses. Any expenses accrued by the allocator for legal or technical expertise must be approved in advance by all the participating persons. The allocator's fees and reasonable expenses must be divided among the participating liable persons, except the orphan share, in proportion to their allocated shares. The orphan share fund established in 75-10-743 is not responsible for any portion of the allocator's fees and expenses.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-750. Allocating liability. (1) Upon selection or appointment, the allocator shall establish the process and schedule for determining the allocation, including the length and scope of any documents to be presented.

(2) The participating persons shall submit to the allocator and to each other a statement of position and exhibits of a factual nature. Each person's statement must identify the factors listed in subsection (5) that the person believes are relevant to allocation of liability for the facility.

(3) The allocator may convene the participating persons as the allocator believes necessary to clarify the facts and may pose additional questions, interview any person or the person's representative, and impose presumptions concerning missing information. The allocator may seek department assistance with information gathering pursuant to 75-10-707.

(4) The allocator may not engage in ex parte communications with any person or the person's representative.

(5) The allocator shall allocate each participating and nonparticipating person's share of liability based only on information presented or collected during the allocation process and, taking into account facility characteristics, shall apportion liability on a percentage basis according to the following factors:

(a) the extent to which the person caused the release of the hazardous or deleterious substance;

(b) the extent to which the person's contribution to the release of a hazardous or deleterious substance can be distinguished;

(c) the amount or volume of hazardous or deleterious substance and the amount contributed by the person;

(d) the relative hazard of the hazardous or deleterious substance contributed by the person, including volatility, carcinogenicity, mobility, persistence, reactivity, and toxicity;

(e) the degree of past and present cooperation by the person with the government to prevent harm to the public health, safety, or welfare and the environment, including participation in remedial actions occurring concurrently with the allocation process and compliance and cooperation with discovery pursuant to 75-10-747;

(f) what the person knew or should have known of the hazardous nature of the substance, the risk associated with that substance, and proper waste disposal practices;

(g) the circumstances of the property acquisition, including the documented price paid and discounts granted;

(h) the person's knowledge of or acquiescence to waste generation, storage, handling, treatment, or disposal;

(i) the length of time of ownership, operation, generation, or transportation;

(j) any violations of or noncompliance with health and environmental regulations, including permit violations or violations relating to public notification;

(k) the degree to which a person providing publicly owned landfill or sewer and water systems had or has a reasonable ability to control disposed materials and the person's degree of care in maintaining those services;

(l) the person's financial or economic benefit from:

(i) ownership or operation of the facility;

(ii) the generation, transportation, or disposal of the hazardous or deleterious substance; and

(iii) cleanup of the facility;

(m) whether the person exercised due diligence in generating, transporting, or disposing of hazardous or deleterious substances and the person's control over those activities; and

(n) other equitable factors that are appropriate.

(6) Within 60 days of selection or appointment, the allocator shall submit to the department and all noticed and nominated persons a written allocation report that allocates each person's share of liability and that documents the rationale for the percentage of liability allocated to each person.

(7) The allocator or the participating persons may extend the allocation proceeding by up to 30 days if agreed to by the allocator and all the participating persons.

(8) Within 30 days of the date of the allocation report, the persons who participated in the allocation and who were allocated a share of liability, except for the orphan share, shall prepare and sign a stipulated agreement that contains:

(a) the percentage share of liability for each person as determined by the allocator;

(b) procedures for paying for the orphan share prior to reimbursement from the orphan share fund;

(c) a waiver of contribution rights against all persons who are potentially liable for the remedial action as well as a waiver of any rights to challenge any settlement that the department enters into with any other potentially liable person;

(d) covenants not to sue and provisions regarding performance or adequate assurance of performance of remedial actions;

(e) how remedial actions will be conducted;

(f) a penalty provision in accordance with subsection (12);

(g) acknowledgment of contribution protection, consistent with 75-10-719(1), regarding matters addressed in the settlement; and

(h) provisions detailing how the persons signing the stipulated agreement should receive reimbursement from the orphan share fund for any remedial action costs incurred by the persons in excess of their allocated share.

(9) If the department determines that the stipulated agreement does not satisfy the requirements of subsection (8), the liable persons who participated in the allocation remain subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715.

(10) A person who did not participate in the allocation but who was assigned a share of liability may sign the stipulated agreement prepared according to subsection (8).

(11) Any liable person allocated a share of liability who does not sign the stipulated agreement remains subject to liability as provided in 75-10-715.

(12) Any liable person who signs the stipulated agreement and fails to comply with the terms of the stipulated agreement shall pay, in addition to the person's share of remedial action costs, a penalty of two times the amount of the person's allocated share of liability. Any funds received must be applied to the facility's orphan share and any funds in excess of the facility's orphan share amount must be deposited in the orphan share fund established under 75-10-743.

(13) If a liable person becomes bankrupt or defunct after the stipulated agreement is signed and before remedial actions are complete at the facility, that person's share of liability becomes an orphan share.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-751. Appeal of allocator's decision. (1) A person may appeal the allocator's decision to district court within 30 days of the date of the allocation report. Venue lies in the county where the release occurred or where the liable person resides or has a principal place of business or in the first judicial district.

(2) The allocator's decision must be upheld unless the person appealing the decision demonstrates that the decision was:

(a) made upon unlawful procedure;

(b) affected by other error of law;

(c) clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence on the whole record; or

(d) arbitrary and capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion or was fraudulent.

(3) If the appeal is successful, the district court shall allocate the liability of the potentially liable persons using the factors outlined in 75-10-750.

(4) After decision on the appeal, all liable persons shall submit a stipulated agreement as provided in 75-10-750 to the department based on the court order.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-752. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 368, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 415, L. 1997.

75-10-753 through 75-10-755 reserved.

75-10-756. Prohibition of covenant not to sue — exceptions. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), a person may not include a covenant not to sue in a contract with a property owner for remedial action of a listed site.

(2) A contract between a property owner and a person conducting a remedial action on a listed site may, by mutual agreement, include a covenant not to sue if the person conducting the remedial action has:

(a) provided the property owner with a copy of a plan approved by the department or the United States environmental protection agency describing all of the remedial actions that will occur on the property owner's land; and

(b) held a public meeting in the county where the listed site is located to collect public comment on the remedial action plan.

(3) This section does not apply to contracts or access agreements in which remuneration of at least $1,000 is a part of the contract or access agreement.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(b) "Listed site" means one or more tracts of land, buildings, structures, or other facilities containing a hazardous or deleterious substance that have been listed by the department pursuant to this part or placed on the national priorities list pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 2009.

75-10-757. Civil penalty. (1) A district court may assess a civil penalty of not more than $1,000 per day upon a person that violates the provisions of 75-10-756.

(2) An action under this section is not a bar to enforcement by injunction or other appropriate civil remedy.

(3) The penalty provided for in subsection (1) is recoverable in an action brought by the property owner. The action must be filed in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 368, L. 2009.

Part 8
Integrated Waste Management

Part Cross-References

Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.
Energy-related and ecological tax incentives, Title 15, ch. 32.
Notice of motor oil recycling center, 75-10-1101.

75-10-801. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Integrated Waste Management Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1991.

75-10-802. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Composting" means the controlled biological decomposition of organic matter into humus.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Integrated waste management" means the coordinated use of a priority of waste management methods, as specified in 75-10-804.

(4) "Postconsumer material" means only those paper products generated by a consumer that have served their intended end uses and have been separated or diverted from the solid waste stream.

(5) "Recycling" means all activities involving the collection of recyclable material, including but not limited to glass, paper, or plastic; the processing of recyclables to prepare them for resale; the marketing of recovered material for use in the manufacture of similar or different products; and the purchase of products containing recycled material.

(6) "Reuse" means using a product in its original form for a purpose that is similar to or different from the purpose for which it was originally designed.

(7) "Source reduction" means the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of a material or product, including packaging, to reduce its amount or toxicity before it enters the solid waste stream.

(8) "Special waste" means solid waste that has unique handling, transportation, or disposal requirements to ensure protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.

(9) "Waste reduction" means practices that decrease the weight, volume, or toxicity of material entering the solid waste management stream.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 2005.

75-10-803. Solid waste reduction goal and targets. (1) It is the goal of the state to reduce, through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting, the amount of solid waste that is generated by households, businesses, and governments and that is either disposed of in landfills or burned in an incinerator, as defined in 75-2-103.

(2) Targets for the rate of recycling and composting are:

(a) 17% of the state's solid waste referenced in subsection (1) by 2008;

(b) 19% of the state's solid waste referenced in subsection (1) by 2011; and

(c) 22% of the state's solid waste referenced in subsection (1) by 2015.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 2005.

75-10-804. Integrated waste management priorities. It is the policy of the state to plan for and implement an integrated approach to solid waste management, which must be based upon the following order of priority:

(1) source reduction;

(2) reuse;

(3) recycling;

(4) composting; and

(5) landfill disposal or incineration.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 62, L. 2005.

75-10-805. State government waste reduction and recycling program. (1) In order to progress toward achieving the waste reduction targets identified in 75-10-803, each state agency, the legislature, and the university system shall:

(a) prepare a waste reduction and recycling plan to reduce the solid waste generated by state government. This plan must be submitted to the department and must include, at a minimum, provisions for the composting of yard wastes and the recycling of office and computer paper, cardboard, used motor oil, used oil filters, and other materials produced by the state for which recycling markets exist or may be developed.

(b) establish and implement a waste reduction and recycling program; and

(c) apply computer technology to reduce the generation of waste paper through:

(i) the use of digital access systems;

(ii) the transfer of information in electronic rather than paper form; and

(iii) other applications of computer technology.

(2) The plan must be evaluated every 5 years and updated as necessary.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 440, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 62, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 365, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 29, Ch. 365, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

75-10-806. State government procurement of recycled supplies and materials. (1) The department of administration shall write purchasing specifications that incorporate requirements for the purchase of materials and supplies made from recycled materials if the use is technologically practical and reasonably cost-effective. These requirements must be incorporated into the purchase of:

(a) paper and paper products;

(b) plastic and plastic products;

(c) glass and glass products;

(d) automobile and truck tires;

(e) motor oil and lubricants; and

(f) other materials and supplies as determined by the department of administration.

(2) It is the goal of the state that 95% of the paper and paper products used by state agencies, universities, and the legislature must be made from recycled material that maximizes postconsumer material content.

(3) The state shall, to the maximum extent possible, purchase for use by state agencies paper and paper products that contain postconsumer material rather than new material.

(4) To the extent practical, guidelines for the recycled material content of paper should be consistent with nationwide standards for recycled paper.

(5) The department and the department of administration shall establish a joint recycling market development task force. Task force membership must include but is not limited to representatives of the recycling industry, wholesalers, state agencies, and citizen and environmental organizations, as well as other interested persons. The task force shall:

(a) assist the department of administration in developing purchasing specifications as required in subsection (1);

(b) develop additional mechanisms for state government to develop markets for recycled materials;

(c) identify procurement barriers that discriminate against the purchase of supplies and products that contain recycled material; and

(d) develop recommendations for an informational program designed to educate state employees on how to reduce waste and recycle in the workplace.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 271, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

75-10-807. Requirement to prepare and implement state solid waste management and resource recovery plan. (1) As a basis for developing an integrated waste management program and ensuring adequate disposal capacity, the department shall prepare, adopt, and implement a state solid waste management and resource recovery plan in accordance with 75-10-111 and this part.

(2) The plan must be comprehensive and integrated and must include at least the following elements:

(a) a capacity assurance element that identifies existing disposal capacity, estimates waste generation rates, and determines the disposal capacity needed for the future and that assesses the potential effect of interstate disposal on capacity;

(b) an element that incorporates federal regulations 40 CFR, parts 257 and 258;

(c) an element that identifies the role of each of the components of the integrated waste management priorities contained in 75-10-804;

(d) a technology assessment element that assesses the availability and practicality of alternative technologies for solid waste management;

(e) an education and public information element that identifies existing education and information programs and describes how the state will increase the awareness and cooperation of the public in environmentally safe solid waste management;

(f) a special waste and household hazardous waste element that identifies types and quantities of wastes that create special disposal problems and recommends methods for reducing, handling, collecting, transporting, and disposing of those wastes and that identifies existing and future strategies for managing those wastes;

(g) an element that identifies the needs of rural communities and management strategies to address those needs;

(h) an element that identifies mechanisms to ensure proper training of landfill operators; and

(i) a timeline and implementation strategy for each of the plan elements.

(3) The plan must be evaluated every 5 years and updated as necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 222, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 62, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 54, L. 2007.**

Part 9
Megalandfill Siting Act
(Repealed)

75-10-901. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-902. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 361, L. 2003.**

75-10-903. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 338, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 530, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

75-10-904 and 75-10-905 reserved.

75-10-906. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-907. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-908. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-909. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-910. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-911 and 75-10-912 reserved.

75-10-913. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 206, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

75-10-914. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-915 reserved.

75-10-916. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-917. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-918. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 483, L. 2001.**

75-10-919. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 18, L. 1995.**

75-10-920. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 54, L. 2007.**

75-10-921. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 338, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 531, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

75-10-922. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 337, L. 2005.**

75-10-923. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-924. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 468, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 487, L. 1997.**

75-10-925. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-926. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-927. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-928. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-929. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-930. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-931 and 75-10-932 reserved.

75-10-933. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-934. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-935. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-936 and 75-10-937 reserved.

75-10-938. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-939. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 30, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-940. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 31, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-941. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 32, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-942. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-943. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-944. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 35, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-945. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 36, Ch. 468, L. 1991.**

75-10-946 through 75-10-949 reserved.

75-10-950. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 338, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 208, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 532, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995.**

75-10-951. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 541, L. 1991.**

75-10-952. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 541, L. 1991.**

75-10-953. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 541, L. 1991.

75-10-954. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 366, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 541, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

Part 10
Infectious Waste Management Act

Part Cross-References
Report of unprotected exposure to disease, 50-16-702.

75-10-1001. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Infectious Waste Management Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 483, L. 1991.

75-10-1002. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana by developing and implementing infectious waste management policies that are reasonable, cost-effective, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally acceptable.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 483, L. 1991.

75-10-1003. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:
(1) "Disposal" or "dispose" has the meaning provided in 75-10-203.
(2) "Generate" or "generation" means to produce infectious waste.
(3) "Infectious" means capable of producing disease. To be infectious, the following four factors simultaneously must be present:
(a) virulence, which is the ability of microorganisms to cause disease;
(b) dose, which is microorganisms in a quantity sufficient to cause infection;
(c) portal of entry, which is an opening or route of access into a human body; and
(d) host susceptibility, which means the host's natural resistance is incapable of preventing infection.
(4) "Infectious waste" means waste capable of producing infectious disease. Infectious waste includes but is not limited to:
(a) cultures and stocks of infectious agents and associated biologicals;
(b) human pathological waste, including tissues, organs, and body parts removed during surgery or an autopsy;
(c) free-flowing waste human blood and products of blood, including serum, plasma, and other blood components and items soaked or saturated with blood; and
(d) sharps that have been used in patient care, medical research, or industrial laboratories.
(5) "Intermediate point" means a place where infectious waste is not treated or disposed of.
(6) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town, local government entity, federal agency, or any other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.
(7) "Sharps" means any discarded health care article that may cause punctures or cuts, including but not limited to:
(a) broken glass that may be contaminated with blood;
(b) needles; and
(c) scalpel blades.
(8) "Steam sterilization" means a treatment method for infectious waste using saturated steam within a pressure vessel (known as a steam sterilizer, autoclave, or retort) at a time, for a period of time, and at a temperature sufficient to kill infectious agents within the waste.
(9) "Storage" or "store" means to hold for a temporary period.
(10) "Transport" or "transportation" means to move infectious waste from the point of generation to any intermediate point or to the point of ultimate treatment or disposal.
(11) "Treat" or "treatment" means to apply a method, technique, or process, including incineration, designed to render infectious waste sterile.
History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 483, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 209, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 97, L. 2007.

75-10-1004. Prohibition. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person may not generate, treat, store, transport, or dispose of infectious waste in a manner not authorized under the provisions of this part or rules adopted under the provisions of this part.

(2) The prohibition in subsection (1) does not apply to the generation of infectious waste by an individual in reasonable association with the individual's household operations.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 483, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 97, L. 2007.

75-10-1005. Management standards — procedures for storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal. (1) Infectious waste must be separated from ordinary waste at the point of origin and stored until the waste is rendered noninfectious in separate, distinct containers with biohazard warning labels in compliance with the following procedures:

(a) Sharps must be contained for storage, transportation, treatment, and subsequent disposal in leakproof, rigid, puncture-resistant containers that must be taped closed or capped securely to prevent loss of contents.

(b) Infectious waste other than sharps must be contained in moisture-proof disposable containers or bags of a strength sufficient to prevent ripping, tearing, or bursting under normal conditions of use. The bags must be securely tied to prevent leakage or expulsion of solid or liquid wastes during storage, handling, and transportation.

(2) To inhibit the spread of infectious agents, infectious waste must be stored prior to treatment in a secured area that prevents access by unauthorized personnel and must be clearly marked or labeled as infectious.

(3) Handling of infectious waste must be done in a manner to prevent compaction or other mechanical manipulation that might cause the release of infectious agents.

(4) (a) Treatment and disposal of infectious waste must be accomplished through the following methods:

(i) incineration with complete combustion that reduces infectious waste to carbonized or mineralized ash;

(ii) steam sterilization that renders infectious waste noninfectious; or

(iii) sterilization by standard chemical techniques or by any scientifically proven techniques approved by state and federal authorities.

(b) Liquid or semisolid infectious waste may be discharged into a sewer system that provides secondary treatment or into a primary treatment sewage system if waste is first sterilized by chemical treatment. A subsurface disposal system installed and operated in accordance with state or local sanitary regulations is, for the purpose of this subsection (b), a sewer system providing secondary treatment.

(c) Fetal remains or recognizable body parts other than teeth must be disposed of by incineration or interment.

(5) If infectious waste has been rendered noninfectious by one of the methods listed in subsection (4) and is no longer biologically hazardous, it may be mixed with and disposed of with ordinary waste in the following manner:

(a) Steam-sterilized waste must be labeled identifying it as such with heat sensitive tape or bagged in marked autoclavable bags.

(b) Chemically treated waste or waste otherwise treated under subsection (4)(a)(iii) must be appropriately labeled.

(6) Infectious waste may be transported by the generator, a municipal solid waste service, or a regulated commercial hauler to an offsite treatment facility if the waste is confined in a leakproof, noncompacting, fully enclosed vehicle compartment.

(7) (a) Infectious waste that has been treated by one of the methods in subsection (4) may be disposed of in a properly operated landfill licensed under 75-10-221.

(b) Untreated infectious waste may be disposed of at a licensed, properly operated landfill until April 1, 1993, if it is buried in a separate area without compaction and with minimum disturbance.

(8) An employee who handles or manages infectious waste must receive training provided by the employer that is adequate to ensure safe performance of duties.

(9) Generators and transporters of infectious waste shall develop a contingency plan to handle spills and equipment failure.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 483, L. 1991.

75-10-1006. Generation licensing and regulation — rulemaking authority. (1) A person that is required to obtain a license from a board or department of the state to operate a health care facility, as defined in 50-5-101, or to engage in a profession or occupation:

(a) may not generate infectious waste, store infectious waste at a place where infectious waste is generated, or transport infectious waste from the point of generation to an intermediate point without a license; and

(b) shall comply with the rules adopted under this part by the board or department responsible for licensing that person.

(2) A board or department of the state that issues a license to a person that generates infectious waste:

(a) shall adopt rules to implement this part governing the following activities by a licensee:

(i) generation of infectious waste;

(ii) storage of infectious waste at a place where infectious waste is generated;

(iii) transportation of infectious waste from the place of generation to an intermediate point; and

(b) may impose and adjust annual fees commensurate with the costs of regulation.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 483, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 97, L. 2007.**

75-10-1007. Criminal penalty. A person who violates this part or a rule adopted pursuant to this part is guilty of a misdemeanor. Absolute liability, as provided for in 45-2-104, is imposed for a violation of this part or a rule adopted under this part.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

Part 11
Notice of Motor Oil Recycling Center

75-10-1101. Waste oil notice. (1) Each retailer and wholesaler offering motor oil for sale shall visibly display at an appropriate location within the retail store or wholesale outlet a sign indicating the location of the nearest waste oil recycling collection center if the center is within 25 miles of the retailer or wholesaler.

(2) The department of environmental quality shall design an oil recycling sign to be used by retailers and wholesalers. The department may establish the specifications for the sign by rule.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 623, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 210, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

Part 12
Septage Disposal — Licensure

Part Cross-References

Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.

75-10-1201. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of septage into or onto the land or water.

(4) "Domestic sewage" means waste and wastewater from humans or household operations that are discharged to or otherwise enter a treatment works.

(5) "Industrial wastewater" means wastewater generated in a commercial or industrial process.

(6) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, city, town, local government entity, or other government or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(7) (a) "Septage" means liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable toilet, or similar treatment works that receives only domestic sewage.

(b) Septage does not include material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, or similar treatment works that receives industrial wastewater and does not include grease removed from a grease trap at a restaurant.

(8) "Treatment works" means a publicly owned or privately owned device or system used to treat, including to recycle and to reclaim, either domestic sewage or a combination of domestic sewage and industrial waste of a liquid nature.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1999.

75-10-1202. Department rulemaking authority. Except as provided in subsection (4), the department shall adopt rules governing the licensure of a person engaged in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, and privies or disposing of septage. The rules must provide:
(1) procedures for issuance, denial, renewal, and revocation of licenses;
(2) requirements that provide for the sanitary disposal of septage, including:
(a) application of septage to agricultural land, forest land, and reclamation sites;
(b) standards governing rates of application pursuant to subsection (2)(a);
(c) land application standards and restrictions, including:
(i) pathogen restrictions and treatment requirements;
(ii) vector attraction reduction requirements;
(iii) frequency of monitoring; and
(iv) recordkeeping requirements; and
(3) surface disposal standards, including:
(a) the vector attraction reduction requirements for septage placed on an active sewage sludge unit;
(b) the frequency of monitoring required when septage is placed on an active sewage sludge unit;
(c) the recordkeeping required when septage is placed on a surface disposal site; and
(d) requirements for the disposal of waste from:
(i) cesspools, septic tanks, portable toilets, and other similar treatment works that receive industrial wastewater or grease removed from grease traps; and
(ii) grease traps.
(4) The department may not adopt rules pertaining to the business operations of persons engaged in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, and privies or disposing of septage, including the fees charged for cleaning or leasing portable toilets.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-10-1203. Special revenue account. There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account must be used to fund administration and enforcement of this part. The department shall use $50 of each license fee collected under 75-10-1212 to provide training and education for those licensed under this part.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 378, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2005.

Cross-References

State treasury fund and account structure, 17-2-102.
Public nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30, part 2.
Private nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30, part 3.

75-10-1204 through 75-10-1209 reserved.

75-10-1210. License required — exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person may not engage in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, or privies or dispose of septage unless licensed by the department.
(2) An owner or lessee of property from which septage is removed may dispose of that septage on that person's property if:
(a) the person pumps the septage with the person's equipment or retains a person licensed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) to pump the septage; and
(b) the disposal does not violate disposal restrictions or rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-1202 or create a nuisance or public health hazard.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 378, L. 1999.

75-10-1211. Application for license. An application for a license must be made to the department on forms provided by the department. The application must contain:
(1) the full name and business address of the applicant;

(2) a list of the counties in which business is to be conducted and a list of disposal sites that the applicant intends to use during the permit year;

(3) for each disposal site listed pursuant to subsection (2), a certification by a local health officer or the local health officer's designated representative in the county in which the disposal site is located that the site meets all applicable state and local requirements;

(4) written permission to use each proposed disposal site signed by the owner, manager, or other person authorized to give permission to use the disposal site; and

(5) any additional information required by rule.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 378, L. 1999.

75-10-1212. License term, renewal, and fees. (1) A license expires on December 31 of each calendar year. A license is renewable in accordance with procedures established in rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-1202 and upon receipt of the application provided for in subsection (2) of this section. A license is not transferable. If a person ceases to do business, the license terminates and the license must be returned to the department.

(2) An application for renewal of a license must be made on a form provided by the department. The application must contain:

(a) the full name and address of the licensee;

(b) a list of counties in which business is to be conducted during the renewal term;

(c) a list of disposal sites that the licensee intends to use during the renewal term;

(d) for each disposal site listed pursuant to subsection (2)(c) but not previously listed by the licensee for the year immediately preceding the renewal year:

(i) a certification by the local health officer or the local health officer's representative in the county in which the disposal site is located that the site meets all applicable state and local requirements; and

(ii) written permission to use the site signed by the owner, manager, or other person authorized to give permission to use the site; and

(e) any additional information required by the department by rule.

(3) The fee for a license, including renewal of a license, is $300, payable to the department at the time of application for the license or renewal. A federal agency, city, town, county, or other political subdivision is not required to pay the license fee. A city, town, county, or other political subdivision, including a federal agency if allowed by federal law, shall comply with all other requirements of this part. The department shall annually return $50 of each license fee to the county where the fee was collected. The state portion of the fee must be deposited in the account provided for in 75-10-1203. The county portion of the fee must be used to defer the cost of the county to enforce this part.

(4) In addition to the license fee required under subsection (3), the department shall collect a late fee from any person that has failed to submit a license fee between January 31 and April 1 of a renewal year and that operates a business governed by this part in the renewal year. The late fee is $125 and must be deposited in the account provided for in 75-10-1203. The late fee is the exclusive remedy for the late payment of a renewal fee.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 378, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 2005.

75-10-1213 through 75-10-1219 reserved.

75-10-1220. Injunction. (1) The department may sue to enjoin the operation or maintenance of a septage collection or disposal operation until compliance with this part, the rules of the department, or an order issued pursuant to this part has been demonstrated.

(2) Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county in which a septage collection or disposal operation is located may petition the district court to enjoin further operation or maintenance of the septage collection or disposal operation.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 378, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-10-1221. Department revocation or denial of license. The department may deny or revoke a license after giving the applicant written notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the board. The decision to deny or revoke a license may be made only after a finding that a business or disposal site cannot be operated or is not being operated in compliance with this part or a rule or order issued pursuant to this part. The hearing held before the board on a denial or revocation must be held pursuant to the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 378, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-10-1222. Administrative enforcement. (1) If the department believes that a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order issued under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation, by certified mail, on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part, the rule, or the condition of approval alleged to have been violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation. The notice must include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time. The time period must be stated in the order. Service is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) If the alleged violator does not request a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of service, the order is final. Failure to comply with a final order may subject the violator to an action commenced pursuant to 75-10-1221.

(3) If the alleged violator requests a hearing before the board within 30 days of the date of service, the board shall schedule a hearing. After the hearing is held, the board may:

(a) affirm or modify the department's order issued under subsection (1) if the board finds that a violation has occurred; or

(b) rescind the department's order if the board finds that a violation has not occurred.

(4) An order issued by the department or the board may set a date by which the violation must cease and set a time limit for the violator to correct the violation.

(5) (a) An action initiated by the department under this section may include an administrative penalty not to exceed $500 for each day of violation. Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the account provided for in 75-10-1203.

(b) Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(6) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing under this section.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 378, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 487, L. 2005.**

75-10-1223. Penalties and fines. (1) A person who disposes of septage in violation of 75-10-1210 or of the standards adopted pursuant to 75-10-1202 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed $500.

(2) (a) A person who violates this part or a rule or order adopted pursuant to this part is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $500. Each day that violation of this part, a rule of the department, or an order issued pursuant to this part occurs constitutes a separate violation. The department or the county attorney of the county in which the violation occurred may file an action to collect the penalty.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (2) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001. An action to recover penalties must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(3) Penalties collected by the department under this section must be deposited in the environmental rehabilitation and response account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 75-1-110. Fines and penalties collected by a county must be deposited in the general fund of the county.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 378, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 338, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 535, L. 2021.**

Part 13

Methamphetamine Contamination — Indoor Property Decontamination Standards

75-10-1301. Finding and purpose. The legislature finds that some properties are being contaminated with hazardous chemical residues created by the manufacture of methamphetamine or the smoke from the use of methamphetamine. Innocent members of the public may be harmed when they are unknowingly exposed to these residues if the properties are not decontaminated prior to any subsequent rental, sale, or use of the properties. Remediation of properties has been frustrated by the lack of a decontamination standard. The purpose of this part is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by providing specific cleanup standards and authorizing the department to establish a voluntary program that will provide for a property decontamination process that will meet state standards.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 461, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 2021.

75-10-1302. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) (a) "Inhabitable property" means any building or structure used as a clandestine methamphetamine drug lab or that has been contaminated from smoke from the use of methamphetamine that is intended to be primarily occupied by people, either as a dwelling or a business, including a storage facility, mobile home, or recreational vehicle, that may be sold, leased, or rented for any length of time.

(b) The term does not mean any water system, sewer system, land, or water outside of a building or structure described in subsection (2)(a).

(3) "Surface material" means any porous or nonporous substance common to the interior of a building or structure, including but not limited to ceilings and walls, window coverings, floors and floor coverings, counters, furniture, heating and cooling duct work, and any other surfaces to which inhabitants of the building or structure may be exposed.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 461, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2021.

75-10-1303. Decontamination standards — rulemaking authority — samples. (1) The decontamination standard for methamphetamine inside inhabitable property is less than or equal to 1.5 micrograms of methamphetamine per 100 square centimeters of surface material unless a different standard is adopted by the department by rule to protect human health. The department may adopt standards by rule for precursors to methamphetamine that are consistent with the standard for methamphetamine.

(2) (a) The department may by rule establish the number and locations of surface material samples to be collected based on the circumstances of the contamination and acceptable testing methods.

(b) In the absence of a rule described in subsection (2)(a), at least three samples must be collected from the surface material most likely to be contaminated at each property.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 461, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 93, L. 2021.

75-10-1304. Contractor certification — department authority. (1) The department is authorized to establish by rule minimum standards for the training and certification of contractors and their employees who are to perform the assessment or remediation of inhabitable property contaminated by methamphetamine residues.

(2) The department may train and test or may approve courses to train and test contractors and their employees in the proper methods of assessing, remediating, and testing inhabitable property contaminated by methamphetamine residues. If the department conducts the training and testing of contractors and their employees, it may adopt rules to provide for the assessment of reasonable fees to cover the state's costs of providing the training and testing.

(3) The department shall establish by rule procedures for the certification of contractors and their employees, including procedures for the decertification of contractors and their employees for cause. The rules may provide for the assessment of reasonable fees to cover the cost of the contractor certification program.

(4) Any contractor and the contractor's employees certified to perform the remediation of inhabitable property in any other state are approved for certification in Montana unless the department determines that the certification process in the other state is not substantially similar to the minimum certification standards established by the department.

(5) The department shall maintain a list of certified contractors and shall make the list available to local health officials, law enforcement officials, and the public.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 461, L. 2005.

75-10-1305. Occupant notice by owner of inhabitable property — immunity. (1) An owner of inhabitable property that is known by the owner to have been used as a clandestine methamphetamine drug lab or that has been contaminated from smoke from the use of methamphetamine shall notify in writing any subsequent occupant or purchaser of the inhabitable property of that fact if the inhabitable property has not been remediated to the standards established in 75-10-1303 by a contractor who is certified in accordance with 75-10-1304.

(2) An owner or an owner's agent referred to in subsection (1) may provide notice to a subsequent occupant or purchaser that the owner or the owner's agent has submitted:

(a) documentation to the department by a contractor who is certified pursuant to 75-10-1304 that the inhabitable property has been remediated to the standards established in 75-10-1303; or

(b) documentation by a certified contractor that the property meets the decontamination standards without decontamination.

(3) Notice as required or authorized in this section must occur before agreement to a lease or sale of the inhabitable property.

(4) If the department has confirmed that the decontamination standard provided for in 75-10-1303 has been met and if notice has been given as provided in subsections (2) and (3), the owner and the owner's agent are not liable in any action brought by a person who has been given notice that is based on the presence of methamphetamine in an inhabitable property.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 461, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 93, L. 2021.

75-10-1306. Reporting requirements. (1) Whenever a state or local law enforcement agency becomes aware that an inhabitable property has been contaminated by its use as a clandestine methamphetamine drug lab, the agency shall report the contamination to the department and to the local health officer.

(2) The department shall maintain a list of inhabitable property that has been reported as contaminated, and the list must be made available to the public through a website except as provided in subsection (3).

(3) Upon confirmation by the department that an inhabitable property has been properly remediated to the standards established in 75-10-1303 or that the inhabitable property meets the decontamination standards without decontamination, the department shall remove the inhabitable property from the list required in subsection (2). The department shall provide written notification to the local health officer and the property owner of record when the documentation shows that the inhabitable property has been properly assessed or remediated.

(4) The department may adopt rules establishing reasonable requirements for the sufficiency of documentation to be provided by a certified contractor.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, once an inhabitable property has been removed from the list required in subsection (2), a property owner, landlord, or real estate agent is not required to report or otherwise disclose the past contamination.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 461, L. 2005.

Part 14
Mine and Smelter Waste Remediation

75-10-1401. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) "Mine waste" means soil, rock, and other earthen materials excavated from a mine and slimes, tailings, dusts, sludges, or other waste products from the crushing, cleaning, milling, or beneficiation of ores or other mineral-bearing materials, including material that may have migrated from its original place of deposition by erosion or human transit, and that contain hazardous or deleterious substances.

(3) "Smelter waste" means cinders, clinker, slag, and other waste products from the reduction of ores by any means, including material that may have migrated from its original place of deposition by erosion, and that contain hazardous or deleterious substances.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1402. Remediation schedule. Except as provided in 75-10-1411, a person who undertakes a remedial action for the remediation of mine or smelter waste on property owned by someone other than the owner of the waste shall complete the remedial action in accordance with a schedule negotiated between the person completing the remedial action and the property owner and approved by the department.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1403. Remediation location. (1) Except as provided in 75-10-1411 and subsection (2) of this section, as part of a remedial action on property owned by another, mine and smelter waste may not be placed or remediated in place at a location within 200 feet of any mine excavation or opening.

(2) (a) The requirements of subsection (1) may be waived when, after review of an application by a person undertaking a remedial action, the department finds that the remedial action plan complies with Title 75, chapters 2, 5, and 10, and applicable rules.

(b) The person conducting the remedial action shall reimburse the department for costs incurred by the department under this section.

(c) Reimbursements must be deposited in the environmental rehabilitation and response account provided for in 75-1-110.

(3) The person conducting the remedial action must have the landowner's consent before taking action under this section.

(4) This section does not apply to facilities containing mine or smelter waste that are permitted under Title 82, chapter 4, or that were constructed prior to January 1, 2007.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1404. Minimum reclamation standards. (1) Except as provided in 75-10-1411, mine and smelter waste repositories constructed by persons undertaking a remedial action on property owned by another must be capped with a minimum of 24 inches of cover material, including a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil, and revegetated as provided in subsection (3).

(2) Except as agreed to by the person undertaking the remedial action and the property owner or as provided in 75-10-1411, locations where mine or smelter waste has been removed by a person undertaking a remedial action on property owned by someone other than the waste owner must be capped by a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil and revegetated as provided in subsection (3).

(3) Except as provided in 75-10-1411:

(a) mine and smelter waste repositories or lands where mine or smelter waste has been removed must be revegetated using plant species native to the area; and

(b) revegetated areas must achieve a vegetative cover equal to 85% of the vegetation cover of adjacent lands that were not previously disturbed within 3 years of the initial seeding.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1405. Remediation plan. (1) A person undertaking a remediation action for mine or smelter waste on property owned by someone other than the waste owner shall prepare and submit to the property owner a detailed, written plan describing the waste to be remediated and remedial actions to take place on the property.

(2) The property owner has a minimum of 30 days to review the plan. If the remediation is completed pursuant to 75-10-712 or 75-10-746, the review is not required.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1406 through 75-10-1409 reserved.

75-10-1410. Civil penalty. (1) A district court may assess a civil penalty upon a person who violates 75-10-1401 through 75-10-1405 of not more than $1,000 per day.

(2) An action under this section is not a bar to enforcement by injunction or other appropriate civil remedy.

(3) The penalty provided for in subsection (1) is recoverable in an action brought by the property owner and is payable to the property owner. The action must be filed in the district court of the county where the violation occurred.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

75-10-1411. Mine and smelter waste remediation — compliance with hazardous waste cleanup orders. This part does not apply to reclamation of an abandoned mine site pursuant to 82-4-371 or to the extent that the actions irreconcilably conflict with an order or plan approval issued by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 7, a corrective action order or permit issued pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 4, or a permit issued for reclamation of a mine site pursuant to Title 82, chapter 4, part 3.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 2009.

Part 15
Mercury-Added Thermostat Collection

75-10-1501. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Mercury-Added Thermostat Collection Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2009.

75-10-1502. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to facilitate the proper disposal of mercury-added thermostats.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 2009.

75-10-1503. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) "Manufacturer" means a business concern that owns or owned the name brand of a mercury-added thermostat sold in this state.

(3) (a) "Mercury-added thermostat" means a product or device that uses a mercury switch to sense and control room temperature through communication with heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning equipment in residential, commercial, industrial, or other buildings.

(b) The term does not include a thermostat used to sense and control temperature as part of a manufacturing process.

(4) "Out-of-service mercury-added thermostat" means a mercury-added thermostat that is removed from a building or facility and is intended to be discarded.

(5) "Program" means a system for the collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats that is financed, as well as managed or provided, by a manufacturer or collectively with other manufacturers.

(6) "Qualified contractor" means a person engaged in the business of installation, service, or removal of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components who employs seven or more service technicians or installers or who is located in areas outside of urban areas as defined by the United States bureau of the census.

(7) "Retailer" means a person who sells thermostats of any kind directly to a consumer through a selling or distribution mechanism, including but not limited to a sale using catalogs or the internet.

(8) (a) "Thermostat" means a product or device that uses a switch to sense and control room temperature through communication with heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning equipment in residential, commercial, industrial, and other buildings.

(b) The term does not include a product or device used to sense and control temperature as part of a manufacturing process.

(9) (a) "Wholesaler" means a person engaged in the distribution and wholesale selling of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components to contractors who install heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components and whose total wholesale sales account for 80% or more of total sales. The term may include a retailer.

(b) The term does not include a manufacturer.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 296, L. 2009.

75-10-1504. Prohibition on sale and installation of mercury-added thermostats — list. (1) After January 1, 2010, a person may not sell, offer for sale, or install a mercury-added thermostat in Montana.

(2) The department shall maintain a list on its website of manufacturers that are in compliance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 296, L. 2009.

75-10-1505. Manufacturer collection and recycling program — requirements. (1) By January 1, 2010, a manufacturer shall establish and maintain a program for out-of-service mercury-added thermostats in compliance with this part. A manufacturer may establish a program individually or collectively with other manufacturers. A manufacturer or a group of manufacturers operating a program collectively may contract with a retailer for collection of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats.

(2) A program for out-of-service mercury-added thermostats must meet the following requirements:

(a) Out-of-service mercury-added thermostats collected by the program must be collected, handled, and recycled in compliance with this part and rules adopted pursuant to 75-10-1509.

(b) The program shall provide collection bins for out-of-service mercury-added thermostat collection to wholesalers and qualified contractors at a nominal one-time administrative fee not to exceed $40 to offset the cost of each collection bin for each collection location.

(c) The program shall make available authorized recycling bins for out-of-service mercury-added thermostats at a nominal one-time administrative fee not to exceed $40 to offset the cost of each collection bin for each collection location to any local governmental entity that requests a bin for use at a household hazardous waste collection facility or event.

(d) The program shall either arrange for pickup of the collection bins provided pursuant to this section or pay for the costs of shipping the collection bins for proper handling and recycling in accordance with the program.

(e) The program shall develop educational and other outreach materials for contractors and homeowners and make those materials available at program collection locations. These materials may include, but are not limited to:

(i) signage that is prominently displayed and easily visible to consumers and contractors;

(ii) written materials and templates of materials for reproduction by retailers and wholesalers to be provided to the consumer at the time of purchase, delivery, or both purchase and delivery of a thermostat. The materials must include the proper management of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats and the locations of collection bins.

(iii) advertising or other promotional materials, or both, that include references to the collection locations; and

(iv) materials to be used in direct communications with the consumer and contractor at the time of purchase.

(f) The program shall provide nonfinancial incentives and education to contractors, service technicians, and homeowners to encourage the return of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats to established collection locations.

(g) The program shall encourage the purchase of thermostats that are programmable and increase energy efficiency as replacements for mercury-added thermostats.

(3) The department may order a manufacturer or a group of manufacturers operating a program to revise the program to comply with this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 296, L. 2009.

75-10-1506. Initial education and outreach — requirements. From April 17, 2009, through December 31, 2012, a manufacturer shall conduct initial education and outreach efforts, including but not limited to:

(1) the establishment of a public internet website. Templates of educational materials must be posted on the website in a format that can be easily downloaded. A link to the website must be provided to the department.

(2) methods used to engage other stakeholders, such as waste, demolition, heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning organizations, as well as appropriate state agencies and local governments, in securing support and participation in programs that encourage the proper management of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats;

(3) strategies to work with utilities participating in programs involving the replacement of thermostats to encourage their participation in the collection and proper management of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats. These strategies may include the inclusion of an educational insert in utility bills.

(4) contacting wholesalers and encouraging participation in educating customers on the proper management of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats; and

(5) strategies used to encourage support and participation by retailers and other outlets in educating consumers on the proper management of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 296, L. 2009.**

75-10-1507. Annual report — publication. (1) By April 1, 2011, and by April 1 of each succeeding year, a manufacturer shall submit an annual report to the department covering the previous calendar year. The annual reports must provide the department with the following:

(a) the number of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats collected by the program;

(b) the estimated total amount of mercury contained in the thermostat components collected by the program;

(c) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program;

(d) collection goals that must ensure an increase in the number of mercury-added thermostats collected each year until 2016 or a time that the department determines that the number of in-service thermostats is steadily declining;

(e) an accounting of the program administrative costs, including a copy of internal revenue service form 990 for a nonprofit organization's program. For a for-profit organization's program, the manufacturer or group of manufacturers operating a program shall submit independently audited financial statements detailing revenue and a full accounting of administrative costs incurred.

(f) a description of outreach strategies used to increase participation and collection rates;

(g) examples of outreach and educational materials used by the program;

(h) names and locations of collection locations;

(i) the number of out-of-service mercury-added thermostats collected at each collection location;

(j) a description of how the collected out-of-service mercury-added thermostats were managed; and

(k) any proposed modifications the manufacturer may make to the program.

(2) The department shall use the report to determine whether collection goals are being met. If collection goals are not met, the department shall require modifications to manufacturers' collection plans in an attempt to improve collection rates.

(3) The manufacturer or group of manufacturers operating a program shall post the report to a public website.

(4) The department shall post reports submitted pursuant to this section on the department website or may provide a link to the public website.

(5) Based on diminished return of thermostats, the department may discontinue the requirement for the annual report pursuant to this section on finding that mercury-added thermostats no longer pose a threat to the environment and public health in Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 296, L. 2009.**

75-10-1508. Wholesaler collection sites. (1) A wholesaler with a physical location in Montana shall act as a collection location for out-of-service mercury-added thermostats.

(2) A wholesaler that distributes thermostats by mail to buyers in the state shall include with the sale of the thermostat a website address and a toll-free telephone number with instructions on obtaining a prepaid mail-in label that a consumer may use to send an out-of-service mercury-added thermostat to a collection location.

(3) A wholesaler shall distribute to its customers the educational and outreach materials developed by a manufacturer pursuant to 75-10-1505.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 296, L. 2009.**

75-10-1509. Rulemaking authority. The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 296, L. 2009.**

Part 16
Libby Asbestos Cleanup Operation

75-10-1601. Libby asbestos superfund oversight committee — duties. (1) There is a Libby asbestos superfund oversight committee. The oversight committee is attached to the department of environmental quality for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121.

(2) The oversight committee consists of:

(a) the director of the department of environmental quality or the director's designated representative;

(b) a Lincoln County commissioner designated by the commission;

(c) a citizen of Lincoln County nominated by the Lincoln County commission and selected by the governor;

(d) one member of the house of representatives whose district includes at least a portion of Lincoln County appointed by the speaker of the house; and

(e) one member of the senate whose district includes at least a portion of Lincoln County appointed by the senate president.

(3) The oversight committee shall select a presiding officer.

(4) The oversight committee shall meet at least quarterly to fulfill the requirements of this section.

(5) Duties of the oversight committee include:

(a) monitoring activities related to the Libby asbestos superfund site;

(b) assisting in the implementation of final cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance plans for the Libby asbestos superfund site;

(c) reviewing documents and providing comments and recommendations to the department of environmental quality and to local governments and appropriate federal agencies regarding the Libby asbestos superfund site;

(d) assisting in the preparation and dissemination of reports and other information as necessary;

(e) providing recommendations to the department of environmental quality regarding the administration of:

(i) the Libby asbestos cleanup trust fund provided for in 75-10-1603; and

(ii) the Libby asbestos cleanup operation and maintenance account provided for in 75-10-1604;

(f) initiating and striving to maintain negotiations with the department of environmental quality, the environmental protection agency, and any other entity with a goal of reducing the state and federal roles in the long-term operation and maintenance work at the Libby asbestos superfund site while increasing the role of Lincoln County in expending funds and managing and implementing operation and maintenance activities; and

(g) submitting a report to the environmental quality council annually in accordance with 5-11-210.

(6) Unless otherwise provided by law, each member is entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while performing oversight committee duties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

75-10-1602. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 76, L. 2019.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 317, L. 2017.

75-10-1603. Libby asbestos cleanup trust fund. (1) There is established a fund of the permanent fund type to pay exclusively for the cost to the state of cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance at the Libby asbestos superfund site.

(2) The fund is financed with:

(a) 20% of the funds allocated for the cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance costs pursuant to 75-10-704;

(b) any funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the Libby asbestos cleanup operation and maintenance account provided for in 75-10-1604; and

(c) other sources of funding that the legislature or congress may from time to time provide.

(3) The fund must be invested by the board of investments pursuant to Title 17, chapter 6, part 2, and the earnings from the investment must be credited to the principal of the fund until the year 2028.

(4) The annual earnings on the fund for the year 2029 and for each succeeding year may be appropriated for the purposes of subsection (1).

(5) The principal of the fund must remain inviolate unless appropriated by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature. An appropriation of the principal may be made only for payment of the costs of cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance costs.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 317, L. 2017.

75-10-1604. Libby asbestos cleanup operation and maintenance account. (1) There is a Libby asbestos cleanup operation and maintenance account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, money deposited in the account must be used for:

(a) cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance costs at the Libby asbestos superfund site; and

(b) administrative costs for the Libby asbestos superfund oversight committee, not to exceed 25% of the annual appropriation.

(2) The following funds must be deposited in the account:

(a) 80% of the funds allocated for the cleanup and long-term operation and maintenance costs pursuant to 75-10-704;

(b) money received by the department of environmental quality in the form of grants, gifts, transfers, bequests, and donations, including donations limited in their purpose by the grantor, or appropriations from any source intended to be used for the purposes of this account; and

(c) any interest or income earned on the account.

(3) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account at the end of a fiscal year must be transferred to the Libby asbestos cleanup trust fund.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 317, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 2019.

CHAPTER 11
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

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Chapter Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.

Part 1 reserved

Part 2
Montana Underground Storage Tank Installer and Inspector Licensing and Permitting Act

Part Cross-References
Hazardous waste management, Title 75, ch. 10, part 4.

75-11-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Underground Storage Tank Installer and Inspector Licensing and Permitting Act".
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

75-11-202. Intent, findings, and purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Montana Underground Storage Tank Installer and Inspector Licensing and Permitting Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) Leaking underground storage tank systems have been identified as a significant source of underground contamination and as a potential hazard for fire and explosion. Government and industry studies show that a major cause of leaking underground storage tanks is improper installation or closure. Proper installation, closure, and inspection require specialized knowledge, training, and experience.

(3) To protect the health of Montana citizens and the quality of state waters and other natural resources, it is the intent of the legislature to require permits for the installation or closure of underground storage tank systems; to limit the conduct of these activities to persons with demonstrated competence, training, and experience; and to provide for permitting, licensing, and inspection activities.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

75-11-203. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Closure" or "to close" means the process of properly removing or filling in place an underground storage tank that is no longer in service.

(3) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(4) "Inspection" means activities to inspect all or part of an underground storage tank system, including records relating to installation, operation, maintenance, and closure to determine compliance with applicable laws and rules relating to operation and maintenance.

(5) "Inspector" means an individual who performs inspections of underground storage tank systems.

(6) (a) "Installation" or "to install" means the placement of an underground storage tank system, including excavation, tank placement, backfilling, and piping of underground portions of the underground storage tank system that store or convey regulated substances. Installation includes repair or modification of an underground storage tank system through such means as tank relining or the repair or replacement of valves, fillpipes, piping, vents, or in-tank liquid-level monitoring systems. Installation also means installation, repair, or modification of a leak detection device that is external to and not attached to the underground storage tank system and the installation, repair, or modification of a cathodic protection system.

(b) The terms do not include the process of conducting a precision (tightness) test to establish the integrity of the underground storage tank system.

(7) "Installer" means an individual who installs or closes underground storage tank systems.

(8) "License" means a license issued by the department under 75-11-204 or 75-11-210 to conduct the inspection, installation, or closure of underground storage tank systems.

(9) "Licensed inspector" means an individual who holds a valid underground storage tank system inspector license.

(10) "Licensed installer" means an individual who holds a valid underground storage tank system installer license.

(11) "Operator" means a person in control of or having responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of an underground storage tank system.

(12) "Owner" means a person who owns an underground storage tank system used for the storage, use, or dispensing of regulated substances.

(13) "Person" means an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company, association, corporation (whether organized for profit or not), city, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity.

(14) "Regulated substance" means a regulated substance as defined in 75-11-503.

(15) "Underground storage tank" or "underground storage tank system" means an underground storage tank, as defined in 75-11-503, and, for purposes of this part, includes ancillary equipment designed to prevent, detect, or contain a release from an underground storage tank system.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 211, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 533, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

75-11-204. Rulemaking authority. (1) The department may adopt rules governing the installation and closure of underground storage tank systems and rules providing for the inspection of underground storage tank systems. Rules may include but are not limited to the following:

(a) the requirements for issuance, denial, renewal, modification, suspension, and revocation of permits for the installation and closure of underground storage tank systems;

(b) the requirements for issuance, denial, renewal, modification, suspension, and revocation of licenses for underground storage tank system installers and inspectors. The license for inspectors must be separate from the license for installers.

(c) the requirements for examination and training of underground storage tank system installers and inspectors;

(d) the requirements for qualifications of inspectors, use of inspectors, and methods for conducting an inspection. The department shall adopt separate qualifications for installers and inspectors.

(e) a schedule of fees for obtaining licenses and license renewals by underground storage tank system installers and inspectors;

(f) a schedule of fees for the review of applications for underground storage tank system permits;

(g) a schedule of fees for inspection of installations or closures; and

(h) the mechanism for remittance of inspection or permitting fees to local governments.

(2) Licensed inspectors employed by a local government unit designated pursuant to 75-11-213 or 75-11-505 and associated rules are exempt from the licensing fees described in this section.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-11-205 through 75-11-208 reserved.

75-11-209. Permits — requirement for licensed installer. (1) A person may not install or close, or cause to be installed or closed, an underground storage tank system without a permit issued by the department as provided in 75-11-212.

(2) In addition to obtaining a permit, an owner or operator shall obtain the services of a licensed installer for the installation or closure of an underground storage tank system unless the installation or closure is inspected by a department inspector or a designated local inspector as provided in 75-11-213.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 641, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 568, L. 1995.

75-11-210. Licensing — interim licenses — regular licenses. (1) An installer may not install or close an underground storage tank system unless that person has a valid license issued by the department.

(2) The department shall grant an installer a regular license if the installer demonstrates competency and experience in the installation and closure of underground storage tank systems, passes a written examination conducted by the department, and pays the license fee established by department rule.

(3) The department shall conduct written examinations for the purpose of qualifying individuals to receive an underground storage tank system installer license. The department shall determine the times and locations of the examinations and shall provide public notice of the examinations.

(4) An underground storage tank system installer license is valid for a period not to exceed 3 years and is subject to periodic renewal as prescribed by department rule.

(5) As a condition of renewal, the department may require that an installer demonstrate continuing competency in the installation and closure of tank systems.

(6) An installer need not be a Montana resident to qualify for a license.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 200, L. 1993.

75-11-211. Denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of installer or inspector license — grounds. (1) The department may deny, modify, condition, suspend, or revoke a license if the installer or inspector:

(a) fails to achieve a passing grade on a written examination;

(b) fails to pay the license fee imposed under this part;

(c) commits fraud or deceit with respect to the license or permit application or an inspection report submitted to the department;

(d) has had suspended or revoked:

(i) a license issued under this part; or

(ii) a similar license in another state or territory; or

(e) violates any state or federal law, rule, permit, or order relating to the installation or closure of an underground storage tank system.

(2) If the department modifies, conditions, suspends, or revokes a license, it shall inform the applicant or license holder in writing of the reason for the action. The applicant or license holder may request a hearing before the board. If the board grants a hearing, the hearing must be held in accordance with the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-11-212. Permits — application procedure — issuance. (1) Before the installation or closure of an underground storage tank system, the owner or operator or the owner's or operator's designated licensed underground storage tank installer or remover shall file a permit application with the department on forms provided by the department. The time between the filing of a permit application with the department and the installation or closure may be provided by department rule. The department may provide by rule for emergency permits to apply to emergency conditions pertaining to the installation or closure of underground storage tanks.

(2) The permit application must, at a minimum, require the owner or operator to provide information concerning:

(a) the date of the underground storage tank system installation or closure;

(b) the location of the underground storage tank system installation or closure;

(c) the type of construction of the underground storage tank system;

(d) the contents of the underground storage tank system being closed or the anticipated contents of the tank being installed; and

(e) the name of the licensed installer who will be installing or closing the underground storage tank system or, if the owner or operator is not going to have the underground storage tank system installed or closed by a licensed installer, the estimated date for inspection by the department.

(3) After receipt of a completed application that meets the requirements of this section and any rules adopted under 75-11-204, the department shall issue the permit.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 641, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

75-11-213. Inspection of installations and closures — fee. (1) After being issued a permit, an owner or operator may obtain an inspection by the department in lieu of obtaining the services of a licensed installer. The owner or operator shall provide timely notice to the department of the date and location of the underground storage tank system installation or closure and shall establish with the department the time when an inspection may be conducted.

(2) An owner or operator may conduct an installation or closure under this section only if an inspector is present.

(3) An inspection fee must be paid by the owner or operator to the department to cover the costs associated with an inspection. The inspection is not considered complete until the owner or operator pays the fee.

(4) Department officials or local government officers, such as local health officers, sanitarians, local fire chiefs, or other persons designated or hired by the department, shall conduct inspections on behalf of the department.

(5) The department shall pay the person conducting an inspection on the department's behalf, as provided in subsection (4), from the underground storage tank system license and permit account established in 75-11-227 up to 80% of any fee collected by the department for the inspection. When an inspection is conducted by an officer of a county or city, the payment must be made by the department to the appropriate county or city treasurer. A county or city shall use payments received under this section only for costs incurred in conducting inspections under this section.

(6) A copy of an installation inspection report must be kept on file by the owner or operator for as long as the department may require by rule. A copy of a closure inspection report must be kept by the owner or operator for 3 years after the date of closure.

(7) The department may enter and inspect the premises or any appurtenant property of an owner or operator at any time to ensure compliance with laws or rules pertaining to underground storage tank systems.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 200, L. 1993.

75-11-214. Licensing of inspectors — interim licenses — regular licenses. (1) The department shall grant an inspector license if the inspector demonstrates competency and experience in the inspection of underground storage tank systems, passes a written examination conducted by the department or by an agency or person authorized by the department to give the examination, and pays the license fee.

(2) The department or an agency or person authorized by the department to give the examination shall conduct written examinations for the purpose of qualifying individuals to receive an underground storage tank system inspector license. The department shall provide public notice of the date, time, and location of the examination.

(3) An underground storage tank system inspector license is valid for a period not to exceed 3 years and is subject to periodic renewal as prescribed by department rule.

(4) As a condition of renewal, the department may require that an inspector demonstrate continuing competency in the regulatory requirements applicable to operation and maintenance of underground storage tank systems.

(5) An inspector need not be a Montana resident to qualify for a license.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Residence — rules for determining, 1-1-215.
Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-11-215 reserved.

75-11-216. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 568, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 568, L. 1995.

75-11-217. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 568, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 200, L. 1993.

75-11-218. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department believes that a person has violated this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a permit provision, it may serve written notice of the violation on the person or the person's agent. The notice must specify the alleged violation and the facts that constitute the alleged violation. The notice may include an order to provide information pertaining to the installation, closure, or inspection, an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable time as stated in the order, or an order assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to 75-11-223. A notice and order must be signed by the director of the department or the director's designee and must be served personally or by certified mail upon the person or the person's agent. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person requests in writing a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request, the board shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(2) If, pursuant to a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or the board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after a hearing, the board finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.

(3) In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may either:

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice and answer the charges described in the notice of violation; or

(b) initiate action under 75-11-219, 75-11-223, or 75-11-224.

(4) This section does not prevent the board or department from attempting to obtain voluntary compliance through issuance of a warning, a conference, or any other appropriate administrative or judicial means.

(5) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 200, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 443, L. 2005.

75-11-219. Injunctions. The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state actions for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

(1) immediately restrain any person from engaging in unauthorized activity that is endangering public health or causing damage to the environment;

(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board; or

(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 594, L. 1989.

75-11-220. Imminent hazard. Upon receipt of evidence that the installation or closure of an underground storage tank system may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment, the department may commence administrative or judicial proceedings to immediately abate the danger or to restrain, order, or enjoin any person from causing the danger. The department may take other judicial or administrative action as may be necessary.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 200, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-11-221 and 75-11-222 reserved.

75-11-223. Civil and administrative penalties. (1) (a) A person who violates a provision of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board is subject to an administrative penalty not to exceed $500 for each violation or a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each violation. If an installer or an inspector who is an employee is in violation, the employer of that installer or that inspector is the entity that is subject to the provisions of this section unless the violation is the result of a grossly negligent or willful act. Each day of violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order constitutes a separate violation.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings under this section. The enforcement or collection action must be brought in the

district court of the county in which the violation occurred. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county where the violation occurred shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and recover the civil penalty.

(3) Action under this section does not bar:

(a) enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, orders of the department or the board, or terms of a license or permit by injunction or other appropriate remedy; or

(b) action under 75-11-224.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 433, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Secs. 6, 11, Ch. 443, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-11-224. Criminal penalties. (1) Any owner or operator who knowingly installs or closes an underground storage tank system without a permit and either an inspection or the use of the services of a licensed installer as required in 75-11-209; any installer who knowingly installs or closes an underground storage tank system without being licensed; or any person who knowingly makes any false statements or representations in any application, permit, report, licensing form, or other document filed or maintained as required by this part or required by rules adopted under this part is subject to a fine not to exceed $10,000 for each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(2) A person convicted of a second or subsequent criminal violation is subject to a fine not to exceed $20,000 for each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(3) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, orders of the department or the board, or terms of a license or permit by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 594, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 200, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-11-225. Compliance with other laws — limitation on local ordinances. (1) Nothing in this part limits or alters the responsibility of an owner, operator, or installer to comply with all other state laws or rules.

(2) Ordinances adopted by local government units requiring installation or closure permits or licensed installers, or both, may be no less stringent than the requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 594, L. 1989.

75-11-226. Application of other law. (1) The provisions of this part and rules adopted under this part govern if they conflict with other provisions of Montana law or any action taken by the department under the other provisions of law.

(2) The remedies provided for in this part are cumulative with other remedies provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 594, L. 1989.

75-11-227. Underground storage tank license and permit account. (1) There is an underground storage tank license and permit account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be paid into the account:

(a) revenues from permit, license, and inspection fees collected under this part; and

(b) revenues from penalties or damages collected under this part.

(3) Appropriations may be made from the underground storage tank license and permit account only for the administration of the underground storage tank program.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 594, L. 1989.

75-11-228 through 75-11-230 reserved.

75-11-231. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 641, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 641, L. 1993.

75-11-232. Closure of tanks under section 1, Chapter 641, Laws of 1993. (1) The department shall indicate in all relevant files that an underground storage tank removed from the ground or closed in-place in accordance with section 1, Chapter 641, Laws of 1993, is determined fully and finally closed by the department.

(2) Underground storage tank systems determined closed under this section are exempt from environmental review by the department unless the department receives substantial evidence of a release that poses a current or potential threat to human health or the environment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1995.

Part 3
Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup

Part Cross-References

Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board, 2-15-2108.

Hazardous waste management, Title 75, ch. 10, part 4.

75-11-301. Intent, findings, and purposes. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted this part. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) The legislature finds that the use of petroleum products stored in tanks contributes significantly to the economic well-being and quality of life of Montana citizens.

(3) The legislature finds that leaks, spills, and other releases of petroleum products from storage tanks endanger public health and safety, ground water quality, and other state resources.

(4) The legislature finds that current administrative and financial resources of the public and private sectors are inadequate to address problems caused by releases from petroleum storage tanks and need to be supplemented by a major program of release detection and corrective action.

(5) The legislature finds that proper funding for the program is through a petroleum storage tank cleanup fee paid by persons who use and receive the benefits of petroleum products. The legislature further finds that this general use fee, provided for in 75-11-314, is intended solely to support a program to pay for corrective action and damages caused by releases from petroleum storage tanks. The general use fee is collected from distributors for administrative convenience and is not intended as a method for collecting highway revenue pursuant to the provisions of Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana constitution or 15-70-126.

(6) The purposes of this part are to:

(a) protect public health and safety and the environment by providing prompt detection and cleanup of petroleum tank releases;

(b) provide adequate financial resources and effective procedures through which tank owners and operators may undertake and be reimbursed for corrective action and payment to third parties for damages caused by releases from petroleum storage tanks;

(c) assist certain tank owners and operators in meeting financial assurance requirements under state and federal law governing releases from petroleum storage tanks; and

(d) provide tank owners with incentives to improve petroleum storage tank facilities in order to minimize the likelihood of accidental releases.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 763, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 339, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 267, L. 2017.

75-11-302. Definitions. Except as provided in subsections (2), (14), and (25), the following definitions apply to this part:

(1) "Accidental release" means a sudden or nonsudden release, neither expected nor intended by the tank owner or operator, of petroleum or petroleum products from a storage tank that results in a need for corrective action or compensation for third-party bodily injury or property damage.

(2) "Aviation gasoline" means aviation fuel as defined in 15-70-401. For the purposes of this chapter, aviation gasoline does not include JP-4 jet fuel sold to a federal defense fuel supply center.

(3) "Board" means the petroleum tank release compensation board established in 2-15-2108.

(4) "Bodily injury" means physical injury, sickness, or disease sustained by an individual, including death that results from the physical injury, sickness, or disease at any time.

(5) "Claim" means a written request prepared and submitted by an owner or operator or an agent of the owner or operator for reimbursement of expenses caused by an accidental release from a petroleum storage tank.

(6) "Corrective action" means investigation, monitoring, cleanup, restoration, abatement, removal, and other actions necessary to respond to a release.

(7) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(8) "Distributor" means a person who is licensed to sell gasoline or special fuel, as provided in 15-70-402, and who:

(a) in the state of Montana, engages in the business of producing, refining, manufacturing, or compounding gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil for sale, use, or distribution;

(b) imports gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil for sale, use, or distribution in this state;

(c) engages in wholesale distribution of gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil in this state;

(d) is an exporter;

(e) is a dealer licensed as of January 1, 1969, except a dealer at an established airport; or

(f) either blends gasoline with ethanol or blends heating oil with waste oil.

(9) "Eligible costs" means expenses reimbursable under 75-11-307.

(10) "Export" means to transport out of the state of Montana, by means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil received from a refinery or pipeline terminal within the state of Montana.

(11) "Exporter" means a person who transports, by means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle, gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil received from a refinery or pipeline terminal within the state of Montana to a destination outside the state of Montana for sale, use, or consumption beyond the boundaries of the state of Montana.

(12) "Fee" means the petroleum storage tank cleanup fee provided for in 75-11-314.

(13) "Fund" means the petroleum tank release cleanup fund established in 75-11-313.

(14) "Gasoline" means gasoline as defined in 15-70-401. For the purposes of this chapter, gasoline does not include JP-4 jet fuel sold to a federal defense fuel supply center.

(15) "Heating oil" means petroleum that is No. 1, No. 2, No. 4-light, No. 4-heavy, No. 5-light, No. 5-heavy, and No. 6 technical grades of fuel oil; other residual fuel oils, including navy special fuel oil and bunker C; and other fuels when used as substitutes for one of these fuel oils. Heating oil is typically used in the operation of heating equipment, boilers, or furnaces.

(16) "Import" means to receive into a person's possession or custody first after its arrival and coming to rest at a destination within the state any gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil shipped or transported into this state from a point of origin outside this state, other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(17) "Operator" means a person in control of or having responsibility for the daily operation of a petroleum storage tank.

(18) (a) "Owner" means:

(i) a person that holds title to, controls, or possesses an interest in a petroleum storage tank; or

(ii) a person that owns the property on which a petroleum storage tank from which a release occurred was located.

(b) The term does not include a person that holds an interest in a storage tank solely for financial security, unless through foreclosure or other related actions the holder of a security interest has taken possession of the tank.

(19) "Person" means an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company, association, joint-stock company, syndicate, consortium, commercial entity, corporation, or agency of state or local government.

(20) "Petroleum" or "petroleum products" means crude oil or any fraction of crude oil that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (60 degrees F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute) or motor fuel blend, such as ethanol-blended gasoline, and that is not augmented or compounded by more than a de minimis amount of another substance.

(21) "Petroleum storage tank" means a tank that contains or contained petroleum or petroleum products and that is:

(a) an underground storage tank as defined in 75-11-503;

(b) a storage tank that is situated in an underground area, such as a basement, cellar, mine, drift, shaft, or tunnel;

(c) an aboveground storage tank with a capacity of less than 30,000 gallons; or

(d) aboveground or underground pipes associated with tanks under subsections (21)(b) and (21)(c), except that pipelines regulated under the following laws are excluded:

(i) the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. 1671, et seq.;

(ii) the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.; and

(iii) state law comparable to the provisions of law referred to in subsections (21)(d)(i) and (21)(d)(ii), if the facility is intrastate.

(22) "Properly designed and installed double-walled tank system" means a petroleum storage tank and associated product piping that is designed and constructed with rigid inner and outer walls separated by an interstitial space and that is capable of being monitored for leakage. The design and construction of these tank systems must meet any applicable standards of the department and the department of justice fire prevention and investigation bureau. The material used in construction must be compatible with the liquid to be stored in the system, and the system must be designed to prevent the release of any stored liquid.

(23) "Property damage" means:

(a) physical injury to tangible property, including loss of use of that property caused by the injury; or

(b) loss of use of tangible property that is not physically injured.

(24) "Release" means any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, escaping, leaching, or disposing of petroleum or petroleum products from a petroleum storage tank into ground water, surface water, surface soils, or subsurface soils.

(25) "Special fuel" means those combustible liquids commonly referred to as diesel fuel or another volatile liquid of less than 46 degrees A.P.I. (American petroleum institute) gravity test, except liquid petroleum gas. For the purposes of this chapter, special fuel does not include diesel fuel sold to a railroad or a federal defense fuel supply center.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 389, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 763, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 339, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 212, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 121, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 100, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 220, L. 2015.

75-11-303 through 75-11-306 reserved.

75-11-307. Reimbursement for expenses caused by release. (1) Subject to the availability of money from the fund under subsection (6), an owner or operator who is eligible under 75-11-308 and who complies with 75-11-309 and any rules adopted to implement those sections must be reimbursed by the board from the fund for the following eligible costs caused by a release from a petroleum storage tank:

(a) corrective action costs as required by a department-approved corrective action plan, except that if the corrective action plan:

(i) addresses releases of substances other than petroleum products from an eligible petroleum storage tank, the board may reimburse only the costs that would have reasonably been incurred if the only release at the site was the release of the petroleum or petroleum products from the eligible petroleum storage tank;

(ii) includes the establishment of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, the board may reimburse the cost of an easement established pursuant to 75-11-508; or

(iii) includes costs for the purpose of intentionally remediating the release from a petroleum storage tank that exceed department standards; and

(b) compensation paid to third parties for bodily injury or property damage. The board may not reimburse for property damage until the corrective action is completed.

(2) An owner or operator may not be reimbursed from the fund for the following expenses:

(a) corrective action costs or the costs of bodily injury or property damage paid to third parties that are determined by the board to be ineligible for reimbursement;

(b) costs for bodily injury and property damage, other than corrective action costs, incurred by the owner or operator;

(c) penalties or payments for damages incurred under actions by the department, board, or federal, state, local, or tribal agencies or other government entities involving judicial or administrative enforcement activities and related negotiations;

(d) attorney fees and legal costs of the owner, the operator, or a third party;

(e) costs for the repair or replacement of a tank or piping or costs of other materials, equipment, or labor related to the operation, repair, or replacement of a tank or piping;

(f) expenses incurred before April 13, 1989, for owners or operators seeking reimbursement from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund and expenses incurred before May 15, 1991, for owners or operators seeking reimbursement from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund for a tank storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored or for a farm or residential tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;

(g) expenses exceeding the maximum reimbursements provided for in subsection (4);

(h) costs for which an owner or operator has received reimbursement or payment from an insurer or other third party, including a grantor;

(i) expenses for work completed by or on behalf of the owner or operator more than 5 years prior to the owner's or operator's request for reimbursement. This limitation does not apply to claims for compensation paid to third parties for bodily injury or property damage. The running of the 5-year limitation period is suspended by an appeal of the board's denial of eligibility for reimbursement. If a written request for hearing is filed under 75-11-309, the suspension of the 5-year limitation period is effective from the date of the board's initial eligibility denial to the date on which the initial eligibility denial is overturned or reversed by the board, a district court, or the state supreme court, whichever occurs latest. The board may grant reasonable extensions of this limitation period if it is shown that the need for the extension is not due to the negligence of the owner or operator or agent of the owner or operator.

(j) costs that the board has determined are not reasonable costs of responding to the release and implementing the corrective action plan, as provided for in 75-11-309, including costs included in a department-approved corrective action plan for the purpose of remediating the release in excess of department standards.

(3) An owner or operator may designate a person, including a grantor, as an agent to receive the reimbursement for eligible costs incurred by the person if the owner or operator remains legally responsible for all costs and liabilities incurred as a result of the release.

(4) Subject to the availability of funds under subsection (6):

(a) for releases eligible for reimbursement from the fund that are discovered and reported on or after April 13, 1989, from a tank storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored or from a farm or residential tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes, the board shall reimburse an owner or operator for:

(i) 100% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of $500,000, for properly designed and installed double-walled tank system releases that were discovered and reported on or after October 1, 1993, and before October 1, 2009; or

(ii) 50% of the first $10,000 of eligible costs and 100% of subsequent eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of $495,000 for all other releases; and

(b) for all other releases eligible for reimbursement from the fund that are discovered and reported on or after April 13, 1989, the board shall reimburse an owner or operator for:

(i) 100% of the eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of $1 million, for properly designed and installed double-walled tank system releases that were discovered and reported on or after October 1, 1993, and before October 1, 2009; or

(ii) 50% of the first $35,000 of eligible costs and 100% of subsequent eligible costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of $982,500 for all other releases.

(5) If an insurer or grantor pays or reimburses an owner or operator for costs that qualify as eligible costs under subsection (1), the costs paid or reimbursed by the insurer or grantor:

(a) are considered to have been paid by the owner or operator toward satisfaction of the 50% share requirements of subsection (4)(a)(ii) or (4)(b)(ii) if the owner or operator receives the payment or reimbursement before applying for reimbursement from the board;

(b) are not reimbursable from the fund unless the grantor is designated by the owner or operator as an agent to receive the reimbursement for eligible costs incurred by the grantor; and

(c) except for the amount considered to have been paid by the owner or operator pursuant to subsection (5)(a), are considered to have been reimbursed from the fund for purposes of determining when the board has paid the maximum amount payable from the fund under subsection (4)(a)(ii) or (4)(b)(ii).

(6) If the ending monthly balance of the fund is less than $1.5 million, excluding a reimbursement for a cost associated with an emergency response, a reimbursement may not be made and the fund and the board are not liable for making any reimbursement for the costs at that time. When the ending monthly balance of the fund contains more than $1.5 million, eligible costs must be reimbursed subsequently in the order in which they were approved by the board.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 389, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 763, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 339, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 55, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 115, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 137, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 296, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 754, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 754, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

75-11-308. Eligibility. (1) An owner or operator is eligible for reimbursement for the applicable percentage as provided in 75-11-307(4)(a) and (4)(b) of eligible costs caused by a release from a petroleum storage tank only if:

(a) the release was discovered on or after April 13, 1989;

(b) the release occurred from:

(i) an underground storage tank, as defined in 75-11-503, that was in compliance with 75-11-509 at the time that the release was discovered;

(ii) a petroleum storage tank, as defined in 75-11-302, that was in compliance with the applicable state and federal laws and rules that the board determines pertain to the prevention and mitigation of a petroleum release from a petroleum storage tank at the time that the release was discovered; or

(iii) an underground storage tank, as defined in 75-11-503, that the board determines was unknown to both the property owner and the department prior to its discovery if the owner applies to the department for a closure permit in accordance with 75-11-212 within 30 days of the date upon which the owner first had knowledge of the tank and closes the tank in accordance with the requirements of the permit before the permit expires; and

(c) the release was an accidental release.

(2) An owner or operator is not eligible for reimbursement from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund for expenses caused by releases from the following petroleum storage tanks:

(a) a tank located at a refinery or a terminal of a refiner;

(b) a tank located at an oil and gas production facility;

(c) a tank that is or was previously under the ownership or control of a railroad, except for a tank that was operated by a lessee of a railroad in the course of nonrailroad operations;

(d) a tank belonging to the federal government;

(e) a tank owned or operated by a person who has been convicted of a substantial violation of state or federal law or rule that relates to the installation, operation, or management of petroleum storage tanks; or

(f) a mobile storage tank used to transport petroleum or petroleum products from one location to another.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 389, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 763, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 339, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 420, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 356, L. 2005.

75-11-309. Procedures for reimbursement of eligible costs — corrective action plans. (1) An owner or operator seeking reimbursement for eligible costs and the department shall comply with the following procedures:

(a) If an owner or operator discovers or is provided evidence that a release may have occurred from the owner's or operator's petroleum storage tank, the owner or operator shall immediately notify the department of the release and conduct an initial response to the release in accordance with state and federal laws and rules to protect the public health and safety and the environment.

(b) Except for a tank for which a permit is sought under 75-11-308(1)(b)(iii) and that is closed within 120 days of discovery of the release, following discovery of the release, the petroleum storage tank must remain in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and rules that the board determines pertain to prevention and mitigation of petroleum releases.

(c) The owner or operator shall conduct a thorough investigation of the release and, subject to subsection (1)(d), report the findings to the department, and, as determined necessary by the department, prepare and submit for approval by the department a corrective action plan that conforms with state, tribal (when applicable), and federal corrective action requirements.

(d) For a release in which the costs are expected to exceed $100,000, an owner or operator, a representative of the owner or operator, the department, the board, and board staff shall meet to discuss the response to the release. For a release in which the costs are expected to be less than $100,000, an owner or operator, a representative of the owner or operator, the department, the board, and board staff may meet to discuss the response to the release if any party requests a meeting.

(e) (i) The department shall review the corrective action plan and forward a copy to a local government office, the board, and, when applicable, a tribal government office with jurisdiction over a corrective action for the release. The local or tribal government office and the board shall inform the department if it wants any modification of the proposed plan.

(ii) Based on its own review and comments received from a local government, a tribal government, the board, or other source, the department, subject to 75-11-408(4)(b), may approve the proposed corrective action plan, make or request the owner or operator to modify the proposed plan, or prepare its own plan for compliance by the owner or operator. A plan finally approved by the department through any process provided in this subsection (1)(d) is the approved corrective action plan.

(iii) After the department approves a corrective action plan, a local government, or a tribal government, or the board may not impose different corrective action requirements on the owner or operator.

(f) A corrective action plan prepared by the owner, operator, or department for any petroleum storage tank release may include the establishment of a petroleum mixing zone as defined in 75-11-503.

(g) The department shall notify the owner or operator of its approval of a corrective action plan and shall promptly submit a copy of the approved corrective action plan to the board.

(h) The owner or operator shall implement the corrective action plan or plans approved by the department until the release is resolved. The department may oversee the implementation of the plan, require reports and monitoring from the owner or operator, undertake inspections, and otherwise exercise its authority concerning corrective action under Title 75, chapter 10, part 7, Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, and other applicable law and rules.

(i) (i) The owner or operator shall document in the manner required by the board all expenses incurred in preparing and implementing the corrective action plan. The owner or operator shall submit claims and substantiating documents to the board in the form and manner required by the board.

(ii) The board shall review each claim and determine if the claims are actual, reasonable, and necessary costs of responding to the release and implementing the corrective action plan.

(iii) If the board requires additional information to determine if a claimed cost is actual, reasonable, and necessary, the board may request comment from the department and the owner or operator.

(iv) If the department determines that an owner or operator is failing to properly implement a corrective action plan, it shall notify the board.

(j) The owner or operator shall document, in the manner required by the board, any payments to a third party for bodily injury or property damage caused by a release. The owner or operator shall submit claims and substantiating documents to the board in the form and manner required by the board.

(k) In addition to the documentation in subsections (1)(i) and (1)(j), when the release is claimed to have originated from a properly designed and installed double-walled tank system, the owner or operator shall document, in the manner required by the board, the following:

(i) the date that the release was discovered; and

(ii) that the originating tank was part of a properly designed and installed double-walled tank system.

(2) If an owner or operator is issued an administrative order for failure to comply with requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, or rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, all reimbursement of claims submitted after the date of the order must be suspended. Upon a written determination by the department that the owner or operator has returned to compliance with the requirements of Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, or rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 5, suspended and future claims may be reimbursed according to criteria established by the board. In establishing the criteria, the board shall consider the effect and duration of the noncompliance.

(3) The board shall review each claim received under subsections (1)(i) and (1)(j), make the determination required by this subsection, inform the owner or operator of its determination, and, as appropriate, reimburse the owner or operator from the fund. Before approving a reimbursement, the board shall affirmatively determine that:

(a) the expenses for which reimbursement is claimed:

(i) are eligible costs; and

(ii) were actually, necessarily, and reasonably incurred for the preparation or implementation of a corrective action plan approved by the department or for payments to a third party for bodily injury or property damage; and

(b) the owner or operator:

(i) is eligible for reimbursement under 75-11-308; and

(ii) has complied with this section and any rules adopted pursuant to this section. Upon a determination by the board that the owner or operator has not complied with this section or rules adopted pursuant to this section, all reimbursement of pending and future claims must be suspended. Upon a determination by the board that the owner or operator has returned to compliance with this section or rules adopted pursuant to this section, suspended and future claims may be reimbursed according to criteria established by the board. In establishing the criteria, the board shall consider the effect and duration of the noncompliance.

(4) (a) If an owner or operator disagrees with a board determination under subsection (3), the owner or operator may submit a written request for a hearing before the board.

(b) A written request for a hearing must be received by the board within 120 days after notice of the board's determination is served on the owner or operator by certified mail. The notice of determination must advise the owner or operator of the 120-day time limit for submitting a written request for a hearing to the board. Not less than 50 days or more than 60 days after the board serves the notice of determination, the board shall serve on the owner or operator a second notice by certified mail advising the owner or operator of the deadline for requesting a hearing. Service by certified mail is complete on the date shown on the certified mail receipt.

(c) If a written request is received within 120 days, the hearing must be held at a meeting of the board or as otherwise permitted under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act no later than 120 days following receipt of the request or at a time mutually agreed to by the board and the owner or operator.

(d) If a written request is not received within 120 days, the determination of the board is final.

(5) The board shall obligate money for reimbursement of eligible costs of owners and operators in the order that the costs are finally approved by the board.

(6) (a) The board may, at the request of an owner or operator, guarantee in writing the reimbursement of eligible costs that have been approved by the board but for which money is not currently available from the fund for reimbursement.

(b) The board may, at the request of an owner or operator, guarantee in writing reimbursement of eligible costs not yet approved by the board, including estimated costs not yet incurred. A guarantee for payment under this subsection (6)(b) does not affect the order in which money in the fund is obligated under subsection (5).

(c) When considering a request for a guarantee of payment, the board may require pertinent information or documentation from the owner or operator. The board may grant or deny, in whole or in part, any request for a guarantee.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 389, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 339, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 245, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 356, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 189, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 296, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 754, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 754, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

75-11-310 and 75-11-311 reserved.

75-11-312. Review of corrective action plans and claims. (1) To ensure that the fund provided for in 75-11-313 is being used in the most efficient manner, the board shall implement a program of third-party review for corrective action plans and claims. The board may submit a corrective action plan or claim for review by a qualified third party of the board's choosing.

(2) If a third-party review suggests that a corrective action plan is inappropriate for the release, the board may remand the plan to the department for further review.

(3) If a third-party review suggests that submitted costs do not comply with the requirements of 75-11-309(3)(a), the board may deny the costs, subject to 75-11-309(4).

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 245, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 356, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 754, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 754, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

75-11-313. Petroleum tank release cleanup fund. (1) There is a petroleum tank release cleanup fund in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. The fund is administered as a revolving fund by the board and is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, for the purposes provided for under subsections (3)(c) and (3)(d). Administrative costs under subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) must be paid pursuant to a legislative appropriation.

(2) There is deposited in the fund:

(a) all revenue from the petroleum storage tank cleanup fee as provided in 75-11-314;

(b) money received by the board in the form of gifts, grants, reimbursements, or appropriations, from any source, intended to be used for the purposes of this fund;

(c) money appropriated or advanced to the fund by the legislature;

(d) money loaned to the board by the board of investments; and

(e) all interest earned on money in the fund.

(3) As provided in 75-11-318, the fund may be used only:

(a) to administer this part, including payment of board expenses associated with administration;

(b) to pay the actual and necessary department expenses associated with administration;

(c) to reimburse owners and operators for eligible costs caused by a release from a petroleum storage tank and approved by the board; and

(d) for repayment of any advance and any loan made pursuant to 17-6-225, plus interest earned on the advance or loan.

(4) Whenever the board accepts a loan from the board of investments pursuant to 17-6-225, the receipts from the fees provided for in 75-11-314 in each fiscal year until the loan is repaid are pledged and dedicated for the repayment of the loan in an amount sufficient to meet the repayment obligation for that fiscal year.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 543, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 272, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 115, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 245, L. 2003.**

75-11-314. Petroleum storage tank cleanup fee — collection — penalties — warrant for distraint — statute of limitations. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), each distributor shall pay to the department of transportation a petroleum storage tank cleanup fee for each gallon of gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, or heating oil distributed by the distributor within the state and upon which the fee has not been paid by any other distributor. The fee must equal:

(a) 0.75 cent for each gallon of gasoline;

(b) 0.75 cent for each gallon of aviation gasoline;

(c) 0.75 cent for each gallon of special fuel; or

(d) 0.75 cent for each gallon of heating oil.

(2) Gasoline, aviation gasoline, special fuel, and heating oil exported or sold for export out of the state must be included in the measure of a distributor's fee.

(3) Ethanol that is blended with gasoline to be sold as ethanol-blended gasoline is subject to the fee provided in subsection (1).

(4) A fee may not be imposed or collected beginning on the first day of the first month in the first calendar quarter after the unobligated balance in the fund equals or exceeds $10 million. Whenever the unobligated fund balance, less claims anticipated for board approval within the next 90 days, is less than $6 million, the department of transportation shall, within 30 days, notify distributors by mail that the fee is reinstated beginning on the first day of the first month that begins no less than 30 days after the date of the notice. Once reinstated, the fee must be imposed and collected until the unobligated fund balance again equals or exceeds $10 million.

(5) The department of transportation shall collect the fee in the same manner as the gasoline tax and special fuel tax under Title 15, chapter 70, part 4. The provisions of 15-70-103, 15-70-111, 15-70-402, 15-70-410, 15-70-411, 15-70-416 through 15-70-418, 15-70-420, 15-70-421, 15-70-425(3), and 15-70-443 apply to the fee. The provisions of 15-70-403, 15-70-412, 15-70-425(1), and 15-70-426 do not apply to the fee.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 298, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 37, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 100, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 396, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 220, L. 2015.**

75-11-315. Nonimpairment by state. In accordance with the constitutions of the United States and the state of Montana, the state pledges that it may not in any way impair the obligations of any loan agreement between the board and the board of investments by repealing the petroleum storage tank cleanup fee imposed by 75-11-314 or by reducing it below the amount necessary to make annual loan payments.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 115, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Prohibition against impairment of contracts, Art. II, sec. 31, Mont. Const.

75-11-316 and 75-11-317 reserved.

75-11-318. Powers and duties of board. (1) The board shall administer the petroleum tank release cleanup fund in accordance with the provisions of this part, including the payment of reimbursement to owners and operators. The board may hire its own staff to assist in the implementation of this part.

(2) The board shall determine whether to approve reimbursement of eligible costs under the provisions of 75-11-309(3), shall obligate money from the fund for approved costs, and shall act on requests for the guarantee of payments through the procedures and criteria provided in 75-11-309.

(3) The board may conduct meetings, hold hearings, undertake legal action, and conduct other business that may be necessary to administer its responsibilities under this part. The board shall meet at least quarterly for the purpose of reviewing and approving claims for reimbursement from the fund and conducting other business as necessary.

(4) The board shall use the fund to pay for:

(a) department expenses incurred in providing assistance to the board. The board shall review and comment on all department administrative budget proposals that are assessed against the fund prior to submittal of the department budget for legislative approval. Department administrative expenses on behalf of the board may include:

(i) the review or preparation of corrective action plans;

(ii) the oversight of corrective action undertaken by owners and operators for the purposes of this part; and

(iii) the actual and necessary administrative support provided to the board.

(b) department of transportation staff expenses used for the collection of the petroleum storage tank cleanup fee;

(c) third-party review of corrective action plans or claims pursuant to 75-11-312;

(d) board staff expenses; and

(e) expenses of implementing the board's duties as provided in this part.

(5) The board shall adopt rules to administer this part, including:

(a) rules governing submission of claims by owners or operators to the department and board;

(b) procedures for determining owners or operators who are eligible for reimbursement and determining the validity of claims;

(c) procedures for the review and approval of corrective action plans;

(d) procedures for conducting board meetings, hearings, and other business necessary for the implementation of this part;

(e) the criteria and reimbursement rates applicable to those owners and operators who comply with a violation letter issued by the department;

(f) procedures for third-party review of corrective action plans or claims pursuant to 75-11-312; and

(g) other rules necessary for the administration of this part.

(6) The board may apply for, accept, and repay loans from the board of investments pursuant to 17-6-225.

(7) The board shall conduct an analysis of the short-term and long-term viability of the fund and report its findings to the director of the department and the legislative auditor by July 1 prior to each regular legislative session. This analysis must include but is not limited to:

(a) trends in fund revenue and expenditure activity;

(b) exposure to long-term liabilities;

(c) impacts of changes in state and federal regulations relating to underground and aboveground storage tanks;

(d) availability of petroleum storage tank liability insurance in the private sector and trends in provisions of the insurance; and

(e) the continuing need for collection of all or part of the petroleum tank release cleanup fee.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 528, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 763, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 115, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 259, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 245, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 356, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 754, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 754, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-11-319. Rulemaking authority — department and department of transportation. (1) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer its responsibilities under this part, including requirements for approval of corrective action plans.

(2) The department of transportation shall adopt rules governing the collection of the petroleum storage tank cleanup fee. The rules may include, at a minimum, reporting and recordkeeping requirements, method and timing of payment, and examination of records. The rules must be generally consistent with procedures governing the collection of the gasoline tax provided for in Title 15, chapter 70.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 528, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-11-320. Other authorities unaffected. Payment of reimbursement, approval of a corrective action plan, or other action of the department or the board under this part does not affect the authority of the department or any other state agency to pursue an action authorized by Title 75, chapter 10, parts 4 or 7, or any other law or rule that applies to releases from petroleum storage tanks.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 528, L. 1989.

75-11-321. Criminal penalties. A person who knowingly misrepresents the date of discovery of a release, submits or causes to be submitted a fraudulent claim or document, or makes a false statement or representation in seeking or assisting a person to seek reimbursement under this part is subject to a fine not to exceed $10,000 for each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both. A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this section is subject to a fine not to exceed $20,000 for each violation or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 528, L. 1989.

75-11-322. Liability — defense and exclusions. (1) A person has a defense against liability in a tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission that constitutes a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule adopted under this part if the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the person is a government entity that acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or lien foreclosure in which the government entity acquired title by virtue of the government entity's authority;

(b) the person has not caused or contributed to the violation; and

(c) the person is making an effort to abate the violation.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "government entity" includes a consolidated city-county, a county, and an incorporated city or town.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 159, L. 2013.

Part 4
Montana Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Act

75-11-401. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 296, L. 2015.

75-11-402. Findings and intent — purposes. The legislature finds that:

(1) real properties exist across the state where the stigma of petroleum contamination hinders the development or best use of the property. These petroleum-contaminated properties may be eligible for petroleum brownfields funding.

(2) the cleanup of petroleum brownfields sites should be encouraged and facilitated to reduce threats to human health and the environment, prepare properties for reuse and redevelopment, and return property to local tax rolls;

(3) the petroleum tank release cleanup fund established in 75-11-313 is not sufficient to immediately address all petroleum tank release sites in Montana in a timely and comprehensive manner; and

(4) the department should encourage the use of federal brownfields money obtained by grant recipients for assessment and remediation at eligible petroleum brownfields sites and to leverage federal funds and limit costs imposed on Montana citizens.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 2015.

75-11-403. Definitions — application. (1) The definitions used in this part are for the purpose of determining the eligibility of petroleum release sites to receive and expend federal brownfields funding received by a grant recipient from the United States environmental protection agency under the federal Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2001, Title II of Public Law 107-118.

(2) As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(b) "Grant recipient" means a city, town, county, consolidated city-county, tribal government, economic development organization, nonprofit organization, or state agency that has received federal brownfields money from the environmental protection agency.

(c) "Person" means an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company, association, joint-stock company, syndicate, consortium, commercial entity, corporation, state government agency, or local government.

(d) "Petroleum brownfields sites" means real property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse is or may be complicated by the presence or perceived presence of petroleum contamination.

(e) "Petroleum tank release site" means a site where there has been a release from a petroleum storage tank and assessment, remediation, or both are being pursued in accordance with Title 75, chapter 11, part 3.

(f) "Potentially liable person" means a grant recipient who:

(i) dispensed or disposed of, or owned the site when others dispensed or disposed of, petroleum or petroleum product at the site;

(ii) exacerbated existing petroleum contamination at the site; or

(iii) failed to take reasonable steps with regard to petroleum contamination at the site.

(g) "Reasonable steps" means, as appropriate, stopping continuing releases, preventing threatened future releases, or preventing or limiting human, environmental, or natural resource exposure to earlier petroleum or petroleum product releases. The term may include limiting access to the property, monitoring known contaminants, and complying with state, local, or both state and local requirements.

(h) "Responsible party" means:

(i) a person who is responsible for conducting the assessment, investigation, and cleanup at a petroleum tank release site as determined through:

(A) a judgment rendered in a court of law or an administrative order;

(B) an enforcement action by federal authorities or the department; or

(C) a citizen suit, contribution action, or other third-party claim brought against the current owner of the petroleum tank release site; or

(ii) a current owner of a petroleum tank release site who:

(A) dispensed or disposed of petroleum or petroleum product contamination at the site;

(B) exacerbated existing petroleum contamination at the site;

(C) owned the site when any dispensing or disposal of petroleum by others took place; or

(D) failed to take reasonable steps with regard to petroleum contamination at the site.

(i) "Viable responsible party" means a responsible party who is determined by the department in accordance with 75-11-407 to have the financial capability to conduct the assessment, investigation, or cleanup activities at a petroleum tank release site.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 296, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 16, 2023.

75-11-404 through 75-11-406 reserved.

75-11-407. Viability. (1) For the purpose of determining the viability of a responsible party, the department shall presume that:

(a) ongoing businesses or companies and government entities are viable unless there is information suggesting that the presumption is not appropriate and the department determines the information is sufficient to rebut the presumption in a particular case; and

(b) individuals and defunct or insolvent companies are not viable unless there is information suggesting that the presumption is not appropriate and the department determines the information is sufficient to rebut the presumption in a particular case.

(2) The department may not determine that a responsible party is viable based solely on the fact that the owner or operator of the petroleum tank release site is eligible to be reimbursed

by the petroleum tank release compensation board established in 2-15-2108 from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund established in 75-11-313.

(3) It is a grant recipient's responsibility to provide the department with sufficient financial information about a responsible party identified in a petroleum brownfields site eligibility application to determine whether the responsible party is a viable responsible party.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 296, L. 2015.**

75-11-408. Brownfields site eligibility at petroleum tank release sites — determinations and limitations. (1) Before a grant recipient may expend federal brownfields funds at a petroleum tank release site, either the United States environmental protection agency or the department shall make a written determination that:

(a) there is no viable responsible party for the petroleum tank release site;

(b) the petroleum tank release site will not be assessed, investigated, or cleaned up by a potentially liable person; and

(c) the petroleum tank release site is not subject to an order under section 9003(h) of the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C. 6991b(h), or Title 75, chapter 11.

(2) After the department or the United States environmental protection agency determines that a petroleum tank release site is eligible for federal brownfields funding, the department shall encourage and may not limit the use of a grant recipient's federal petroleum brownfields funding at the site even if the site owner or operator, as defined in 75-11-302, is eligible for funding from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund established in 75-11-313.

(3) The department may not limit the use of money from the petroleum tank release cleanup fund established in 75-11-313 when used as a commitment to a federal brownfields loan made by a grant recipient for remediation at a petroleum tank release site.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), a determination made by the department or the United States environmental protection agency that a petroleum tank release site is eligible for federal brownfields funding does not limit or alter the owner's or operator's responsibility to assess or remediate the petroleum tank release site in accordance with Title 75, chapter 11.

(b) If the department determines that a grant recipient has proposed to conduct a timely and comprehensive remediation using federal brownfields funding at a petroleum tank release site that has been determined by the department or the United States environmental protection agency to be eligible for petroleum brownfields funding and the proposed remediation plan is expected to meet or exceed remediation standards required by the department and financial commitments required by the petroleum tank release compensation board pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, the department shall approve the comprehensive remediation plan and allow for the use of federal brownfields funding at the petroleum tank release site.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 296, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 57, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 16, 2023.

75-11-409. Use of petroleum brownfields funding acquired by state — limitations. Prior to expending federal funds awarded to the state for the purpose of assessing or cleaning up petroleum tank release sites that are eligible for petroleum brownfields funding from the United States environmental protection agency under the federal Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2001, Title II of Public Law 107-118, the department shall make a reasonable effort to coordinate with a grant recipient who may intend to expend federal brownfields funding to assess or remediate eligible petroleum brownfields sites in the grant recipient's brownfields target area and to ensure that the grant recipient is not intending to expend petroleum brownfields funding at the same eligible brownfields sites.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 296, L. 2015.**

Part 5
Montana Underground Storage Tank Act

75-11-501. Short title. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Underground Storage Tank Act".

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 1997.**

75-11-502. Intent, findings, and purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Montana Underground Storage Tank Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this part provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) The legislature finds that petroleum products and hazardous substances stored in underground tanks are regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, and must be addressed and controlled properly by the state under this part. It is the purpose of this part to authorize the department to establish, administer, and enforce an underground storage tank leak prevention program for these regulated substances. The department may use the authority provided in this part and other appropriate authority provided by law to remedy violations of requirements established under this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

75-11-503. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Dispose" or "disposal" means the discharge, injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any regulated substance into or onto the land or water so that the regulated substance or any constituent of the regulated substance may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters, including ground water.

(4) "Person" means the United States, an individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town, local governmental entity, or any other governmental or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(5) "Petroleum mixing zone" means an area where water quality standards for petroleum and petroleum constituents may be exceeded subject to the conditions of 75-11-508 and consistent with rules adopted under 75-11-318, 75-11-319, and 75-11-505.

(6) "Regulated substance":

(a) means:

(i) a hazardous substance as defined in 75-10-602; or

(ii) petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction of crude oil, that is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (60 degrees F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute);

(b) does not include a substance regulated as a hazardous waste under Title 75, chapter 10, part 4.

(7) "Storage" means the actual or intended containment of regulated substances, either on a temporary basis or for a period of years.

(8) "Underground storage tank" or "tank":

(a) means, except as provided in subsections (8)(b)(i) through (8)(b)(xii):

(i) any one or a combination of tanks used to contain a regulated substance, the volume of which is 10% or more beneath the surface of the ground;

(ii) any underground pipes used to contain or transport a regulated substance and connected to a storage tank, whether the storage tank is entirely above ground, partially above ground, or entirely under ground; and

(iii) ancillary equipment designed to prevent, detect, or contain a release from an underground storage tank;

(b) does not include:

(i) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less and that is used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes;

(ii) a farm or residential tank that was installed as of April 27, 1995, that has a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less and that is used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored;

(iii) farm or residential underground pipes that were installed as of April 27, 1995, and that are used to contain or to transport motor fuels for noncommercial purposes or heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where it is stored from an aboveground storage tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less;

(iv) a septic tank;

(v) a pipeline facility, including gathering lines, regulated under:

(A) the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, 49 U.S.C. 1671, et seq.;

(B) the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979, 49 U.S.C. 2001, et seq.; or

(C) state law comparable to the provisions of law referred to in subsection (8)(b)(v)(A) or (8)(b)(v)(B) if the facility is intrastate;

(vi) a surface impoundment, pit, pond, or lagoon;

(vii) a storm water or wastewater collection system;

(viii) a flow-through process tank;

(ix) a liquid trap or associated gathering lines directly related to oil or gas production and gathering operations;

(x) a storage tank situated in an underground area, such as a basement, cellar, mine, draft, shaft, or tunnel, if the storage tank is situated upon or above the surface of the floor;

(xi) any pipe connected to a tank described in subsections (8)(b)(i) through (8)(b)(ix); or

(xii) underground pipes connected to an aboveground storage tank at a petroleum refinery that is subject to:

(A) facilitywide corrective action permit provisions under 75-10-406 or the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987, as amended; or

(B) a facilitywide corrective action order under 75-10-425 or the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 through 6987, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 156, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 189, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2013.

75-11-504. Powers of department. (1) The department may:

(a) administer and enforce the provisions of this part, rules implementing this part, and orders and permits issued pursuant to this part;

(b) accept and administer grants from the federal government and from other sources, public and private;

(c) abate public nuisances that affect the public health and welfare or the environment and that arise from or in connection with the past or present handling or disposal of any regulated substance; and

(d) enter property and permanently close an underground storage tank that:

(i) was in use after November 22, 1989;

(ii) was not permanently closed before December 23, 1998, in accordance with closure requirements established by this part; and

(iii) was neither:

(A) initially installed in accordance with design requirements established pursuant to this part; nor

(B) upgraded in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(2) The department shall integrate all provisions of this part with other laws administered by the department to avoid unnecessary duplication.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

75-11-505. Administrative rules — underground storage tanks — petroleum mixing zones. (1) The department may adopt, amend, or repeal rules for the prevention and correction of leakage from underground storage tanks, including:

(a) reporting by owners and operators;

(b) financial responsibility;

(c) release detection, prevention, and corrective action;

(d) procedures and standards for the issuance, nonissuance, renewal, nonrenewal, modification, revocation, suspension, and enforcement of permits authorizing the operation of underground storage tanks;

(e) standards for design, construction, installation, and closure;

(f) development of a schedule of annual fees, not to exceed $108 for a tank over 1,100 gallons and not to exceed $36 for a tank 1,100 gallons or less, for each tank, for tank registration to defray state and local costs of implementing an underground storage tank program. The department may prorate fees to cover periods not equal to 12 months in order to provide staggered scheduling of renewal dates.

(g) a system for assessment of administrative penalties, notice, and appeals under 75-11-525; and

(h) delegation of authority and funds to local agents for inspections and implementation. The delegation of authority to local agents must complement and may not duplicate existing authority for implementation of rules adopted by the department of justice that relate to underground storage tanks.

(2) In accordance with 75-11-508, the department:

(a) shall adopt rules governing the inclusion of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in a corrective action plan; and

(b) may incorporate by reference rules adopted pursuant to 75-5-301 and 75-5-303 related to mixing zones for ground water.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 137, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 51, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 189, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-11-506 and 75-11-507 reserved.

75-11-508. Corrective action — petroleum mixing zones. (1) A corrective action plan prepared pursuant to 75-11-309 may include the use of a petroleum mixing zone, as defined in 75-11-503, in conjunction with the final remediation and resolution of a petroleum release.

(2) If a petroleum mixing zone is included in a corrective action plan, it may be established only when:

(a) all source material has been removed to the maximum extent practicable;

(b) the extent of petroleum contamination has been defined;

(c) natural breakdown or attenuation is occurring within the plume; and

(d) no further corrective action is reasonably required at the site.

(3) The boundary of a petroleum mixing zone established in accordance with this section must be contained within the boundary of the property on which the petroleum release originated unless a recorded easement, a restrictive covenant, or another institutional control approved by the department on an adjoining property allows the petroleum mixing zone to extend onto the adjoining property.

(4) Monitoring of a petroleum mixing zone may not be required unless there is a unique, overriding, site-specific, impact-related reason to require monitoring.

(5) At the downgradient boundary of a petroleum mixing zone, the concentration of any petroleum constituent, including benzene, may not exceed a water quality standard adopted pursuant to 75-5-301.

(6) If a petroleum mixing zone is established and maintained:

(a) the petroleum release is considered resolved;

(b) no further corrective action for the petroleum release is required; and

(c) the department shall issue a no-further-action letter to the owner or operator stating that a petroleum mixing zone has been established for the release and describing any conditions required to maintain the petroleum mixing zone.

(7) A corrective action plan approved by the department pursuant to 75-11-309 may be amended to include a petroleum mixing zone in accordance with this section, including a corrective action plan approved prior to April 15, 2011.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 189, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 107, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-11-509. Inspections — permits. (1) The owner or operator of an active underground storage tank must have the tank inspected for compliance with this part by January 1, 2002, and at least once every 3 years thereafter by an inspector who is licensed pursuant to Title 75, chapter 11, part 2, to perform underground storage tank inspections. The inspector may not be:

(a) the owner or operator of the tank;

(b) an employee of the owner or operator; or

(c) for the first inspection required by this subsection (1) and for a period of 3 years after the installation or modification of the tank was completed, the installer who installed or modified the tank and whose name or signature was on the permit required by 75-11-212.

(2) The owner or operator of an inactive underground storage tank shall comply with requirements for testing, inspection, recordkeeping, and reporting provided in rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(3) The department may by rule authorize temporary permits for the installation, testing, and operation of underground storage tanks. The requirements in subsection (8) for a 3-year permit term and for permit issuance only after inspection by a licensed inspector do not apply to temporary permits.

(4) The department shall by rule provide:

(a) requirements for the scope and timing of inspections; and

(b) requirements for testing, inspection, recordkeeping, and reporting for inactive tanks to ensure that these tanks do not pose a threat to public health, safety, or the environment while inactive or upon their return to active status.

(5) The inspector shall provide the owner or operator with an inspection report that meets the requirements of rules adopted by the department to ensure compliance with this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(6) The owner or operator shall retain the original inspection report and mail a copy to the department.

(7) If the inspection report indicates violations, the owner or operator shall correct the violations and obtain a followup inspection. Followup inspection reports must be provided to the owner or operator and to the department.

(8) A person may not place a regulated substance in an underground storage tank unless the owner or operator has been issued a valid permit from the department for the tank. Permits must be issued for a term of 3 years. The department may not issue or renew a permit unless the owner or operator has filed with the department an inspection report by a licensed inspector. Prior to issuing or renewing a permit, the department shall determine, on the basis of the inspection report and other relevant information, whether the operation and maintenance of the tank were in compliance with this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part on the date of inspection.

(9) The department may determine to not issue or not renew a permit for a tank if the department finds that there has been significant noncompliance with this part or with rules, permits, or orders issued pursuant to this part. If the department proposes to not issue or not renew a permit, it must have a written notice letter served personally or by certified mail on the owner or operator informing the owner or operator of the reason for the action. The owner or operator may request a hearing before the board. The hearing request must be in writing and must be filed with the board no later than 30 days after the service of the notice letter. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 244, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 137, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 2005.

75-11-510. Underground storage tank leak report — inspections — sampling. (1) If an owner or operator of an underground storage tank discovers or is provided with evidence that a tank may have leaked, the owner or operator shall immediately notify the department that a leak may exist.

(2) (a) An employee or agent of the department, at any reasonable time and upon presentation of credentials, may enter upon and inspect any property, premises, or place at which:

(i) regulated substances are or have been stored in underground storage tanks if the department has reason to suspect that the tanks are not in compliance with the provisions of this part or rules adopted under this part; or

(ii) records pertinent to the regulated substances activities are maintained.

(b) The employee or agent of the department may have access to and may copy any records relating to the regulated substances for the purposes of developing rules under this part or enforcing the provisions of this part, rules adopted under this part, or a permit or an order issued under this part.

(3) In the course of an inspection under this section, the employee or agent of the department may take samples of any regulated substance or suspected regulated substance, including samples from any soil or ground water. If the employee or agent of the department takes a sample of any regulated substance or suspected regulated substance, the employee or agent shall, prior to leaving the premises, give to the owner, operator, or agent in charge a receipt describing the sample taken and, if requested, a portion of each sample equal in volume or weight to the portion retained. If any analysis is made of the samples, a copy of the results of the analysis must be furnished to the owner, operator, or agent in charge.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Searches and seizures — right of private individual to be secure, Art. II, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

75-11-511. Regulated substance inventory. (1) The department is authorized to conduct an inventory of sites and locations in the state where regulated substances have been stored or disposed of at any time.

(2) If the department determines that the presence of a regulated substance or the release of the regulated substance may present a substantial hazard to the public health or to the environment, it may issue an order requiring the owner or operator of the site to conduct reasonable monitoring, testing, analysis, and reporting with respect to the site in order to ascertain the nature and extent of the hazard.

(3) An order issued under subsection (2) must require that the person to whom the order is issued submit to the department within 30 days a proposal for carrying out the required monitoring, testing, analysis, and reporting.

(4) If the department determines that the owner or operator referred to in subsection (2) is not able to conduct monitoring, testing, and analysis in a satisfactory manner, the department may conduct the activities.

(5) For the purposes of carrying out this section, the department may exercise the powers set forth in 75-11-510.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-11-512. Administrative enforcement. (1) When the department believes that a violation of this part or a rule adopted under this part has occurred, it may serve written notice of the violation personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. The notice must specify the provision of this part or the rule alleged to be violated and the facts alleged to constitute a violation and may include an order to take necessary corrective action within a reasonable period of time stated in the order. The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named requests, in writing, a hearing before the board. On receipt of the request, the board shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of receipt.

(2) If, after a hearing held under subsection (1), the board finds that a violation has occurred, it shall either affirm or modify the department's order. An order issued by the department or by the board may prescribe the date by which the violation must cease and may prescribe time limits for particular action. If, after hearing, the board finds that a violation has not occurred, it shall rescind the department's order.

(3) In addition to or instead of issuing an order pursuant to subsection (1), the department may:

(a) require the alleged violator to appear before the board or department, by subpoena or subpoena duces tecum, for a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice to answer the charges complained of or to provide information regarding the alleged violation or its actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment;

(b) initiate action under 75-11-513, 75-11-514, or 75-11-516; or

(c) assess administrative penalties and issue corrective action orders under 75-11-525.

(4) In the case of disobedience of any subpoena issued and served under this section or of the refusal of any witness to testify as to any material matter with regard to which the witness may be interrogated in a hearing or investigation before the board or the department, the board or department may apply to any district court in the state for an order to compel compliance

with the subpoena or the giving of testimony. The court shall hear the matter as expeditiously as possible. If the disobedience or refusal is found to be unjustified, the court shall enter an order requiring compliance. Disobedience of the order is punishable by contempt of court in the same manner and by the same procedures as is provided for like conduct committed in the course of civil actions in district court.

(5) If a person fails to comply with an order issued pursuant to subsection (1) or (3) within the time allowed in the order, the department may enter the property on which the underground storage tank that is in violation is located and temporarily close the tank. If the department finds that permanent closure is necessary to prevent substantial environmental harm or because the owner or operator is unlikely to comply with the order, it may permanently close the tank.

(6) This section does not prevent the board or department from making efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 506, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 51, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Contested case procedure, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.
Judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.
Contempts, Title 3, ch. 1, part 5.

75-11-513. Injunctions. The department may institute and maintain, in the name of the state, actions for injunctive relief as provided in Title 27, chapter 19, to:

(1) immediately restrain any person from engaging in any unauthorized activity that is endangering or causing damage to the public health or to the environment;

(2) enjoin a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board; or

(3) require compliance with this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Injunctions — Supreme Court jurisdiction, 3-2-205.

75-11-514. Imminent hazard. Upon receipt of evidence that the storage or disposal of any regulated substance may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or to the environment, the department may commence legal proceedings to immediately restrain or enjoin any person who has contributed to or who is contributing to the storage or disposal from engaging in these activities or order the person to take other action as may be necessary, or both. The department may also take appropriate action as may be necessary under this section, including issuing orders necessary or appropriate to protect the public health and the environment.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-11-515. Cleanup orders. The department may issue a cleanup order to any person who has discharged, deposited, or spilled any regulated substance into or onto any land or water in an unlawful or unapproved manner or who has discharged, deposited, or spilled any regulated substance into or onto any land or water so as to result in unlawful or unapproved disposal of a regulated substance. The order must direct the person to clean up and remove the regulated substance, to treat the regulated substance, or to take other actions as may be considered reasonable by the department.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-11-516. Civil penalties. (1) (a) A person who violates any provision of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order of the department or the board is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $10,000 for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) The department may institute and maintain in the name of the state any enforcement proceedings under this section. Upon request of the department, the attorney general or the county attorney of the county of violation shall petition the district court to impose, assess, and

recover the civil penalty. Penalties are also recoverable in an action brought by the department. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(3) Action under this section does not bar enforcement of this part, rules adopted under this part, or orders of the department or the board.

(4) Money collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Duties of County Attorney related to state matters, 7-4-2716.

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-11-517. Lien. (1) The costs incurred by the department to close an underground storage tank pursuant to 75-11-504 or 75-11-512 constitute a lien in favor of the state upon all property and rights to the property that belong to the owner or operator.

(2) The lien imposed by this section arises at the time that notice incorporating a description of the property on which the underground storage tank was permanently closed and an identification of the amount of costs is filed with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the real property is located. A copy of the notice must be served by certified mail upon the property owner.

(3) The costs constituting the lien may be recovered in an action in the district court for the district in which the property is located. This section does not affect the right of the state to bring an action against a person to recover all costs for which that person is liable under this part or any other provision of state or federal law.

(4) The lien must continue until the liability for the costs incurred as a result of the permanent closure of the underground storage tank by the state is satisfied.

(5) Payment of any liens under this section must be deposited in the account from which the costs incurred by the state originated.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 506, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

75-11-518. Venue for legal actions. All legal actions affecting underground storage tanks or the disposal of regulated substances must be brought in the county in which the underground storage tank is located.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

75-11-519. Liability — defense and exclusions. (1) A person has a defense against liability in a tort action for damages suffered as a result of an act or omission that constitutes a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or a condition of a permit or authorization required by a rule adopted under this part if the person can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(a) the person is a government entity that acquired ownership or control through bankruptcy, tax delinquency, abandonment, or lien foreclosure in which the government entity acquired title by virtue of the government entity's authority;

(b) the person has not caused or contributed to the violation; and

(c) the person is making an effort to abate the violation.

(2) For the purposes of this part, "government entity" includes a consolidated city-county, a county, and an incorporated city or town.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 159, L. 2013.

75-11-520. Construction in event of conflict. The provisions of this part and rules promulgated pursuant to this part govern if they conflict with other provisions of Montana law or any action taken by the department under those provisions.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 112, L. 1997.

75-11-521. Benchmarks — budget action taken if not met. (1) Categorizing petroleum storage tank release sites as resolved is a higher priority than investigation of new releases unless the new release is an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public.

(2) The department shall develop a list of open release sites prioritized by danger to the health and safety of the public and anticipated date of categorizing the sites as resolved.

(3) (a) The cumulative benchmarks that are provided in subsection (3)(b) must be met. If the benchmarks are not met, money appropriated for petroleum storage tank leak prevention may not be included in the department's base budget, as defined in 17-7-102, for the current biennium.

(b) The cumulative benchmarks are as follows:

Date	Total Number of Resolved Sites
December 31, 2011	45
July 1, 2012	90
December 31, 2012	135
July 1, 2013	180
December 31, 2013	225
July 1, 2014	270
December 31, 2014	315
July 1, 2015	360

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Petroleum storage tank" has the same meaning as prescribed in 75-11-302.

(b) "Release" has the same meaning as prescribed in 75-11-302.

(c) "Resolved" means a determination by the department that all cleanup requirements have been met and that conditions at the site ensure present and long-term protection of human health, safety, and the environment.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 394, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 261, L. 2021.

75-11-522 through 75-11-524 reserved.

75-11-525. Administrative penalties for violations — appeals — venue. (1) (a) A person who violates any of the provisions of this part or any rules promulgated under the authority of this part may be assessed and ordered by the department to pay an administrative penalty not to exceed $500 for each violation. This limitation on administrative penalties applies only to penalties assessed under this section. Each occurrence of the violation and each day that it remains uncorrected constitutes a separate violation. The department may suspend a portion of the administrative penalty assessed under this section if the condition that caused the assessment of the penalty is corrected within a specified time. Assessment of an administrative penalty under this section may be made in conjunction with any order or other administrative action authorized by this chapter.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (1) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(2) When the department assesses an administrative penalty under this section, it must have written notice served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the violator's agent. For purposes of this chapter, service by mail is complete on the day of receipt. The notice must state:

(a) the provision alleged to be violated;

(b) the facts alleged to constitute the violation;

(c) the amount of the administrative penalty assessed under this section;

(d) the amount, if any, of the penalty to be suspended upon correction of the condition that caused the assessment of the penalty;

(e) the nature of any corrective action that the department requires, whether or not a portion of the penalty is to be suspended;

(f) as applicable, the time within which the corrective action is to be taken and the time within which the administrative penalty is to be paid; and

(g) the right to appeal or to a hearing to mitigate the penalty assessed.

(3) A person assessed a penalty under this section may request a hearing before the board to either contest the alleged violation or request mitigation of the penalty. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, provided for in Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing conducted under this section. If a hearing is held under this section, it must be held in the county in which the alleged violation occurred.

(4) If the department is unable to collect an administrative penalty assessed under this section or if a person fails to pay all or any portion of an administrative penalty assessed under this section, the department may take action in district court to recover the penalty amount and any additional amounts assessed or sought under this chapter. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(5) Action under this section does not bar action under this chapter or any other remedy available to the department for violations of underground storage tank laws or rules promulgated under those laws.

(6) Administrative penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 281, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 112, L. 1997; Sec. 75-10-423, MCA 1995; redes. 75-11-525 by Sec. 36(2), Ch. 112, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 51, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Judicial review of contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

75-11-526. Underground storage tank special revenue account. (1) There is an underground storage tank account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. There must be paid into the account:

(a) revenues from underground storage tank permit and notification fees; and

(b) corrective action costs, damages, and penalties recovered under section 9003 of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended.

(2) Appropriations may be made from the underground storage tank account for the following purposes only:

(a) state and local government costs of implementing the underground storage tank leak prevention program;

(b) state and local government costs relating to the investigation of leaking underground storage tanks; or

(c) state costs relating to the administration of the administrative penalty program.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 384, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 281, L. 1993; Sec. 75-10-447, MCA 1995; redes. 75-11-526 by Sec. 36(2), Ch. 112, L. 1997.

Part 6
Contaminated Property Compensation and Restoration

75-11-601. Short title — scope. (1) This part may be cited as the "Montana Contaminated Property Compensation and Restoration Act".

(2) This part applies only to common law claims brought in judicial proceedings on behalf of private interests of individuals or entities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 2009.

75-11-602. Definitions. For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) (a) "Release" means any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, escaping, leaching, or disposing of petroleum or petroleum products from a petroleum storage tank into ground water, surface water, surface soils, or subsurface soils that occurred from a petroleum storage tank, as defined in 75-11-302.

(b) The term does not include a release from the following petroleum storage tanks:

(i) a tank located at a refinery or a terminal of a refiner;

(ii) a tank located at an oil and gas production facility; or

(iii) a tank that is or was previously under the ownership or control of a railroad, except for a tank that was operated by a lessee of a railroad in the course of nonrailroad operations.

(3) "Restoration damages" means the amount of compensation determined necessary by a trier of fact to restore a contaminated special use property to its function and use prior to the contamination upon which a common law claim is based. The term includes reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred by the plaintiff.

(4) "Special use property" means real property contaminated by a release from a petroleum storage tank, as defined in 75-11-302, that is found by a trier of fact to have personal value to the plaintiff not reflected in the market value of the property or to have unique public, historic, cultural, or religious value not reflected in the market value of the property.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 2009.

75-11-603. Restoration damages for contamination of special use property. (1) Restoration damages for a common law claim alleging contamination of special use property may be granted by the trier of fact and may only be obtained pursuant to this part.

(2) Nothing in this section precludes the award of other damages allowed under common law and statute.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 409, L. 2009.

75-11-604. Use of restoration damages — request for trust account. (1) Restoration damages awarded pursuant to 75-11-603, exclusive of damages awarded for attorney fees and costs, must be used to conduct any remedial and corrective action necessary to restore the special use property for which the damages were awarded to its function and use prior to the contamination for which the damages were awarded.

(2) Any party may request that a court awarding restoration damages may also order that those damages be deposited in a segregated trust account at a commercial bank or trust company to ensure compliance with subsection (1). The plaintiff may create a trust to be overseen by a qualified professional to restore the special use property.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 409, L. 2009.

75-11-605. Burden of proof. The plaintiff in an action for restoration damages resulting from the contamination of special use property has the burden of proof to show that a property meets the definition of a special use property.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 409, L. 2009.

CHAPTERS 12 THROUGH 14
RESERVED

CHAPTER 15
LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

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Chapter Cross-References

City-County Planning Boards, Title 76, ch. 1, part 1.
Planning and zoning, Title 76, ch. 2.

Part 1
Outdoor Advertising

Part Cross-References

Beauty of state, Preamble, Mont. Const.
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

75-15-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Outdoor Advertising Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4715(b).

75-15-102. Policy. The legislature finds and declares that in order to promote the safety, convenience, and enjoyment of travel on and protection of the public investment in highways within this state and to preserve and enhance the natural scenic beauty or aesthetic features of the highways and adjacent areas, it shall be the policy of this state that the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising in areas adjacent to the right-of-way of the interstate and primary systems within this state shall be regulated in accordance with the terms of this part and the rules promulgated by the commission pursuant thereto. It is the intention of the legislature in this part to provide a statutory basis for regulation of outdoor advertising consistent with the public policy relating to areas adjacent to the interstate and primary systems declared by congress in Title 23, United States Code, "Highways".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4715(a).

75-15-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Commercial or industrial activities" means those activities generally recognized as commercial or industrial by zoning authorities in this state, except that none of the following activities are considered commercial or industrial:

(a) agricultural, forestry, grazing, farming, and related activities, including wayside fresh produce stands;

(b) transient or temporary activities;

(c) activities not visible from the main-traveled way;

(d) activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence;

(e) railroad tracks and minor sidings;

(f) activities more than 660 feet from the nearest edge of the right-of-way.

(2) "Commercial or industrial zone" means an area that is used or reserved for business, commerce, or trade pursuant to comprehensive local zoning ordinances, regulations, or enabling state legislation, including highway service areas lawfully zoned as highway service zones, where the primary use of the land is or is reserved for commercial and roadside services, other than outdoor advertising, to serve the traveling public. Areas temporarily zoned as commercial or industrial by an interim zoning district or interim regulation adopted as an emergency measure pursuant to 76-2-206 are not covered by this definition.

(3) "Commission" means the transportation commission of Montana.

(4) "Department" means the department of transportation.

(5) "Information center" means an area or site established or maintained at safety rest areas for the purpose of informing the public of places of interest within the state and providing other information that the commission may consider desirable.

(6) "Interchange" or "intersection" means those areas and their approaches where traffic is channeled off or onto an interstate route, including the deceleration lanes or acceleration lanes from or to another federal, state, county, city, or other route.

(7) "Interstate system" means that portion of the national system of interstate and defense highways located within this state as officially designated or as may be designated by the commission and approved by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, United States Code, "Highways".

(8) "Maintain" means to allow to exist, subject to the provisions of this part.

(9) "Maintenance" means to repair, refurbish, repaint, or otherwise keep an existing sign structure in a state suitable for use.

(10) "Outdoor advertising" means any outdoor sign, display, light, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, plaque, poster, billboard, or other structure that is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform and that is visible from any place on the main-traveled way of the interstate or primary systems.

(11) "Primary system" means that portion of connected main highways as officially designated or as may be designated by the commission and approved by the secretary pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, United States Code, "Highways".

(12) "Safety rest area" means an area or site established and maintained within or adjacent to the right-of-way, by or under public supervision or control, for the convenience of the traveling public.

(13) "Secretary" means the secretary of the United States department of transportation.

(14) "Unzoned commercial or industrial area" means an area not zoned by state or local law, regulation, or ordinance that is occupied by one or more commercial or industrial activities, other than outdoor advertising, on the lands along the highway for a distance of 600 feet immediately adjacent to the activities.

(15) "Urban area" means an urbanized area or place, as designated by the United States bureau of the census, that has a population of 5,000 or more and that is within boundaries fixed by the department. The boundaries must at a minimum encompass the entire urban place designated by the bureau of the census.

(16) "Visible" means capable of being seen and legible without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

History: (1) thru (3), (5) thru (16)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1975; (4)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4716; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 510, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

Cross-References

General provisions — Transportation Commission, Title 60, ch. 2, part 1.
General provisions — Department of Transportation, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

75-15-104. More restrictive regulations preserved. Nothing in this part shall be construed to abrogate or affect the provisions of any lawful ordinance, regulation, or resolution which is more restrictive than the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4725.

75-15-105. Relaxation of regulations if federal law changed. In the event the general requirements of Title 23, United States Code, "Highways", or existing rules and regulations of the United States department of transportation become amended or changed to less restrictive conditions than presently exist, then the commission shall amend or change the rules that it may have adopted to come into conformity with the federal law, rule, and regulation.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4726; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 510, L. 1995.

75-15-106 through 75-15-110 reserved.

75-15-111. Outdoor advertising prohibited in proximity to highway — exceptions. (1) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained that is within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way and that is visible from any place on the main-traveled way of an interstate or primary system, except:

(a) directional and other official signs and notices, which signs and notices include but are not limited to signs and notices pertaining to natural wonders and scenic and historical attractions, as authorized or required by law;

(b) signs, displays, and devices advertising the sale or lease of property upon which they are located;

(c) signs, displays, and devices advertising activities conducted on the property upon which they are located;

(d) signs, displays, and devices located in areas that are zoned industrial or commercial by a bona fide state, county, or local zoning authority;

(e) signs, displays, and devices located in unzoned commercial or industrial areas, which areas must be determined from actual land uses and by agreement between the department and the secretary and defined by rules adopted by the commission. The exception granted by this subsection is limited to two signs and may not apply to signs, displays, and devices located within an unzoned area in which the commercial or industrial activity used in defining the area has ceased for a period of 9 months.

(f) signs or displays advertising the cultural exhibits of nonprofit historical or arts organizations if the signs or displays conform with the standards provided in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, section 750, subpart B; or

(g) signs that are consistent with the policy of this state and with the national policy set forth in 23 U.S.C. 131 and the regulations promulgated under 23 U.S.C. 131 and that are designed to provide information in the specific interest of the traveling public as provided in 60-5-504, 60-5-505, 60-5-511 through 60-5-513, and 60-5-519 through 60-5-521.

(2) Outdoor advertising authorized under subsections (1)(a), (1)(d), and (1)(e) must conform with standards contained in and must bear permits required in rules that are adopted by the commission and this part.

(3) Outdoor advertising may not be erected or maintained beyond 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an interstate or primary highway outside of an urban area if the outdoor advertising is or was erected with the purpose of its message being read from the main-traveled way and visible from the main-traveled way unless the outdoor advertising meets the criteria of subsections (1)(a), (1)(b), or (1)(c). If the outdoor advertising meets that criteria, it must conform with standards contained in rules that are adopted by the commission and with this part.

(4) An outdoor advertising structure in an unzoned commercial or industrial area that is lawfully in existence on April 21, 1995, that meets the size requirements in 75-15-113, but that exceeds the restrictions in subsection (1)(e) of this section:

(a) must be classified as nonconforming by the department;

(b) may not be increased in size;

(c) may be maintained each year if the value of the materials used in the maintenance does not exceed 75% of the value of all of the materials required to replace the sign new; and

(d) may be replaced, if damaged, at up to and including 100% of its replacement cost.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 160, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 216, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4717; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 497, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 537, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 510, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Information signs, Title 60, ch. 5, part 5.

75-15-112. Unlawful advertising. Outdoor advertising is unlawful:

(1) when erected after June 24, 1971, contrary to this part or erected after June 24, 1971, beyond 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an interstate or primary highway outside of an urban area with the purpose of its message being read from such main-traveled way and visible from such main-traveled way, unless such outdoor advertising meets the criteria of subsections (a), (b), or (c) of 75-15-111(1);

(2) when a permit is not obtained as prescribed in this part; or

(3) when a permittee fails to comply with a notice of violation as provided in 75-15-132.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 89, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 216, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 234, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4722(1).

75-15-113. Standards for permitted advertising. Except for outdoor advertising beyond 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of an interstate or primary highway outside of an urban area, outdoor advertising permitted under 75-15-111(1)(d) and (1)(e) must conform to the following requirements:

(1) Signs may not be erected or maintained that exceed 672 square feet in area, including border and trim but excluding base or apron, supports, and other structural members.

(2) Signs may not exceed 48 feet in length.

(3) The maximum height of the sign structure, including the sign face, is 30 feet, measured at a right angle from the surface of the roadway at the centerline of the interstate or primary highway.

(4) No more than two facings visible and readable from the same direction on the main-traveled way may be erected on any one sign structure. Whenever two facings are so positioned, neither may exceed 325 square feet.

(5) Double-faced, back-to-back, and V-type signs are considered to be a single sign or structure.

(6) When two or more faces, back to back, are supported by separate structures, each is considered to be a single sign.

(7) No two signs may be spaced less than 500 feet apart adjacent to an interstate highway or limited-access primary highway, except that signs may be erected closer than 500 feet if they are separated by buildings or other obstructions in a manner that only one sign facing located within the 500-foot spacing distance is visible from the highway at any one time.

(8) Signs may not be located within 500 feet of any of the following that are adjacent to the highway unless the signs are in an incorporated area:

(a) public parks;

(b) public forests;

(c) public playgrounds;

(d) scenic areas designated as such by the department or other state agency having and exercising this authority;

(e) cemeteries.

(9) A sign may not be located on an interstate highway or freeway within 500 feet of an interchange or intersection at a grade or rest area. The 500 feet is to be measured along the interstate or freeway from the beginning or ending of the pavement widening at the exit from or entrance to the main-traveled way.

(10) Signs may be illuminated, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) Signs that contain, include, or are illuminated by a flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights are prohibited, except those giving public service information such as time, date, temperature, weather, or similar information.

(b) Signs that are not effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at a portion of the traveled ways of the interstate or federal-aid primary highway, that are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or that otherwise interfere with a driver's operation of a motor vehicle are prohibited.

(c) A sign may not be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of or obscures an official traffic sign, device, or signal.

(11) The location of sign structures situated on the primary highways between streets, roads, or highways entering or intersecting the main-traveled way must conform to the following minimum spacing criteria:

(a) When the distance between centerlines of intersecting streets or highways is less than 1,000 feet, a minimum spacing between structures of 150 feet may be permitted between the intersecting streets or highways.

(b) When the distance between centerlines of intersecting streets or highways is 1,000 feet or more, minimum spacing between sign structures must be 300 feet.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 89, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 162, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 216, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4719; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 45, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 510, L. 1995.

75-15-114 through 75-15-120 reserved.

75-15-121. Commission rules authorized. The commission may adopt rules to control the erection and maintenance of outdoor advertising along the interstate and primary highway systems in conformance with the terms of this part and in conformity with 23 U.S.C. 131, as amended.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 161, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4718.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-15-122. Permits required — identification tags — preexisting structures — fees. (1) (a) A sign authorized by 75-15-111(1)(a), (1)(d), and (1)(e) may not be constructed or maintained without a permit. Applications for permits must be made to the department on forms furnished by it. The department shall require reasonable information to be furnished, including a statement that the owner or occupant of the land has consented to the erection or maintenance of the sign on the land. A permit must be obtained for each sign, and the application for the permit must be accompanied by a nonrefundable, initial fee.

(b) Permits must be issued for 3 years, assigned a permit number, and renewed every 3 years after issuance upon payment of a fee without the filing of a new application. All fees received must be paid into the highway account in the state special revenue fund.

(c) The fees described in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) are to be determined by the square footage of the sign face and established, by rule, by the commission to cover the costs of administering and enforcing this section.

(2) The department shall issue with each new permit a permanent identification tag not larger than 36 square inches that must be affixed to the sign in a position readily visible from the highway.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the department shall issue permits and identification tags upon application and payment of the requisite fee for a structure lawfully in existence on June 23, 1971, and the permits must be renewed for a period of time as is prescribed in this section unless the structure is removed for improper maintenance.

(4) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the department shall issue permits and identification tags upon application and payment of the requisite fee for outdoor advertising lawfully in existence on June 23, 1971, and made nonconforming by virtue of 75-15-111(3), and the permits must be renewed for a period of time as is prescribed in this section unless the structure is removed for improper maintenance.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 163, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 216, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4720; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 510, L. 1995.

75-15-123. Acquisition of outdoor advertising rights — compensation. (1) The department may acquire by gift, purchase, agreement, exchange, or eminent domain existing outdoor advertising and property rights pertaining to advertising that was lawfully in existence on June 24, 1971, and that by virtue of 75-15-111(1) is nonconforming. Eminent domain must be exercised in accordance with Title 70, chapter 30.

(2) Just compensation must be paid for outdoor advertising and property rights pertaining to the advertising acquired through the process of eminent domain. The department may remove outdoor advertising found to be in violation of 75-15-112 or 75-15-132 without payment of compensation.

(3) Except as provided in 75-15-131 and 75-15-132, a sign may not be required to be removed unless at the time of removal or discontinuance there are sufficient funds, from whatever source, appropriated and immediately available to pay the just compensation required under this section and unless at that time the federal funds required to be contributed under 23 U.S.C. 131(g), with respect to the outdoor advertising being removed, have been apportioned and are immediately available to this state.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 166, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 216, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4723(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Acquisition of property by eminent domain, 70-30-103.

75-15-124. Agreements with secretary establishing specifications for advertising. The department may enter into an agreement with the secretary regarding the size, lighting, and spacing of outdoor advertising, as provided in this part, which may be erected and maintained within the areas adjacent to the interstate and primary highway system which are zoned commercial, industrial, or in such other unzoned commercial or industrial areas as may be determined by agreement and as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 167, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4724.

75-15-125 through 75-15-130 reserved.

75-15-131. Entry to inspect — notice of unlawful advertising — remedial action. (1) The department may enter upon lands bearing outdoor advertising and make examination of such advertising.

(2) The department shall give notice in writing, either by certified mail or by personal service, to the owner or occupant of the land on which advertising believed to be unlawful is located and to the owner of the outdoor advertising structure if the latter is known or, if unknown, by posting notice in a conspicuous place on the structure of its intention to remove the unlawful advertising. Within 45 days after the notice, the owner of the land or of the structure may make a written request for a hearing before the commission to show cause why the structure should not be removed.

(3) If a hearing before the commission is not requested or if there is no appeal taken from the commission's decision at the hearing or if the commission's decision is affirmed on appeal, the department shall immediately remove or cause to be removed the unlawful outdoor advertising. The department may, upon final determination by the commission that an item of outdoor advertising is unlawful, enter upon lands bearing such advertising and remove the unlawful advertising.

(4) The owner of the structure and the owner or occupant of the land are jointly and severally liable for the costs of the removal.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 89, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 165, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 216, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 234, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4722(2), (3).

Cross-References

Joint and several liability, 27-1-703.

75-15-132. False application or disrepair of structure — remedial action. When the department determines that a willful false or misleading statement has been made in the application for a permit or that the structure for which a permit was issued is not in a reasonable state of repair or is unsafe, the department shall notify the holder of the permit in writing, either by certified mail or by personal service, of the violation and specify that remedial action shall be taken within 60 days or the permit will be revoked and action for removal of the sign commenced as provided in 75-15-131. No notice is required prior to filing a complaint after the notice period has lapsed.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 164, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4721.

75-15-133. Nonconforming advertising as nuisance. All outdoor advertising which does not conform to the requirements of this part is a public nuisance.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 140, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4728.

Cross-References

Public nuisance, 27-30-102, 45-8-111.

75-15-134. Violation as misdemeanor. Any person violating any provision of this part is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 2, 2nd Ex. L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4727.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor penalty when no penalty specified, 46-18-212.

Part 2
Junkyards

Part Cross-References

Removal and sale of abandoned vehicles, Title 61, ch. 12, part 4.
Motor vehicle recycling and disposal, Title 75, ch. 10, part 5.

75-15-201. Purposes. (1) For the purposes of promoting the public safety, health, and welfare and the convenience and enjoyment of public travel, to protect the public investment in public highways, and to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of lands bordering public highways, it is hereby declared to be in the public interest to regulate and restrict the establishment, operation, and maintenance of junkyards in areas adjacent to the interstate and primary systems within this state.

(2) The legislature hereby finds and declares that junkyards which do not conform to the requirements of this part are public nuisances.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4513.

Cross-References
Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Public nuisance, 27-30-102, 45-8-111.

75-15-202. Interpretation. Nothing in this part shall be construed to abrogate or affect the provisions of any lawful ordinance, regulation, or resolution which is more restrictive than the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 285, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4523.

75-15-203. Definitions. As used in this part only, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Interstate system" means that portion of the national system of interstate and defense highways located within this state as officially designated or as may hereafter be so designated by the state transportation commission and approved by the secretary of transportation pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, United States Code, "Highways".

(2) "Junk" means old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, or waste; iron, steel, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material.

(3) "Junkyard" means any establishment or place of business which is maintained, operated, or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling junk, excluding a motor vehicle graveyard or motor vehicle wrecking facility which is regulated under Title 75, chapter 10, part 5, and excluding a garbage dump or sanitary landfill which is regulated under Title 75, chapter 10, part 2.

(4) "Primary system" means that portion of connected main highways as officially designated or as may hereafter be so designated by the commission and approved by the secretary of transportation pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, United States Code, "Highways".

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4514; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 75, L. 1995.

75-15-204. Agreements with the United States. The department of transportation may enter into agreements with the United States secretary of transportation as provided in Title 23, United States Code, relating to the control of junkyards in areas adjacent to the interstate and primary systems and take action in the name of the state to comply with the terms of those agreements.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 159, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4522; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

75-15-205. Injunction. The department of transportation may apply to the district court for the county in which is located any junkyard not conforming to the requirements of this part for an injunction to abate such nuisance.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4521; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-15-206 through 75-15-210 reserved.

75-15-211. License required. No person shall establish, operate, or maintain a junkyard, any portion of which is within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of any interstate or primary highway, without obtaining a license.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 410, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4515.

75-15-212. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 340, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4516(1).

75-15-213. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 340, L. 1983.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4516(2).

75-15-214. License for junkyards. (1) The department of transportation may issue a license for a junkyard.

(2) The department of transportation may acquire an interest in land for screening purposes or may pay for screening installation and materials as authorized by this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 410, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4516(3), (4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 25.

General powers and duties of Department of Transportation, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

75-15-215. Restrictions as to location. No license may be granted for the establishment, maintenance, or operation of a junkyard within 1,000 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of a highway on the interstate or primary systems except a license may be granted for a junkyard:

(1) screened by natural objects, planted objects, fences, or other appropriate means so as not to be visible from the main-traveled way of any such highway or otherwise removed from sight;

(2) located within an area zoned for industrial use under authority of law;

(3) located within an unzoned industrial area, as determined from actual land uses and defined by rules promulgated by the department of transportation;

(4) that is not visible from the main-traveled way of any such highway.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 285, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4517; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

75-15-216 through 75-15-220 reserved.

75-15-221. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 155, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4518.

75-15-222. Rules governing screening. (1) The department of transportation may adopt rules governing the materials to be used in and the location, planting, construction, and maintenance of screening or fencing required by this part.

(2) The department of transportation may determine that in the best interests of the state, screening in addition to that required by rules of the department of transportation as of July 1, 1979, is required of certain junkyards or motor vehicle wrecking facilities licensed under this title. The cost of any additional screening shall be borne or reimbursed by the department of transportation.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 316, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 252, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4519; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 340, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-15-223. Authority to acquire interest in land for screening and removal of junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, and sanitary landfills. (1) When the department of transportation determines that it is in the best interests of the state, it may acquire land or interest in land that may be necessary to provide adequate screening for junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, and sanitary landfills.

(2) When the department of transportation determines that the topography of the land adjoining the highway will not permit adequate or economically feasible screening, it may acquire by gift, purchase, exchange, or condemnation interest in land that may be necessary to secure the relocation, removal, or disposal of junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, or sanitary landfills that were either lawfully:

(a) in existence on October 22, 1965;

(b) along any highway made a part of the interstate or primary systems on or after October 22, 1965, and before January 1, 1968; or

(c) established on or after January 1, 1968.

(3) The department of transportation shall pay just compensation to the owner for the relocation, removal, or disposal of any facility. Condemnation must be exercised pursuant to Title 60, chapter 4, and Title 70, chapter 30.

(4) Any new site chosen by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (2) for the relocation of a garbage dump or sanitary landfill must be approvable as the site of a solid waste management system pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 2, and the rules promulgated under authority of that part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 285, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4520; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 340, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Department of Transportation, Title 2, ch. 15, part 25.

General powers and duties of Department of Transportation, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.

CHAPTER 16
TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION

Part 1 — Uniform Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act

75-16-101. Short title.
75-16-102. Definitions.
75-16-103. Forum.
75-16-104. Right to relief.
75-16-105. Applicable law.
75-16-106. Equality of rights.
75-16-107. Right additional to other rights.
75-16-108. Application of sovereign immunity.
75-16-109. Uniformity of application and construction.

Chapter Cross-References

Nuisances, Title 27, ch. 30.

Part 1
Uniform Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act

75-16-101. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Uniform Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

75-16-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Person" means an individual person, corporation, business trust, estate, partnership, association, joint venture, government in its private or public capacity, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal entity.

(2) "Reciprocating jurisdiction" means a state of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory or possession of the United States, or a province or territory of Canada, which has enacted this part or provides substantially equivalent access to its courts and administrative agencies.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

75-16-103. Forum. An action or other proceeding for injury or threatened injury to property or person in a reciprocating jurisdiction caused by pollution originating or that may originate in this state may be brought in this state.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

75-16-104. Right to relief. A person who suffers or is threatened with injury to that person's person or property in a reciprocating jurisdiction caused by pollution originating or that may originate in this state has the same rights to relief with respect to the injury or threatened injury and may enforce those rights in this state as if the injury or threatened injury occurred in this state.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 203, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2506, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Injury defined, 27-1-106.
Kinds of relief — when given, 27-1-107.

75-16-105. Applicable law. The law to be applied in an action or other proceeding brought pursuant to this part, including what constitutes "pollution", is the law of this state, excluding choice of law rules.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Issues of law to be decided by court, 25-7-102.

75-16-106. Equality of rights. This part does not accord a person injured or threatened with injury in another jurisdiction any rights superior to those that the person would have if injured or threatened with injury in this state.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

75-16-107. Right additional to other rights. The right provided in this part is in addition to and not in derogation of any other rights.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

75-16-108. Application of sovereign immunity. The defense of sovereign immunity is applicable in any action or other proceeding brought pursuant to this part only to the extent that it would apply to a person injured or threatened with injury in this state.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

Cross-References

State subject to suit, Art. II, sec. 18, Mont. Const.

Government liability exposure, Title 2, ch. 9, part 1.

Claims and actions against state, Title 2, ch. 9, part 3.

75-16-109. Uniformity of application and construction. This part shall be applied and construed to carry out its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this part among jurisdictions enacting it.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 203, L. 1983.

CHAPTERS 17 THROUGH 19
RESERVED

CHAPTER 20
MAJOR FACILITY SITING

Part 1 — Policy and General Provisions

75-20-101. Short title.
75-20-102. Policy and legislative findings.
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75-20-208. Certain electric transmission lines — verification of requirements.
75-20-209 and 75-20-210 reserved.
75-20-211. Application — filing and contents — proof of service and notice.
75-20-212. Cure for failure of service.
75-20-213. Supplemental material — amendments.
75-20-214. Repealed.
75-20-215. Filing fee — accountability — refund — use.
75-20-216. Study, evaluation, and report on proposed facility — assistance by other agencies.
75-20-217. Voiding an application.
75-20-218. Repealed.
75-20-219. Amendments to certificate.
75-20-220. Repealed.
75-20-221. Repealed.
75-20-222. Repealed.
75-20-223. Board review of department decisions.
75-20-224 reserved.
75-20-225. Repealed.
75-20-226. Repealed.
75-20-227. Repealed.
75-20-228. Electric generating facility fuel source change — notice requirements.
75-20-229 and 75-20-230 reserved.
75-20-231. Expedited review.
75-20-232. Criteria for identifying proposed facilities that qualify for expedited review.

Part 3 — Decisions

75-20-301. Decision of department — findings necessary for certification.
75-20-302. Conditions imposed.
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75-20-401. Additional requirements by other governmental agencies not permitted after issuance of certificate — exceptions — venue for challenging certificate issuance.
75-20-402. Monitoring.
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75-20-404. Enforcement of chapter by residents.
75-20-405. Action to recover damages to water supply.
75-20-406. Judicial review of decisions.
75-20-407. Jurisdiction of courts restricted.
75-20-408. Penalties for violation of chapter — civil actions to enforce.
75-20-409. Optional annual installments for location of facility on landowner's property.
75-20-410. Order not stayed by appeal — stay or suspension by court — limitations.
75-20-411. Surety bond — other security.

Part 5 — Long-Range Plans (Repealed)

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Part 10 — Geothermal Exploration

75-20-1001. Geothermal exploration — notification of department.

Part 11 — Energy Conversion Facility (Repealed)

Part 12 — Nuclear Energy Conversion (Repealed)

Chapter Cross-References

Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.
Application of nuclear regulation provisions, 50-79-302.
Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 75, ch. 1, part 10.
Montana Hazardous Waste and Underground Storage Tank Act, Title 75, ch. 10, part 4.

Part 1
Policy and General Provisions

75-20-101. Short title. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Major Facility Siting Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-801.

Cross-References

State policy of consistency and continuity in adoption and application of environmental rules, 90-1-101.

75-20-102. Policy and legislative findings. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Montana Major Facility Siting Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this chapter provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) It is the constitutionally declared policy of this state to maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment for present and future generations, to protect the environmental life-support system from degradation and prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources, and to provide for administration and enforcement to attain these objectives.

(3) It is also constitutionally declared in the state of Montana that the inalienable rights of the citizens of this state include the right to pursue life's basic necessities, to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to acquire, possess, and protect property, and to seek safety, health, and happiness in all lawful ways. The balancing of these constitutional rights is necessary in order to maintain a sustainable quality of life for all Montanans.

(4) The legislature finds that the construction of additional electric transmission facilities, pipeline facilities, or geothermal facilities may be necessary to meet the increasing need for electricity, energy, and other products. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that the location, construction, and operation of electric transmission facilities, pipeline facilities, or geothermal

facilities are in compliance with state law and that an electric transmission facility, pipeline facility, or geothermal facility may not be constructed or operated within this state without a certificate of compliance acquired pursuant to this chapter.

(5) The legislature finds that increasing the capacity of existing transmission lines by replacing less efficient aging low-voltage transmission lines with higher-voltage lines, installing new conductors to lower impedance, and adding circuits to existing transmission lines within existing linear corridors reduces energy loss, conserves energy, and prevents unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources. Therefore, transmission upgrades within existing corridors serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity and transmission providers are encouraged to construct those transmission upgrades.

(6) The legislature also finds that it is the purpose of this chapter to:

(a) ensure protection of the state's environmental resources, including but not limited to air, water, animals, plants, and soils;

(b) ensure consideration of socioeconomic impacts;

(c) provide citizens with the opportunity to participate in facility siting decisions; and

(d) establish a coordinated and efficient method for the processing of all authorizations required for regulated facilities under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-802; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3, Mont. Const.

Duty to maintain clean and healthful environment, Art. IX, sec. 1, Mont. Const.

75-20-103. Chapter supersedes other laws or rules. This chapter supersedes other laws or regulations except as provided in 75-20-401. If any provision of this chapter is in conflict with any other law of this state or any rule promulgated thereunder, this chapter shall govern and control and the other law or rule shall be deemed superseded for the purpose of this chapter. Amendments to this chapter shall have the same effect.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-823; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 676, L. 1979.**

75-20-104. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Addition thereto" means the installation of new machinery and equipment that would significantly change the conditions under which the facility is operated.

(2) "Application" means an application for a certificate submitted in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(3) (a) "Associated facilities" includes but is not limited to transportation links of any kind, aqueducts, diversion dams, pipelines, storage ponds, reservoirs, and any other device or equipment associated with the delivery of the energy form or product produced by a facility.

(b) The term does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other control equipment or a facility or a natural gas or crude oil gathering line 25 inches or less in inside diameter.

(4) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(5) "Certificate" means the certificate of compliance issued by the department under this chapter that is required for the construction or operation of a facility.

(6) "Commence to construct" means:

(a) any clearing of land, excavation, construction, or other action that would affect the environment of the site or route of a facility but does not mean changes needed for temporary use of sites or routes for nonutility purposes or uses in securing geological data, including necessary borings to ascertain foundation conditions;

(b) the fracturing of underground formations by any means if the activity is related to the possible future development of a gasification facility or a facility employing geothermal resources but does not include the gathering of geological data by boring of test holes or other underground exploration, investigation, or experimentation;

(c) the commencement of eminent domain proceedings under Title 70, chapter 30, for land or rights-of-way upon or over which a facility may be constructed;

(d) the relocation or upgrading of an existing facility defined by subsection (10)(a) or (10)(b), including upgrading to a design capacity covered by subsection (10)(a), except that the term does not include normal maintenance or repair of an existing facility.

(7) (a) "Commencement of acquisition of right-of-way" means the actual, defined legal transfer of property.

(b) The term does not mean preliminary discussions, option agreements that are not within 60 days of commencement of acquisition, letters of intent, or other documents that do not conclusively result in the legal transfer of property.

(8) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(9) (a) "Electrical generation facility" means any combination of a physically connected generator or generators, associated prime movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and improvements and personal property, that are normally operated together to produce 20 average megawatts or more of electric power. The term is limited to generating facilities that produce electricity from coal-fired steam turbines, oil or gas turbines, or turbine generators driven by falling water.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) electrical generation facilities used for noncommercial purposes or exclusively for agricultural purposes; or

(ii) a qualifying small power production facility, as defined in 16 U.S.C. 796(17), that is owned and operated by a person not primarily engaged in the generation or sale of electricity other than electric power from a small power production facility that is classified under 15-6-134 and 15-6-138.

(10) "Facility" means:

(a) each electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts, except that the term:

(i) does not include an electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of 230 kilovolts or less and 10 miles or less in length;

(ii) does not include an electric transmission line with a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts for which the person planning to construct the line has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the centerline;

(iii) does not include electric transmission lines that are collectively less than 150 miles in length and are required under state or federal regulations and laws, with respect to reliability of service, for an electrical generation facility, for a wind generation facility, biomass generation facility, or energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, or for a green hydrogen facility or green hydrogen storage system, as defined in 15-6-163, to interconnect to a regional transmission grid or secure firm transmission service to use the grid for which the person planning to construct the line or lines has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the centerline or centerlines;

(iv) does not include an upgrade to an existing transmission line of a design capacity of 50 kilovolts or more to increase that line's capacity, including construction outside the existing easement or right-of-way. Except for a newly acquired easement or right-of-way necessary to comply with electromagnetic field standards, a newly acquired easement or right-of-way outside the existing easement or right-of-way as described in this subsection (10)(a)(iv) may not exceed a total of 10 miles in length or be more than 10% of the existing transmission right-of-way, whichever is greater, and the purpose of the easement must be to avoid sensitive areas or inhabited areas or conform to state or federal safety, reliability, and operational standards designed to safeguard the transmission network and protect electrical workers and the public.

(v) does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other control equipment;

(vi) does not include an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157;

(vii) does not include a green hydrogen facility or green hydrogen storage system, as defined in 15-6-163;

(b) (i) each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length, and associated facilities, except that the term does not include:

(A) a pipeline within the boundaries of the state that is used exclusively for the irrigation of agricultural crops or for drinking water;

(B) a pipeline greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length for which the person planning to construct the pipeline has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75% of the owners who collectively own more than 75% of the property along the centerline; or

(C) a green hydrogen pipeline, as defined in 15-6-163;

(ii) each pipeline, whether partially or wholly within the state, greater than 17 inches in inside diameter and 30 miles in length, and associated facilities used to transport coal suspended in water;

(c) any use of geothermal resources, including the use of underground space in existence or to be created, for the creation, use, or conversion of energy, designed for or capable of producing geothermally derived power equivalent to 50 megawatts or more or any addition thereto, except pollution control facilities approved by the department and added to an existing plant, except that the term does not include a compressed air energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, or a green hydrogen facility or green hydrogen storage system, as defined in 15-6-163; or

(d) for the purposes of 75-20-204 only, a plant, unit, or other facility capable of generating 50 megawatts of hydroelectric power or more or any addition thereto.

(11) "Person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, cooperative, association, government subdivision, government agency, local government, or other organization or entity.

(12) "Sensitive areas" means government-designated areas that have been recognized for their importance to Montana's wildlife, wilderness, culture, and historic heritage, including but not limited to national wildlife refuges, state wildlife management areas, federal areas of critical environmental concern, state parks and historic sites, designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, designated wild and scenic rivers, or national parks, monuments, or historic sites.

(13) "Transmission reliability agencies" means the federal energy regulatory commission, the western electricity coordinating council, the national electric reliability council, and the midwest reliability organization.

(14) "Transmission substation" means any structure, device, or equipment assemblage, commonly located and designed for voltage regulation, circuit protection, or switching necessary for the construction or operation of a proposed transmission line.

(15) "Upgrade" means to increase the electrical carrying capacity of a transmission line by actions including but not limited to:

(a) installing larger conductors;

(b) replacing insulators;

(c) replacing pole or tower structures;

(d) changing structure spacing, design, or guying; or

(e) installing additional circuits.

(16) "Utility" means any person engaged in any aspect of the production, storage, sale, delivery, or furnishing of heat, electricity, gas, hydrocarbon products, or energy in any form for ultimate public use.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 231, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-803; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 573, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 597, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 213, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 534, 568, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 583, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 357, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 19, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 309, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 13, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 291, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Pipeline carriers, Title 69, ch. 13.

The Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, Title 82, ch. 4, part 2.

75-20-105. Adoption of rules. The department may adopt rules implementing the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-820(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

75-20-106. Contracts for information. (1) The department may contract with a potential applicant under this chapter in advance of the filing of a formal application for the development of information or provision of services required hereunder.

(2) Payments made to the department under such a contract shall be credited against the fee payable hereunder.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(2)(c).

75-20-107 through 75-20-110 reserved.

75-20-111. Grants, gifts, and funds. The department may receive grants, gifts, and other funds from any public or private source to assist in its activities under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-822.

75-20-112. Money to state special revenue fund. All fees, taxes, fines, and penalties collected under this chapter, except those collected by a justice's court, shall be deposited in the state special revenue fund for use by the department in carrying out its functions and responsibilities under this chapter.

History: En. 70-824 by Sec. 3, Ch. 270, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-824; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 557, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

Fund structure, 17-2-102.

75-20-113. Power to exercise eminent domain. A person issued a certificate pursuant to this chapter may acquire by eminent domain any interest in property, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30, for a public use authorized by law to construct a facility in accordance with the certificate.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 2011.

Part 2
Certification Proceedings

75-20-201. Certificate required — operation in conformance — certificate for nuclear facility — applicability to federal facilities. (1) Except for a facility under diligent onsite physical construction or in operation on January 1, 1973, a person may not commence to construct a facility in the state without first applying for and obtaining a certificate of compliance issued with respect to the facility by the department.

(2) A facility with respect to which a certificate is issued may not be constructed, operated, or maintained except in conformity with the certificate and any terms, conditions, and modifications contained within the certification.

(3) A certificate may only be issued pursuant to this chapter.

(4) A person that proposes to construct an energy-related project that is not defined as a facility pursuant to 75-20-104(10) may petition the department to review the energy-related project under the provisions of this chapter. The construction or installation of an energy storage facility, as defined in 15-6-157, or a green hydrogen facility, a green hydrogen pipeline, or a green hydrogen storage system, as defined in 15-6-163, is not considered an energy-related project under the provisions of this chapter. A certificate for the construction or installation of an energy storage facility or a green hydrogen facility, a green hydrogen pipeline, or a green hydrogen storage system, as defined in 15-6-163, is not required under this chapter.

(5) This chapter applies, to the fullest extent allowed by federal law, to all federal facilities and to all facilities over which an agency of the federal government has jurisdiction.

(6) All judicial challenges of certificates for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than $1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different

nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-804(1); amd. Sec. 3, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 309, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 13, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 291, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Facilities subject to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction, 75-20-204.

75-20-202. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-804(3) thru (5); amd. Sec. 3, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 167, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 573, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 214, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 535, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 583, L. 1995.

75-20-203. Certificate transferable. A certificate may be transferred to a person who agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, and modifications contained in the certificate.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-804(2); amd. Sec. 3, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 583, L. 1995.

75-20-204. Facilities subject to federal energy regulatory commission jurisdiction. (1) For a facility that is subject to the jurisdiction of the federal energy regulatory commission, the department shall file a state recommendation with the commission.

(2) A person making application to the federal energy regulatory commission shall file with the department notice of and a copy of the federal application regarding any facility subject to subsection (1). The state recommendation must be based on its study of the federal application and other material gained through intervention in the federal proceeding.

(3) A person subject to the provisions of subsection (2) shall pay a fee to the department at the time that an application is filed with the federal energy regulatory commission. The fee must be used by the department to carry out its responsibilities to develop a state recommendation and participate as a party in any necessary federal proceeding to assert the state recommendation. The fee may not exceed one-half the amount that could be assessed under 75-20-215. A fee prescribed by 75-20-215 may not be assessed against a person paying a fee under this section.

(4) A person who fails to file a timely notice of and a copy of the federal application with the department, preventing the department from timely compliance with this section and with the rules, statutes, or procedures governing the proceedings before the federal energy regulatory commission, is subject to the provisions of 75-20-408.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1997.

75-20-205. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 536, Ch. 546, L. 1995.

75-20-206 reserved.

75-20-207. Notice requirement for certain electric transmission lines. Whenever a person plans to construct an electric transmission line or associated facilities under the provisions of 75-20-104(10)(a)(ii), it must provide public notice to persons residing in the area in which any portion of the electric transmission facility may be located and to the department. This notice must be made no less than 60 days prior to the commencement of acquisition of right-of-way as defined in 75-20-104 by publication of a summary describing the transmission facility and the proposed location of the facility in those newspapers that will substantially inform those persons of the construction and by mailing a summary to the department. The notice must inform the property owners of their rights under this chapter concerning the location of the facility and that more information concerning their rights may be obtained from the department.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 597, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 13, L. 2021.

75-20-208. Certain electric transmission lines — verification of requirements. (1) Prior to constructing a transmission line under 75-20-104(10)(a)(ii), the person planning to construct the line shall provide to the department within 36 months of the date of the public notice provided under 75-20-207, unless extended by the department for good cause:

(a) copies of the right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way containing sufficient information to establish landowner consent to construct the line; and

(b) sufficient information for the department to verify that the requirements of 75-20-104(10)(a)(ii) are satisfied.

(2) The provisions of 75-20-104(10)(a)(ii) do not apply to any facility for which public notice under 75-20-207 has been given but for which the requirements of subsection (1) of this section have not been complied with.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 597, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 216, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 537, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 13, L. 2021.

75-20-209 and 75-20-210 reserved.

75-20-211. Application — filing and contents — proof of service and notice. (1) (a) An applicant shall file with the department an application for a certificate under this chapter and for the permits required under the laws administered by the department in the form that is required under applicable rules, containing the following information:

(i) a description of the proposed location and of the facility to be built;

(ii) a summary of any preexisting studies that have been made of the impact of the facility;

(iii) for facilities defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) and (10)(b), a statement explaining the need for the facility, a description of reasonable alternate locations for the facility, a general description of the comparative merits and detriments of each location submitted, and a statement of the reasons why the proposed location is best suited for the facility;

(iv) (A) for facilities as defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) and (10)(b), baseline data for the primary and reasonable alternate locations; or

(B) for facilities as defined in 75-20-104(10)(c), baseline data for the proposed location and, at the applicant's option, any alternative locations acceptable to the applicant for siting the facility;

(v) at the applicant's option, an environmental study plan to satisfy the requirements of this chapter; and

(vi) other information that the applicant considers relevant or that the department by order or rule may require.

(b) If a copy or copies of the studies referred to in subsection (1)(a)(ii) are filed with the department, the copy or copies must be available for public inspection.

(2) An application may consist of an application for two or more facilities in combination that are physically and directly attached to each other and are operationally a single operating entity.

(3) The copy of the application must be accompanied by a notice specifying the date on or about which the application is to be filed.

(4) An application must also be accompanied by proof that public notice of the application was given to persons residing in the county in which any portion of the proposed facility is proposed or is alternatively proposed to be located, by publication of a summary of the application in those newspapers that will substantially inform those persons of the application.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 217, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 538, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 208, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 13, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Department of Revenue, 2-15-1301.
Department of Public Service Regulation, 2-15-2601; Title 69, ch. 1, part 1.
Environmental Quality Council, Title 5, ch. 16.
Educational impact statement required — judicial enforcement, 20-1-208, 20-1-209.
Department of Transportation — general powers and duties, Title 60, ch. 2, part 2.
Air quality permit required, 75-2-211.
Water quality permit required, Title 75, ch. 5, part 4.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks — general powers and duties, Title 87, ch. 1, part 2.

75-20-212. Cure for failure of service. Inadvertent failure of service on or notice to any of the municipalities, government agencies, or persons identified in 75-20-211 may be cured pursuant to orders of the department designed to afford them adequate notice to enable their effective participation in the proceeding.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 583, L. 1995.

75-20-213. Supplemental material — amendments. (1) Except as provided in 75-20-228, an application for an amendment of an application or a certificate must be in the form and contain the information that the department by rule or by order prescribes. Notice of an application must be given as set forth in 75-20-211(3) and (4).

(2) An application may be amended by an applicant any time prior to the department's recommendation. If the proposed amendment is such that it prevents the department or the agencies listed in 75-20-216(6) from carrying out their duties and responsibilities under this chapter, the department may require additional filing fees and additional amendment application review time. The total review time may not exceed 9 months from the date the department accepts a completed application for amendment.

(3) The applicant shall submit supplemental material in a timely manner as requested by the department or as offered by the applicant to explain, support, or provide the detail with respect to an item described in the original application, without filing an application for an amendment. The department's determination as to whether information is supplemental or whether an application for amendment is required is conclusive.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(6); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 218, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 553, L. 2021.

75-20-214. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 591, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(7); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

75-20-215. Filing fee — accountability — refund — use. (1) (a) A filing fee must be deposited in the state special revenue fund for the use of the department in administering Title 75, chapter 1, and this chapter. The applicant shall pay to the department a filing fee as provided in this section based upon the department's estimated costs of processing the application under this chapter. The fee may not exceed the following scale based upon the estimated cost of the facility:

(i) 6% of any estimated cost up to $1 million; plus
(ii) 1% of any estimated cost over $1 million and up to $5 million; plus
(iii) 0.8% of any estimated cost over $5 million and up to $10 million; plus
(iv) 0.5% of any estimated cost over $10 million and up to $20 million; plus
(v) 0.25% of any estimated cost over $20 million and up to $100 million; plus
(vi) 0.125% of any estimated cost over $100 million and up to $500 million; plus
(vii) 0.05% of any estimated cost over $500 million and up to $1 billion; plus
(viii) 0.025% of any estimated cost over $1 billion.

(b) The department may allow in its discretion a credit against the fee payable under this section for the development of information or providing of services required under this chapter or required for preparation of an environmental impact statement or assessment under the Montana or national environmental policy acts. The applicant may submit the information to the department, together with an accounting of the expenses incurred in preparing the information. The department shall evaluate the applicability, validity, and usefulness of the data and determine the amount that may be credited against the filing fee payable under this section. Upon 30 days' notice to the applicant, this credit may at any time be reduced if the department determines that it is necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter.

(2) (a) The department may contract with an applicant for the development of information, provision of services, and payment of fees required under this chapter. The contract may continue an agreement entered into pursuant to 75-20-106. Payments made to the department under a

contract must be credited against the fee payable pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the revenue derived from the filing fee must be sufficient to enable the department, the board, and the agencies listed in 75-20-216(6) to carry out their responsibilities under this chapter. The department may amend a contract to require additional payments for necessary expenses up to the limits set forth in subsection (1)(a) upon 30 days' notice to the applicant. The department and applicant may enter into a contract that exceeds the scale provided in subsection (1)(a).

(b) If a contract is not entered into, the applicant shall pay the filing fee in installments in accordance with a schedule of installments developed by the department, provided that an installment may not exceed 20% of the total filing fee provided for in subsection (1).

(3) The estimated cost of upgrading an existing transmission substation may not be included in the estimated cost of a proposed facility for the purpose of calculating a filing fee.

(4) If an application consists of a combination of two or more facilities, the filing fee must be based on the total estimated cost of the combined facilities.

(5) The applicant is entitled to an accounting of money expended and to a refund with interest at the rate of 6% a year of that portion of the filing fee not expended by the department in carrying out its responsibilities under this chapter. A refund must be made after all administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted by all parties to the certification proceedings.

(6) The revenue derived from filing fees must be used by the department in compiling the information required for rendering a decision on a certificate and for carrying out its and the board's other responsibilities under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 70-806(2)(a), (2)(b); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 219, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 217, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Fund structure, 17-2-102.
Application of nuclear regulation provisions, 50-79-302.
Facilities subject to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction — different fee requirement, 75-20-204.

75-20-216. Study, evaluation, and report on proposed facility — assistance by other agencies. (1) After receipt of an application, the department shall within 30 days notify the applicant in writing that:

(a) the application is in compliance and is accepted as complete; or

(b) the application is not in compliance and shall list the deficiencies. Upon correction of these deficiencies and resubmission by the applicant, the department shall within 15 days notify the applicant in writing that the application is in compliance and is accepted as complete.

(2) Upon receipt of an application complying with 75-20-211 through 75-20-213, 75-20-215, and this section, the department shall:

(a) commence an evaluation of the proposed facility and its effects, considering all applicable criteria listed in 75-20-301, and shall issue a decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit as provided in subsection (3);

(b) use, to the extent that it considers applicable, valid and useful existing studies and reports submitted by the applicant or compiled by a state or federal agency; and

(c) if a modification of a proposed facility is needed as determined by the department, consult with the applicant. The proposed modification must be analyzed in the environmental review document prepared under Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3.

(3) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4), 75-1-208(4)(b), and 75-20-231, the department shall issue, within 9 months following the date of acceptance of an application, any decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit required under the laws, other than those contained in this chapter, administered by the department. A decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit, with or without conditions, must be made under those laws. Nevertheless, the department retains authority to make the determination required under 75-20-301(1)(c) or (3). The decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit must be used in the final site selection process. Prior to the issuance of a preliminary decision by the department and pursuant to rules adopted by the department, the department shall provide an opportunity for public review and comment.

(4) Except as provided in 75-1-205(4), 75-1-208(4)(b), and 75-20-231, within 9 months following acceptance of an application for a facility, the department shall issue a report that must contain the department's studies, evaluations, recommendations, customer fiscal impact analysis, if required pursuant to 69-2-216, and other pertinent documents resulting from its study and evaluation. An environmental impact statement or analysis prepared pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act may be included in the department findings if compelling evidence indicates that adverse environmental impacts are likely to result due to the construction and operation of a proposed facility. If the application is for a combination of two or more facilities, the department shall issue its report within the greater of the lengths of time provided for in this subsection for either of the facilities.

(5) For projects subject to joint review by the department and a federal land management agency, the department's certification decision may be timed to correspond to the record of decision issued by the participating federal agency.

(6) The departments of transportation; fish, wildlife, and parks; natural resources and conservation; revenue; and public service regulation and the consumer counsel shall report to the department information relating to the impact of the proposed facility on each department's area of expertise. The department shall allocate funds obtained from filing fees to the departments making reports and to the office of consumer counsel to reimburse them for the costs of compiling information and issuing the required report.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1945, 70-807(1), (2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 220, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 539, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 209, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 469, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75, ch. 1.

75-20-217. Voiding an application. An application may be voided by the department following notice and an opportunity for hearing for:

(1) any material and knowingly false statement in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the applicant;

(2) failure to file an application in substantially the form and content required by this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter; or

(3) failure to deposit the filing fee as provided in 75-20-215.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-818(2); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 583, L. 1995.

75-20-218. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-807(4); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 573, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 221, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

75-20-219. Amendments to certificate. (1) (a) Except as provided in 75-20-228, within 30 days after notice of an amendment to a certificate is given as set forth in 75-20-213(1), including notice to all active parties to the original proceeding, the department shall determine whether the proposed change in the facility would result in a material increase in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility as set forth in the certificate.

(b) Except as provided in 75-20-228, if the department determines that the proposed change would result in a material increase in any environmental impact of the facility or a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility, the department shall grant, deny, or modify the amendment with conditions as it considers appropriate.

(c) Except as provided in 75-20-228, if the department determines that a modification of the proposed amendment to the certificate is needed, it shall consult with the applicant.

(2) Except as provided in 75-20-228, if those cases in which the department determines that the proposed change in the facility would not result in a material increase in any environmental impact or would not be a substantial change in the location of all or a portion of the facility, the

department shall automatically grant the amendment either as applied for or upon terms or conditions that the department considers appropriate.

(3) Except as provided in 75-20-228, if a hearing is requested under 75-20-223(2), the party requesting the hearing has the burden of showing by clear and convincing evidence that the department's determination is not reasonable.

(4) Except as provided in 75-20-228, if an amendment is required to a certificate that would affect, amend, alter, or modify a decision, opinion, order, certification, or air or water quality permit issued by the department, the amendment must be processed under the applicable statutes administered by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-807(3); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 372, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 222, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 553, L. 2021.**

Cross-References

Provisions applicable to certificate renewal proceedings, 75-20-227.

75-20-220. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-809(3); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 223, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 583, L. 1995.**

75-20-221. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-808; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 224, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 583, L. 1995.**

75-20-222. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-809(1), (2); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 676, L. 1979.**

75-20-223. Board review of department decisions. (1) (a) A person aggrieved by the final decision of the department on an application for a certificate or the issuance of an air or water quality decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit under this chapter may within 30 days appeal the decision to the board. Except as provided in this section, the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board.

(b) If the department provided an opportunity for public comment on the application, the request for a hearing must be limited to those issues the party has raised in comments made to the department during the comment period unless the issues are related to a material change in law made during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningful opportunity to comment. The request for hearing must be filed within 30 days after the department renders its decision. An affidavit setting forth the grounds for the request must be filed with the request for a hearing.

(c) If a hearing is requested by a person other than the applicant or permittee, the applicant or permittee may, by filing a written election with the board within 15 days of receipt of the request for hearing, elect to have the matter proceed to hearing before the board or to have the matter submitted directly to the district court for judicial review of the agency decision. The party who requests the hearing may elect to have the matter submitted either to the board for a hearing or to the district court for judicial review by submitting a written election to the board with the request for hearing. If there are conflicting elections between the parties, the matter must proceed to district court. If the applicant or permittee is not the person who requested the hearing and has elected to have the matter submitted to the district court, the person who submitted the request for a hearing shall file a petition for review of the permit decision within 15 days of receipt of notice from the permittee. If the person who requested the hearing has elected to have the matter proceed to district court, that person shall file a petition in district court within 15 days of filing the request. The petition must be limited to matters raised in the request for hearing and must be filed in the county in which the facility is located. If the applicant or permittee fails to make an election, the matter must proceed through the contested case process before the board pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. The board or the district court shall apply the laws and rules in place when the department issued its decision, and the board or the district court may not consider any issue from a party that was not presented to the department for the department's consideration during the formal comment period unless the issue is related to a material change in law made during the comment period, to a judicial decision issued after the comment period, or to a material change to the draft permit, which was submitted for public comment, made by the department in the final permit decision and upon which the public did not have a meaningful opportunity to comment.

(2) A person aggrieved by the final decision of the department on an application for amendment of a certificate may within 15 days appeal the decision to the board as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c).

(3) A person aggrieved by the department's decision not to include an environmental impact statement or analysis in the department's findings pursuant to 75-20-216 may within 30 days appeal the decision as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c).

(4) The board shall issue a final decision within 4 months from the close of the hearing on the merits or, if no hearing is held, within 3 months from the date that briefing by the parties is complete unless the applicant and the party other than the applicant agree in writing to an extension of time.

(5) A customer fiscal impact analysis required by 69-2-216 may not be used as the basis of an appeal of a final decision by the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 469, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 445, L. 2009.

75-20-224 reserved.

75-20-225. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 293, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 225, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 540, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

75-20-226. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 293, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 155, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 226, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

75-20-227. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 155, L. 1985.

75-20-228. Electric generating facility fuel source change — notice requirements. (1) (a) An amendment to a certificate is not required for an electric generating facility designed to generate 250 megawatts of electricity or more if a change is made at the facility to alter fuel sources necessary to maintain operations at the facility, if the certificate holder obtains necessary air and water quality permits under Title 75, chapters 2 and 5.

(b) Changes covered by subsection (1)(a) may include both the use of a new fuel source as well as any construction or modification made to the facility for the purpose of allowing the facility to accept and utilize a new fuel source. This includes but is not limited to the construction of unloading facilities, storage facilities, and conveyance systems, including conveyors, roads, and rail spurs.

(c) The department shall waive compliance with this chapter as it relates to a change made in accordance with subsection (1)(a).

(2) (a) A certificate holder making a change in a facility in accordance with subsection (1) shall file notice of the change with the department at least 60 days prior to making the change.

(b) The department may provide notice to all active parties to the original certification proceeding, but a hearing is not required.

(3) (a) A change under subsection (1) is neither a material increase in the environmental impact of the facility nor a change or addition considered to affect compliance with a condition of the certificate.

(b) A change made in accordance with this section and notice of a change required in this section may not be used as the basis of an appeal of a final decision on a certificate by the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 553, L. 2021.

75-20-229 and 75-20-230 reserved.

75-20-231. Expedited review. (1) Except as provided in 75-1-208(4)(b), the department shall issue a certification decision within 90 days from the date on which an application is considered complete for a facility that:

(a) is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental impacts based on the criteria listed in 75-20-232; or

(b) is presently in existence and proposed for upgrade, reconstruction, or relocation and is unlikely to result in significant impacts pursuant to 75-20-232.

(2) A facility that qualifies for expedited review is exempt from undergoing an alternative siting study, except as provided in 75-1-201.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 217, L. 2003.

75-20-232. Criteria for identifying proposed facilities that qualify for expedited review. (1) In order for a facility to qualify for expedited review under 75-20-231, the department shall make a significance determination of the impacts associated with a proposed facility. This determination is the basis of the department's decision concerning whether the proposed facility qualifies for expedited review.

(2) The department shall consider the following criteria in determining the significance of each impact that the proposed facility has on the quality of the human environment:

(a) the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of occurrence of the impact;

(b) (i) the probability that the impact will occur if the proposed action occurs; or

(ii) reasonable assurance in keeping with the potential severity of an impact that the impact will not occur;

(c) growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, including the relationship or contribution of the impact to cumulative impacts;

(d) the quantity and quality of each environmental resource or value that would be affected, including the uniqueness and fragility of those resources or values;

(e) the importance to the state and to society of each environmental resource or value that would be affected;

(f) any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit the department to future actions with significant impacts or to a decision in principle about future actions;

(g) potential conflict with local, state, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans;

(h) the degree to which the impacts on the human environment are likely to create a high level of public concern; and

(i) the economic importance and benefits to the state and the local community of the proposed facility.

(3) An impact may be adverse, beneficial, or both. If none of the adverse effects of the impact are significant, expedited review is required.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 217, L. 2003.

Part 3
Decisions

75-20-301. Decision of department — findings necessary for certification. (1) Within 30 days after issuance of the report pursuant to 75-20-216 for facilities defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) and (10)(b), the department shall approve a facility as proposed or as modified or an alternative to a proposed facility if the department finds and determines:

(a) the basis of the need for the facility;

(b) the nature of the probable environmental impact;

(c) that the facility minimizes adverse environmental impact, considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the various alternatives;

(d) in the case of an electric, gas, or liquid transmission line or aqueduct:

(i) what part, if any, of the line or aqueduct will be located underground;

(ii) that the facility is consistent with regional plans for expansion of the appropriate grid of the utility systems serving the state and interconnected utility systems; and

(iii) that the facility will serve the interests of utility system economy and reliability;

(e) that the location of the facility as proposed conforms to applicable state and local laws and regulations, except that the department may refuse to apply any local law or regulation if it finds that, as applied to the proposed facility, the law or regulation is unreasonably restrictive in view of the existing technology, of factors of cost or economics, or of the needs of consumers, whether located inside or outside the directly affected government subdivisions;

(f) that the facility will serve the public interest;

(g) that the applicant will obtain any necessary air or water quality decision, opinion, order, certification, or permit as required by 75-20-216(3) prior to construction; and

(h) that the use of public lands or federally designated energy corridors for location of a facility defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) or (10)(b) was evaluated and public lands or federally designated energy corridors for that facility were selected whenever determined practicable by both the applicant and the department.

(2) In determining that the facility will serve the public interest under subsection (1)(f), the department shall consider:

(a) the items listed in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b);

(b) the benefits to the applicant and the state resulting from the proposed facility;

(c) the effects of the economic activity resulting from the proposed facility;

(d) the effects of the proposed facility on the public health, welfare, and safety;

(e) any other factors that it considers relevant.

(3) Within 30 days after issuance of the report pursuant to 75-20-216 for a facility defined in 75-20-104(10)(c), the department shall approve a facility as proposed or as modified or an alternative to a proposed facility if the department finds and determines:

(a) that the facility or alternative incorporates all reasonable, cost-effective mitigation of significant environmental impacts; and

(b) that unmitigated impacts, including those that cannot be reasonably quantified or valued in monetary terms, will not result in:

(i) a violation of a law or standard that protects the environment; or

(ii) a violation of a law or standard that protects the public health and safety.

(4) For facilities defined in 75-20-104, if the department cannot make the findings required in this section, it shall deny the certificate.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-810(1), (3), (4); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 69, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 227, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 583, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 122, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 382, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 13, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 451, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 8, 2023.

Cross-References

Pipeline carriers, Title 69, ch. 13.

75-20-302. Conditions imposed. (1) If the department determines that the location of all or a part of the proposed facility should be modified, it may condition its certificate upon the modification, provided that the department consulted the applicant and the persons residing in the area affected by the modification have been given reasonable notice of the modification.

(2) The department may require the applicant to post performance bonds to guarantee successful reclamation and revegetation of the project area.

(3) For a common carrier pipeline as described in 69-13-101, the department shall condition a certificate to provide that for any land, rights-of-way, or easements, the location of any heritage properties or paleontological remains on or beneath land, rights-of-way, or easements for the common carrier pipeline is confidential and may not be disclosed.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Heritage property" has the meaning provided in 22-3-421.

(b) "Paleontological remains" has the meaning provided in 22-3-421.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-810(2); amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 228, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 541, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 296, L. 2017.

75-20-303. Opinion issued with decision — contents. (1) In rendering a decision on an application for a certificate, the department shall issue an opinion stating its reasons for the action taken.

(2) If the department has found that any regional or local law or regulation that would be otherwise applicable is unreasonably restrictive, it shall state in its opinion the reasons that it is unreasonably restrictive.

(3) A certificate issued by the department must include the following:

(a) an environmental evaluation statement related to the facility being certified. The statement must include but is not limited to analysis of the following information:

(i) the environmental impact of the proposed facility; and

(ii) any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided by issuance of the certificate;

(b) a plan for monitoring environmental effects of the proposed facility;

(c) a plan for monitoring the certified facility site between the time of certification and completion of construction;

(d) a time limit as provided in subsection (4);

(e) a statement confirming that notice was provided pursuant to subsection (5); and

(f) a statement signed by the applicant showing agreement to comply with the requirements of this chapter and the conditions of the certificate.

(4) (a) The department shall issue as part of the certificate the following time limits:

(i) For a facility as defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) that is more than 30 miles in length and for a facility defined in 75-20-104(10)(b), construction must be completed within 10 years.

(ii) For a facility as defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) that is 30 miles or less in length, construction must be completed within 5 years.

(iii) For a facility as defined in 75-20-104(10)(c), construction must begin within 6 years and continue with due diligence in accordance with preliminary construction plans established in the certificate.

(b) Unless extended, a certificate lapses and is void if the facility is not constructed or if construction of the facility is not commenced within the time limits provided in this section.

(c) The time limit may be extended for a reasonable period upon a showing by the applicant to the department that a good faith effort is being undertaken to complete construction under subsections (4)(a)(i) and (4)(a)(ii). Under this subsection, a good faith effort includes the process of acquiring any necessary state or federal permit or certificate for the facility and the process of judicial review of a permit or certificate.

(d) Construction may begin immediately upon issuance of a certificate unless the department finds that there is substantial and convincing evidence that a delay in the commencement of construction is necessary and should be established for a particular facility.

(5) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsection (5)(a)(ii), for a facility defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) and (10)(b), the environmental review conducted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, prepared by the department must designate a 500-foot-wide facility siting corridor along the facility route.

(ii) Prior to preparation of the environmental review or the draft environmental impact statement, the department shall consult the applicant and, in a manner determined by rule, landowners and identify areas in which a corridor considered in the environmental review document should be more or less than 500 feet wide. The corridor width may not be narrower than the applicant's right-of-way. For each area in which the corridor is more or less than 500 feet in width, the department shall provide a written justification. The department may not modify a corridor after issuance of the final environmental review document.

(b) The department shall provide written notice of the availability of each environmental review document to each owner of property within a corridor. No more than 60 days prior to the availability of each environmental review document, the names and addresses of the property owners must be obtained from the property tax rolls of the county where the property is located. Except as provided in subsection (5)(c), the notice must:

(i) be delivered personally or by first-class mail. If delivered personally, the property owner shall sign a receipt verifying that the property owner received the statement.

(ii) inform the property owner that the property owner's property is located within a corridor;

(iii) inform the property owner about how a copy of the environmental review document may be obtained; and

(iv) inform the property owner of the property owner's rights under this chapter concerning the location of the facility and that more information concerning those rights may be obtained from the department.

(c) If there is more than one name listed on the property tax rolls for a single property, the notice must be mailed to the first listed property owner at the address on the property tax rolls.

(d) By mailing the notice as provided in subsection (5)(c), the notice requirements in subsection (5)(b) are satisfied.

(6) (a) A certificate holder may submit an adjustment of the location of a facility outside the approved facility siting corridor to the department. The adjustment must be accompanied by the written agreement of the affected property owner and all contiguous property owners that would be affected. The submission must include a map showing the approved facility siting corridor and the proposed adjustment. At the time of submission to the department, the adjustment must be accompanied by a copy of a legal notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the adjustment. The legal notice must specify that public comments on the adjustment may be submitted to the department within 10 days of the publication date of the notice.

(b) The certificate holder may construct the facility as described in the submission unless the department notifies the certificate holder within 15 days of the submission that the department has determined that:

(i) the adjustment would change the basis of any finding required under 75-20-301 to the extent that the department would have selected a different siting corridor for the facility; or

(ii) the adjustment would materially increase unmitigated adverse impacts.

(c) An adjustment pursuant to subsection (6)(a) is not subject to:

(i) Title 75, chapter 1, part 2;

(ii) a certificate amendment under 75-20-219; or

(iii) a board review under 75-20-223.

(d) (i) For each facility, the department shall maintain a list of persons who requested to receive electronic notice of any adjustment submitted pursuant to this subsection (6).

(ii) Upon receipt of a submitted adjustment, the department shall:

(A) post information about the adjustment on the department's website; and

(B) electronically notify each person identified in subsection (6)(d)(i) of the adjustment and where information about the adjustment may be viewed.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-811(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 239, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 573, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 229, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 542, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 583, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 217, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 382, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 280, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 13, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

Pipeline carriers, Title 69, ch. 13.

75-20-304. Waiver of provisions of certification proceedings. (1) The department may waive compliance with any of the provisions of 75-20-216 and this part if the applicant makes a clear and convincing showing to the department at a public hearing that an immediate, urgent need for a facility exists and that the applicant did not have knowledge that the need for the facility existed sufficiently in advance to fully comply with the provisions of 75-20-216 and this part.

(2) The department may waive compliance with any of the provisions of this chapter upon receipt of notice by a person subject to this chapter that a facility or associated facility has been damaged or destroyed as a result of fire, flood, or other natural disaster or as the result of insurrection, war, or other civil disorder and there exists an immediate need for construction of a new facility or associated facility or the relocation of a previously existing facility or associated facility in order to promote the public welfare.

(3) The department shall waive compliance with the requirements of 75-20-301(1)(c), (2)(b), and (2)(c) and the requirements of 75-20-211(1)(a)(iii) and (1)(a)(iv) and 75-20-216(3) relating to

consideration of alternative sites if the applicant makes a clear and convincing showing to the department at a public hearing that:

(a) a proposed facility will be constructed in a county where a single employer within the county has permanently curtailed or ceased operations, causing a loss of 250 or more permanent jobs within 2 years at the employer's operations within the preceding 10-year period;

(b) the county and municipal governing bodies in whose jurisdiction the facility is proposed to be located support by resolution the waiver;

(c) the proposed facility will be constructed within a 15-mile radius of the operations that have ceased or been curtailed; and

(d) the proposed facility will have a beneficial effect on the economy of the county in which the facility is proposed to be located.

(4) The waiver provided for in subsection (3) applies only to permanent job losses by a single employer. The waiver provided for in subsection (3) does not apply to jobs of a temporary or seasonal nature, including but not limited to construction jobs or job losses during labor disputes.

(5) The waiver provided for in subsection (3) does not apply to consideration of alternatives or minimum adverse environmental impact for a facility defined in 75-20-104(10)(a) or (10)(b) or for an associated facility defined in 75-20-104(3).

(6) The applicant shall pay all expenses required to process and conduct a hearing on a waiver request under subsection (3). However, any payments made under this subsection must be credited toward the fee paid under 75-20-215 to the extent that the data or evidence presented at the hearing or the decision of the department under subsection (3) can be used in making a certification decision under this chapter.

(7) The department may grant only one waiver under subsections (3) and (4) for each permanent loss of jobs as defined in subsection (3)(a).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-811(3), (4); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 230, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 543, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 273, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 447, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 13, L. 2021.

Part 4
Postcertification and Legal Responsibilities

75-20-401. Additional requirements by other governmental agencies not permitted after issuance of certificate — exceptions — venue for challenging certificate issuance. (1) Notwithstanding any other law, a state or regional agency or municipality or other local government may not require any approval, consent, permit, certificate, or other condition for the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility authorized by a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter, except that the department and board retain the authority that they have or may be granted to determine compliance of the proposed facility with state and federal standards and implementation plans for air and water quality and to enforce those standards.

(2) This chapter does not prevent the application of state laws for the protection of employees engaged in the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility.

(3) A judicial challenge to a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the certificate holder or applicant must include the party to whom the certificate was issued as provided in this chapter unless otherwise agreed to by the certificate holder or applicant. All judicial challenges of certificates for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than $1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.

(4) An action to challenge the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this chapter must be brought in the county in which the activity authorized by the certificate will occur. If an activity will occur in more than one county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity will occur.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-817; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 231, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 337, L. 2005.

75-20-402. Monitoring. The department shall monitor the operations of all certificated facilities for ensuring continuing compliance with this chapter and certificates issued under this chapter and for discovering and preventing noncompliance with this chapter and the certificates. The applicant shall pay all expenses related to the monitoring plan established in 75-20-303(3)(b) or (3)(c) to the extent federal funds available for the facility, as determined by the department, have not been provided for those purposes.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-820(2); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 232, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

75-20-403. Revocation or suspension of certificate. Following notice and an opportunity for a hearing, a certificate may be revoked or suspended by the department:

(1) for any material false statement in the application or in accompanying statements or studies required of the applicant if a true statement would have warranted the department's refusal to grant a certificate;

(2) for failure to maintain safety standards or to comply with the terms or conditions of the certificate; or

(3) for violation of any provision of this chapter, the rules issued under this chapter, or orders of the department.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-818(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 128, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — contested cases, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

75-20-404. Enforcement of chapter by residents. (1) A resident of this state with knowledge that a requirement of this chapter or a rule adopted under it is not being enforced by a public officer or employee whose duty it is to enforce the requirement or rule may bring the failure to enforce to the attention of the public officer or employee by a written statement under oath that must state the specific facts of the failure to enforce the requirement or rule. Knowingly making false statements or charges in the affidavit subjects the affiant to penalties prescribed under the law of perjury.

(2) If the public officer or employee neglects or refuses for an unreasonable time after receipt of the statement to enforce the requirement or rule, the resident may bring an action of mandamus in the district court of the first judicial district of this state, in and for the county of Lewis and Clark. If the court finds that a requirement of this chapter or a rule adopted under it is not being enforced, the court may order the public officer or employee whose duty it is to enforce the requirement or rule to perform the officer's or employee's duties. If the public officer or public employee fails to do so, the public officer or employee must be held in contempt of court and is subject to the penalties provided by law.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-819(1), (2); amd. Sec. 2507, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Mandamus, Title 27, ch. 26.
Perjury, 45-7-201.

75-20-405. Action to recover damages to water supply. An owner of an interest in real property who obtains all or part of the owner's supply of water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, or other legitimate use from a surface or underground source may sue a person to recover damages for contamination, diminution, or interruption of the water supply proximately resulting from the operation of a facility. The remedies enumerated in this section do not exclude the use of any other remedy that may be available under the laws of the state.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-819(3); amd. Sec. 2508, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Compensatory damages — right to, 27-1-202.
Consequential damages, 27-1-203.
Punitive damages — breach of obligation, 27-1-221, 27-1-303.
Actions by parties other than state — water quality, 75-5-636.
Adjudication — water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 2.

75-20-406. Judicial review of decisions. (1) A person aggrieved by the final decision of the department or board on an application for a certificate may obtain judicial review of that decision by the filing of a petition in a state district court of competent jurisdiction. A challenge to the issuance of a certificate must be brought in the county in which the activity authorized by the certificate will occur. If an activity will occur in more than one county, the action may be brought in any of the counties in which the activity will occur.

(2) The judicial review procedure is the procedure for contested cases under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

(3) A judicial challenge to a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter by a party other than the certificate holder or applicant must include the party to whom the certificate was issued as provided in this chapter unless otherwise agreed to by the certificate holder or applicant. All judicial challenges of certificates for projects with a project cost, as determined by the court, of more than $1 million must have precedence over any civil cause of a different nature pending in that court. If the court determines that the challenge was without merit or was for an improper purpose, such as to harass, to cause unnecessary delay, or to impose needless or increased cost in litigation, the court may award attorney fees and costs incurred in defending the action.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-812; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 539, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 233, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 293, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 361, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — judicial review, Title 2, ch. 4, part 7.

75-20-407. Jurisdiction of courts restricted. Except as expressly set forth in 75-20-401, 75-20-406, and 75-20-408, no court of this state has jurisdiction to hear or determine any issue, case, or controversy concerning any matter which was or could have been determined in a proceeding before the board or department under this chapter or to stop or delay the construction, operation, or maintenance of a facility, except to enforce compliance with this chapter or the provisions of a certificate issued pursuant to 75-20-404 and 75-20-405 or 75-20-408.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-813; amd. Sec. 73, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

75-20-408. Penalties for violation of chapter — civil actions to enforce. (1) (a) Whoever commences to construct or operate a facility without first obtaining a certificate required under 75-20-201 or a waiver of the certificate under 75-20-304(2) or, having first obtained a certificate, constructs, operates, or maintains a facility not in compliance with the certificate or violates any other provision of this chapter or any rule or order adopted under this chapter or knowingly submits false information in any report, 10-year plan, or application required by this chapter or rule or order adopted under this chapter or causes any of the aforementioned acts to occur is liable for a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 for each violation. Penalties assessed under this section must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 75-1-1001.

(b) Each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate offense.

(c) Penalties are recoverable in an action brought by the department. The action must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred or, if mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County.

(2) Whoever purposely or knowingly violates subsection (1) shall be fined not more than $10,000 for each violation or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both. Each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate offense.

(3) In addition to any penalty provided in subsection (1) or (2), whenever the department determines that a person is violating or is about to violate any of the provisions of this section, it may bring a civil action on behalf of the state in the district court of the first judicial district of Montana, if mutually agreed on by the parties in the action, or in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred or imminent violation will occur, for injunctive or other appropriate relief against the violation and to enforce this chapter or a certificate issued under this chapter. Upon a proper showing, a permanent or preliminary injunction or temporary restraining order must be granted without bond.

(4) All fines and penalties collected must be deposited in the state special revenue fund for the use of the department in administering this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 270 L. 1975; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-821; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 487, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

75-20-409. Optional annual installments for location of facility on landowner's property. A landowner upon whose land a facility is proposed to be located has the option of receiving any negotiated settlement for use of the landowner's land, if and when the land is used for a facility, by easement, right-of-way, or other legal conveyance in either a lump sum or in not more than five consecutive annual installments.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2509, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Servitudes and easements, Title 70, ch. 17.

75-20-410. Order not stayed by appeal — stay or suspension by court — limitations. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the law, the pendency of an appeal from a board order does not automatically stay or suspend the operation of the order. During the pendency of the appeal, the court may upon motion by one of the parties stay or suspend, in whole or in part, the operation of the board's orders on terms the court considers just. The court's action must be in accordance with the practice of courts exercising equity jurisdiction, subject to the following limitations:

(1) No stay may be granted without notice to the parties and an opportunity to be heard by the court.

(2) No board order may be stayed or suspended without finding that irreparable damage would otherwise result to the party seeking the stay or suspension, and any other stay or suspension of a board order must specify the nature of the damage.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 676, L. 1979.**

75-20-411. Surety bond — other security. If an order of the board is stayed or suspended, the court may require a bond with good and sufficient surety conditioned that the party petitioning for review answer for all damages caused by the delay in enforcing the order of the board except that the cost of the bond is not chargeable to the applicant as part of the fee. If the party petitioning for review prevails upon final resolution of an appeal, the party does not forfeit bond nor is the party responsible for damages caused by delay.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2510, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Guaranty, indemnity, and suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11.

Part 5
Long-Range Plans
(Repealed)

75-20-501. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-814; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 68, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 553, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 676, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 591, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 157, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 234, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

75-20-502. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 583, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-815.**

75-20-503. Repealed. Sec. 24, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-816; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 69, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 676, L. 1979.**

Parts 6 through 9 reserved

Part 10
Geothermal Exploration

75-20-1001. Geothermal exploration — notification of department. The department shall adopt rules requiring every person who proposes to gather geological data by boring of test holes or other underground exploration, investigation, or experimentation related to the possible future development of a facility employing geothermal resources to comply with the following requirements:

(1) notify the department of the proposed action;

(2) submit to the department a description of the area involved;

(3) submit to the department a statement of the proposed activities to be conducted and the methods to be utilized;

(4) submit to the department geological data reports at such times as may be required by the rules; and

(5) submit such other information as the department may require in the rules.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 327, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 268, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 494, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-820(3); amd. Sec. 74, Ch. 324, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act — adoption of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Injury caused by geothermal exploration — statute of limitations, 27-2-303.

Part 11
Energy Conversion Facility
(Repealed)

75-20-1101. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

History: En. 70-825 by Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-825.

75-20-1102. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

History: En. 70-826 by Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-826.

75-20-1103. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

History: En. 70-827 by Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-827.

75-20-1104. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

History: En. 70-829 by Sec. 5, Ch. 517, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-829.

75-20-1105. Repealed. Sec. 28, Ch. 676, L. 1979.

History: En. 70-828 by Sec. 4, Ch. 517, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 70-828.

Part 12
Nuclear Energy Conversion
(Repealed)

75-20-1201. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 1, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978.

75-20-1202. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 2, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 573, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 235, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 544, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 329, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 447, L. 2019.

75-20-1203. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 4, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978.

75-20-1204. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 5, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978.

75-20-1205. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 409, L. 2021.

History: En. Sec. 6, I.M. 80, app. Nov. 7, 1978; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 312, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 329, L. 1997.

CHAPTERS 21 THROUGH 24
RESERVED

CHAPTER 25
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY LOANS

Part 1 — General Provisions

75-25-101. Alternative energy revolving loan account.
75-25-102. Administration of revolving loan account — rulemaking authority.
75-25-103. Outcome measures.

Part 1
General Provisions

75-25-101. Alternative energy revolving loan account. (1) There is a special revenue account called the alternative energy revolving loan account to the credit of the department of environmental quality.

(2) The alternative energy revolving loan account consists of money deposited into the account from air quality penalties from 75-2-401 and 75-2-413 and money from any other source. Any interest earned by the account and any interest that is generated from a loan repayment must be deposited into the account and used to sustain the program.

(3) Funds from the alternative energy revolving loan account may be used to provide loans to individuals, small businesses, units of local government, units of the university system, and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of building alternative energy systems, as defined in 15-32-102:

(a) to generate energy for their own use;

(b) for net metering as defined in 69-8-103; and

(c) for capital investments by those entities for energy conservation purposes, as defined in 15-32-102, when done in conjunction with an alternative energy system.

(4) The amount of a loan may not exceed $40,000, and the loan must be repaid within 10 years.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 489, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 6, Sp. L. November 2017.

75-25-102. Administration of revolving loan account — rulemaking authority. (1) The department of environmental quality shall adopt rules establishing:

(a) eligibility criteria, including criteria for defining residences, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations, criteria for defining capital investments for energy conservation purposes, ownership of the alternative energy facility, financial capacity to repay the loans, estimated return on investment in the alternative energy and energy conservation, and other matters that the department considers necessary to ensure repayment of loans and to encourage maximum use of the fund for alternative energy and net metering uses;

(b) processes and procedures for disbursing loans, including the agencies or organizations that are allowed to process the loan application for the department; and

(c) terms and conditions for the loans, including repayment schedules and interest.

(2) The department shall solicit assistance in the development and operation of the program from individuals familiar with financial services and persons knowledgeable in alternative energy systems.

(3) Administrative costs charged to the account may not exceed 10% of the total loans or $23,000 a year, whichever is greater. Legal fees and costs associated with collection of debt on principal are not considered administrative costs.

(4) The loan repayment period may not exceed 10 years. The loans must be made at a low interest rate. The department may set the interest rate at an amount that will cover its administrative costs, but the rate may not be less than 1% a year. The department may seek recovery of the amount of principal loaned in the event of default.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 591, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 110, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 489, L. 2009.

75-25-103. Outcome measures. The department of environmental quality shall develop reasonable outcome measures by which the success of the alternative energy system loan program provided for in this part must be measured on an annual basis. Minimal outcome that must be measured includes:

(1) a loan loss ratio of under 5%;

(2) the types of alternative energy systems that provided the best overall results for residences and those for small businesses; and

(3) a determination of the amount of energy that was produced because of participation in the program.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 591, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 26
WIND GENERATION AND SOLAR FACILITIES

Parts 1 and 2 reserved

Part 3 — Decommissioning

75-26-301. Definitions.
75-26-302 and 75-26-303 reserved.
75-26-304. Bond — penalty for failure to submit.
75-26-305 through 75-26-307 reserved.
75-26-308. Wind and solar decommissioning account — use of existing resources.
75-26-309. Release of bond — use of bond by department.
75-26-310. Rulemaking.

Parts 1 and 2 reserved

Part 3
Decommissioning

75-26-301. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of environmental review provided for in 2-15-3502.

(2) "Decommission" or "decommissioning" means:

(a) except as provided in 75-26-304(2), the removal of buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, or any other facilities associated with a wind generation or solar facility;

(b) except as provided in 75-26-304(2), reclamation of surface lands to the previous grade and to comparable productivity in order to prevent adverse hydrologic effects; and

(c) (i) the removal of the solar facility after the end of the facility's useful life or abandonment; or

(ii) the removal of an aboveground wind turbine tower after the end of a wind generation facility's useful life or abandonment.

(3) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(4) "Owner" means a person who owns a wind generation or solar facility used for the generation of electricity.

(5) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, company, association, corporation, city, town, or local governmental entity or any other state, federal, or private entity, whether organized for profit or not.

(6) "Repurposed" means having made a significant investment in an existing wind generation or solar facility to extend the useful life of the facility by more than 5 years.

(7) "Solar facility" means an installation or combination of solar panels or plates, including a canopy or array, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce electricity and includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or photovoltaic solar cells that:

(a) has a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to 2 megawatts; and

(b) produces electricity that is not consumed on the premises of the solar facility or on land immediately adjacent to the premises of the solar facility.

(8) "Wind generation facility" means any combination of a physically connected wind turbine or turbines, associated prime movers, and other associated property, including appurtenant land and improvements and personal property, that are normally operated together to produce electric power from wind and that have a nameplate capacity greater than or equal to 25 megawatts.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 2019.

75-26-302 and 75-26-303 reserved.

75-26-304. Bond — penalty for failure to submit. (1) (a) Within 12 months of a wind generation facility or solar facility commencing commercial operation, the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility operating in Montana shall:

(i) notify the department in writing of the date that the facility began commercial operation;

(ii) subject to subsection (2), submit a plan for decommissioning the facility to the department, including the scope of work to be completed and cost estimates for completion; and

(iii) provide the department with any other necessary information in accordance with this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part in order for the department to determine bond requirements in accordance with this section.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), if a wind generation facility or solar facility commenced commercial operation before May 7, 2019, the owner of the facility shall submit to the department the information required in subsection (1)(a) on or before July 1, 2020.

(c) If a wind generation facility commenced commercial operation before May 7, 2019, and the owner of the facility submitted information required by subsection (1)(a) on or before July 1, 2018, the owner is not required to resubmit the information.

(2) If a property owner and the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility reach an agreement concerning alternative restoration of buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, or any other associated facilities, instead of removal, or alternative plans for reclamation of surface lands, or both, decommissioning does not include removal, plans for reclamation, or both, as long as a copy of the agreement is provided to the department.

(3) (a) If necessary, the department may modify a plan for decommissioning to determine bond requirements in accordance with subsections (4) through (8).

(b) The department shall notify the owner of the facility of any modification. The owner of the wind generation facility or solar facility may appeal a modification by the department of a plan for decommissioning to the board within 60 days of receiving notice of the modification to the plan.

(4) In determining the amount of a bond required in accordance with subsection (6), the department shall consider:

(a) the character and nature of the site where the wind generation facility or solar facility is located; and

(b) the current market salvage value of the wind generation facility or solar facility, as determined by an independent evaluator.

(5) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8) and in accordance with subsection (6), the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility shall submit to the department a bond payable to the state of Montana in a form acceptable by the department and in the sum determined by the department, conditioned on the faithful decommissioning of the wind generation facility or solar facility.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8), if a wind generation facility or solar facility commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2007, the operator shall submit the decommissioning bond to the department prior to the conclusion of the 16th year of operation of the wind generation facility or solar facility.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (7) and (8), if a wind generation facility or solar facility commenced commercial operation after January 1, 2007, the operator shall submit the decommissioning bond to the department prior to the conclusion of the 15th year of operation of the wind generation facility or solar facility.

(7) If a wind generation facility or solar facility is repurposed, as determined by the department in consultation with the owner, the owner is not required to provide a bond, and any existing bond must be released until the repurposed facility reaches its 5th year of operation.

(8) An owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility is exempt from the requirements of subsection (6) if:

(a) the owner posts a bond with a federal agency, with the department of natural resources and conservation for the lease of state land, or with a tribal, county, or local government;

(b) the owner furnishes documents to the department that prove the owner is responsible under the terms and conditions of a lease agreement to provide private bonding. The parties shall agree that release of the agreed upon bond is subject to the approval of the department upon completion of reclamation.

(c) the private landowner on whose land the wind generation facility or solar facility is located owns a 10% or greater share of the wind generation facility or solar facility, as determined by the department; or

(d) the facility:

(i) commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2018, is a wind generation facility, and has less than 25 megawatts in nameplate capacity; or

(ii) commenced commercial operation on or before January 1, 2020, is a solar facility, and has less than 2 megawatts in nameplate capacity.

(9) (a) If the owner of the wind generation facility or solar facility fails to submit a decommissioning bond acceptable to the department within the timeframe required by this section, the department shall provide notice to the facility owner. If after 30 days the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility has not submitted a decommissioning bond, the department may assess an administrative penalty of not more than $1,500 and an additional administrative penalty of not more than $1,500 for each day the failure to submit the decommissioning bond continues.

(b) The owner of the wind generation facility or solar facility may appeal the department's penalty assessment to the board within 20 days after receipt of written notice of the penalty. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing before the board under this subsection (9).

(10) If the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility transfers ownership of the facility to a successor owner, the first owner's bond must be released after 90 days. The new owner shall submit any necessary bond within 90 days after transfer of ownership or be subject to penalties in accordance with this section.

(11) Once every 5 years, the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility may submit an amended plan for the department's approval. As part of the submission, the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility may also apply to the department for a reduction in the amount of the decommissioning bond applicable to the wind energy facility or solar facility. The owner's application to the department must include a detailed description of any material changes to information considered by the department in setting the initial amount of the bond.

(12) Submitting a bond in accordance with this section does not absolve the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility from complying with applicable regulations and requirements for:

(a) areas subject to local zoning adopted under Title 76, chapter 2;

(b) military affected areas under Title 10, chapter 1, part 15; or

(c) airport affected areas under Title 67, chapter 7.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 2019.

75-26-305 through 75-26-307 reserved.

75-26-308. Wind and solar decommissioning account — use of existing resources. (1) There is a wind and solar decommissioning account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. There must be paid into the account:

(a) penalties collected in accordance with 75-26-304(9); and

(b) interest income earned on the account.

(2) Funds in the wind and solar decommissioning account are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department.

(3) (a) Money in the account may only be used by the department in implementing this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(b) The department shall administer this part using existing resources and money in the account pursuant to subsection (1).

(4) The department shall maintain and hold bonds or other surety received by the department as authorized in 75-26-304 for use in accordance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 304, L. 2019.

75-26-309. Release of bond — use of bond by department. (1) (a) Subject to subsection (1)(b), the department shall release the bond if it is satisfied that an owner has properly decommissioned a wind generation facility or solar facility in accordance with the plan required in 75-26-304.

(b) At any time, an owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility may petition the department for release of the bond, and the department shall reply with a determination within 90 days.

(2) If the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility fails to properly decommission a wind generation facility or solar facility and has not commenced action to rectify deficiencies within 90 days after notification by the department, the department shall cause the bond to be forfeited. The department, with staff, equipment, and material under its control or by contract with others, may take any necessary actions to decommission the wind generation facility or solar facility.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 304, L. 2019.

75-26-310. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules prescribing:

(1) standards and procedures for the submission of reasonable bonds with good and sufficient surety by the owners of wind generation facilities and solar facilities;

(2) the collection of penalties in accordance with 75-26-304(9);

(3) criteria and the process for releasing a bond in accordance with 75-26-309;

(4) the department's use of a bond in the event that the owner of a wind generation facility or solar facility fails to decommission a wind generation facility or solar facility;

(5) information required by the department to determine bond requirements in accordance with 75-26-304; and

(6) any additional requirements to ensure compliance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 304, L. 2019.

TITLE 76

LAND RESOURCES AND USE

Ch.
1. Planning Boards.
2. Planning and Zoning.
3. Local Regulation of Subdivisions.
4. State Regulation of Subdivisions.
5. Flood Plain and Floodway Management.
6. Open Spaces.
7. Environmental Control Easement Act.
8. Buildings for Lease or Rent.
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11. Natural Resources in General.
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15. Conservation Districts.
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21. Youth Conservation Corps. Terminated.
22. Sage Grouse Habitat Management. Renumbered.
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CHAPTER 1

PLANNING BOARDS

Part 1 — General Provisions

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76-1-504. Jurisdictional area of city-county planning board.
76-1-505. Extension of boundaries of city-county planning board jurisdictional area.
76-1-506. Filing of map of jurisdictional area of city-county planning board — revision of boundaries.
76-1-507. Resolution of conflicts over jurisdictional areas of several city-county planning boards.
76-1-508. Planning projects outside city-county planning board jurisdictional area — broad construction.

Part 6 — Growth Policy

76-1-601. Growth policy — contents.
76-1-602. Public hearing on proposed growth policy.
76-1-603. Adoption of growth policy by planning board.
76-1-604. Adoption, revision, or rejection of growth policy.
76-1-605. Use of adopted growth policy.
76-1-606. Effect of growth policy on subdivision regulations.
76-1-607. Growth policy — use and amendment for coordination and cooperation with federal agencies.

Chapter Cross-References

Planned Community Development Act of 1973, Title 7, ch. 2, part 47.
Agricultural appraisal, Title 15, ch. 7, part 2.
Planning functions of Department of Commerce, 90-1-102, 90-1-103.

Part 1
General Provisions

76-1-101. Planning boards authorized. The governing body of any city or town, the governing bodies of more than one city or town, or the governing body of any county or any combination thereof may create a planning board in order to promote the orderly development of its governmental units and its environs.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3801(part).

Cross-References

Building regulations — appointment of zoning commission, Title 76, ch. 2, part 3.

76-1-102. Purpose. (1) It is the object of this chapter to encourage local units of government to improve the present health, safety, convenience, and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of their communities to the end that highway systems be carefully planned; that new community centers grow only with adequate highway, utility, health, educational, and recreational facilities; that the needs of agriculture, industry, and business be recognized in future growth; that residential areas provide healthy surroundings for family life; and that the growth of the community be commensurate with and promotive of the efficient and economical use of public funds.

(2) In accomplishing this objective, it is the intent of this chapter that the planning board shall serve in an advisory capacity to presently established boards and officials.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3801(part).

76-1-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "City" includes incorporated cities and towns.

(2) "City council" means the chief legislative body of a city or incorporated town.

(3) "Governing body" or "governing bodies" means the governing body of any governmental unit represented on a planning board.

(4) "Growth policy" means a comprehensive development plan, master plan, or comprehensive plan that was adopted pursuant to this chapter before October 1, 1999, or a policy that was adopted pursuant to this chapter on or after October 1, 1999.

(5) "Land use management techniques and incentives" include but are not limited to zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and market incentives.

(6) "Market incentives" may include but are not limited to an expedited subdivision review process authorized by 76-3-609, reductions in parking requirements, and a sliding scale of development review fees.

(7) "Mayor" means mayor of a city.

(8) "Neighborhood plan" means a plan for a geographic area within the boundaries of the jurisdictional area that addresses one or more of the elements of the growth policy in more detail.

(9) "Person" means any individual, firm, or corporation.

(10) "Planning board" means a city planning board, a county planning board, or a joint city-county planning board.

(11) "Plat" means a subdivision of land into lots, streets, and areas, marked on a map or plan, and includes replats or amended plats.

(12) "Public place" means any tract owned by the state or its subdivisions.

(13) "Streets" includes streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, lanes, alleys, and all public ways.

(14) "Utility" means any facility used in rendering service that the public has a right to demand.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3803(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 599, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 455, L. 2007.

76-1-104. Procedure to establish county planning board — protest. (1) Before a county planning board may be created, the board of county commissioners shall by resolution give public notice of their intent to create such planning board and of a public hearing thereon by publication of notice of time and place of hearing on such resolution in each newspaper published in the county not less than 15 or more than 30 days prior to the date of hearing.

(2) A resolution creating a county planning board shall not be adopted by the board of county commissioners if disapproved in writing, not later than 60 days after such hearing, by a majority of the qualified electors of the county residing outside the limits of the jurisdictional area of an existing city-county planning board established pursuant to 76-1-504 through 76-1-507 and outside the incorporated limits of each city and town in the county.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3801(part).

Cross-References

Publication of legal notices, Title 18, ch. 7, part 2; 18-7-411.

76-1-105. Role of county in formation of city planning board. (1) Prior to enacting an ordinance creating a city planning board, the city council shall notify in writing the county commissioners of the county in which the city is located of their intention to form a city planning board.

(2) The board of county commissioners shall elect to form a city-county planning board or to permit the city to form a city planning board and shall notify in writing the city council of its election within 30 days from receipt of notice of the city's intention to form a planning board. In the event the county commissioners so elect, the planning board to be so formed shall be a city-county planning board.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3805.

76-1-106. Role of planning board. (1) To ensure the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, or order or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of community development, if requested by the governing body, the planning board shall prepare a growth policy and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the local governing bodies establishing the planning board.

(2) The planning board may propose policies for:

(a) subdivision plats;

(b) the development of public ways, public places, public structures, and public and private utilities;

(c) the issuance of improvement location permits on platted and unplatted lands; or

(d) the laying out and development of public ways and services to platted and unplatted lands.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3828(1), (2); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-1-107. Role of planning board in relation to subdivisions and plats. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the governing body of any city, town, or county that has formed a planning board and adopted a growth policy pursuant to this chapter and subdivision regulations pursuant to chapter 3 shall seek the advice of the appropriate planning board in all matters pertaining to the approval or disapproval of plats or subdivisions.

(2) The planning board may delegate to its staff its responsibility under subsection (1) to advise the governing body on any or all proposed minor subdivisions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 19, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3842.1; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 582, L. 1999.

76-1-108. City-county planning board as a zoning commission. The city council may in its discretion require the city-county planning board to function as the zoning commission authorized under 76-2-307.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3828(3).

76-1-109. Interaction of local government and city-county planning board. The governing bodies of the city or county shall give consideration to recommendations of the city-county planning board, but the governing bodies shall not be bound by such recommendations.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3828(4).

76-1-110. Cooperation with planning board by state and local governments. Whenever the board undertakes the preparation of a growth policy, the departments and officials of state, city, county, and separate taxing units operating within lands under the jurisdiction of the board shall make available, upon the request of the board, information, documents, and plans that have been prepared or, upon the request of the board, shall provide any information that relates to the board's activity.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3829; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 582, L. 1999.

76-1-111. Representation of county or additional cities or towns on existing boards. (1) Any city, county, or town or any combination of cities, counties, or towns wishing to be represented upon an existing planning board may, by agreement of the governing body or bodies then represented on the board, obtain representation on the board and share in the membership duties and costs of the board upon a basis agreeable to the governing body or bodies creating the board.

(2) The membership, as well as the jurisdictional area of any board, may be increased to provide for representation and planning of any additional cities, counties, or towns seeking representation.

(3) Any city, county, or town that becomes represented upon an existing planning board pursuant to this section may appropriate funds for expenses necessary to cover the costs of representation. Subject to 15-10-420, the governing bodies of any represented city, county, or town may levy on all property that is added to the jurisdictional area of an existing board by representation a tax for planning board purposes under procedures set forth in Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3815; amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 189, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-1-112. Joint or consolidated planning boards. (1) Any existing city, county, or city-county planning board may form a joint or consolidated planning board with any other existing city, county, or city-county planning board or with any combination of these boards.

(2) The manner of combination must be by interlocal agreement of the cities, counties, and towns represented on the existing planning boards pursuant to Title 7, chapter 11, part 1.

(3) The interlocal agreement must:
(a) state the name of the combined board;
(b) specify whether a joint or combined board is formed;
(c) specify the representation, means and manner of appointment, membership duties, and manner of sharing costs of the combined board which may, subject to subsection (6), be on any basis agreeable to the governing bodies of the cities, counties, and towns represented on the existing planning boards.

(4) If a consolidated board is formed, the existing city, county, and city-county planning boards must be dissolved and the consolidated board has the rights, duties, powers, and obligations of the existing planning boards.

(5) If a joint board is formed, the existing planning boards may not be dissolved and the joint board has the rights, duties, powers, and obligations that are contained in the interlocal agreement.

(6) Membership of any city-county board formed pursuant to this section must have representation consistent with the requirements of part 2 of this chapter.

History: En. 11-3815.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3815.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 1997.

76-1-113. Effect of chapter on natural resources. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), nothing in this chapter may be considered to authorize an ordinance, resolution, or rule that would prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resources by the owner thereof.

(2) The complete use, development, or recovery of a mineral by an operation that mines sand and gravel and an operation that mixes concrete or batches asphalt on a site that is located within a geographic area zoned as residential are subject to the zoning regulations adopted under Title 76, chapter 2.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 271, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3853; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 1991.

76-1-114. Consolidated land use boards — zoning commission, planning board, and board of adjustment. (1) The governing body of a city, county, or consolidated city-county may consolidate any combination of a planning board or planning boards as authorized in Title 76, chapter 1, a zoning commission as provided in 76-2-220 and 76-2-307, and a board of adjustment as provided in 76-2-221 and 76-2-321 into a consolidated land use board.

(2) The requirements regarding the duties and roles of a planning board as provided in Title 76, chapter 1, a zoning commission as provided in Title 76, chapter 2, parts 2 and 3, and a board of adjustment as provided in Title 76, chapter 2, parts 2 and 3, apply to a consolidated land use board.

(3) A consolidated land use board allowed under this section shall adopt bylaws that clearly define the roles and duties of a member when acting as a planning board member, a zoning commission member, or a board of adjustment member.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), a consolidated land use board allowed under this section must consist of at least five appointed citizen members that reside within the jurisdictional area of the consolidated land use board and who may be removed by the appointing authority. A vacancy on a consolidated land use board must be filled by the appointing authority.

(b) If a consolidated land use board includes the consolidation of a joint or consolidated board as allowed in 76-1-112 or a city-county planning board as allowed in 76-1-201, the consolidated land use board must consist of at least nine appointed citizen members as required in 76-1-201.

(5) The requirements provided in Title 76, chapter 1, and in Title 76, chapter 2, parts 2 and 3, regarding the number, qualification, and removal of members on a planning board, zoning commission, or board of adjustment do not apply to a consolidated land use board allowed under this section.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 327, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments
Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

Part 2
Membership

76-1-201. Membership of city-county planning board. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a city-county planning board consists of no fewer than nine members to be appointed as follows:

(a) two official members who reside outside the city limits but within the jurisdictional area of the city-county planning board to be appointed by the board of county commissioners, who may in the discretion of the board of county commissioners be employed by or hold public office in the county;

(b) two official members who reside within the city limits to be appointed by the city council, who may in the discretion of the city council be employed by or hold public office in the city;

(c) two citizen members who reside within the city limits to be appointed by the mayor of the city;

(d) two citizen members who reside within the jurisdictional area of the city-county planning board to be appointed by the board of county commissioners;

(e) the ninth member to be appointed by the board of supervisors of a conservation district provided for in 76-15-311 from the members or associate members of the board of supervisors, subject to approval of the members provided for in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d).

(2) Subsection (1)(e) does not apply if there is no member or associate member of the board of supervisors of a conservation district who is able or willing to serve on the city-county planning board. In that case, the ninth member of the city-county planning board must be selected by the eight officers and citizen members pursuant to subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d), with the consent and approval of the board of county commissioners and the city council.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3810(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 192, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 2007.

76-1-202. Qualifications of citizen members of city-county planning board. (1) The citizen members of the city-county planning board shall be resident freeholders in the area over which the planning board has jurisdiction; provided, however, that at least two of such members shall be resident freeholders in the area, if any, outside the city limits over which the planning board has jurisdiction and the two members appointed by the county commissioners shall reside outside the city limits but within the jurisdictional area of the planning board.

(2) Any citizen appointee may be removed from office by a majority vote of the governing body of the governmental unit represented by such appointee.

History: (1)Ap. p. Sec. 12, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 273, L. 1971; Sec. 11-3812, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1973; Sec. 11-3810, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1963; Sec. 11-3813, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3810(part), 11-3812(part), 11-3813.

76-1-203. Term of members of county and city-county planning boards. The terms of the members who are officers of any governmental unit represented on the board shall be coextensive with their respective terms of office to which they have been elected or appointed; the terms of the other members shall be 2 years, except that the terms of the first members appointed shall be fixed by agreement and rule of the governing bodies represented on the board for 1 or 2 years in order that a minimum number of terms shall expire in any year.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3810(3).

76-1-204. Vacancies on county and city-county planning boards. (1) Vacancies occurring on the board of official members and by death or resignation of citizen members shall be filled for the unexpired term by the governing bodies having appointed them.

(2) Vacancies occurring in citizen members on the county planning board at the end of a term shall be filled by the board of county commissioners.

(3) Vacancies occurring in citizen members on the city-county planning board at the end of a term shall be filled alternately by the mayor and the board of county commissioners represented on the board, commencing with the mayor.

(4) In the event more than one city is represented on a board, the representation and appointments to be made by the respective cities and counties shall be by agreement and rule of the board.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3811.**

76-1-205 through 76-1-210 reserved.

76-1-211. Membership of county planning board. (1) County planning boards consist of not less than five members appointed by the board of county commissioners. At least one member of a county planning board existing on or formed after July 1, 1973, must be a member of the governing board of a conservation district as provided for in chapter 15, an associate member of a conservation district designated by the governing board of a conservation district, or a member of a state cooperative grazing district if officers of either of the districts or the designated associate member of a conservation district reside in the county.

(2) If a city or town subsequently becomes represented on the county planning board pursuant to 76-1-111, additional members of the planning board representing the cities or towns must be appointed by the respective city councils.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3810(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 151, L. 2007.**

76-1-212. Citizen members of county planning board. (1) The citizen members of the county planning board shall be resident freeholders in the area over which the planning board has jurisdiction.

(2) Any citizen appointee may be removed from office by a majority vote of the governing body of the governmental unit represented by such appointee.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 273, L. 1971; Sec. 11-3812, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1963; Sec. 11-3813, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3812(part), 11-3813.**

76-1-213 through 76-1-220 reserved.

76-1-221. Membership of city planning board. (1) A city planning board shall consist of not less than seven members to be appointed as follows:

(a) one member to be appointed by the city council from its membership;

(b) one member to be appointed by the city council, who may in the discretion of the city council be an employee or hold public office in the city or county in which the city is located;

(c) one member to be appointed by the mayor upon the designation by the county commissioners of the county in which the city is located;

(d) four citizen members to be appointed by the mayor, two of whom shall be resident freeholders within the urban area, if any, outside of the city limits over which the planning board has jurisdiction under this chapter and two of whom shall be resident freeholders within the city limits.

(2) The clerk of the city council shall certify members appointed by its body. The certificates shall be sent to and become a part of the records of the planning board. The mayor shall make similar certification for the appointment of citizen members.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1959; Sec. 11-3804, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 246, L. 1957; Sec. 11-3807, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3804(part), 11-3807.**

76-1-222. City council member of city planning board. (1) As soon as the city council has enacted an ordinance creating a city planning board, the city council shall select a member of its body to serve on the planning board. The term of the appointed member must be coextensive with the term of office to which the member has been elected or appointed unless the council, on its first regular meeting of each year, appoints another to serve as its representative or unless the member's term is terminated as provided in this part.

(2) The city council shall fill any vacancy occurring in its respective membership on the planning board.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3806; amd. Sec. 2511, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-1-223. County representative for city planning board. When a city council has enacted an ordinance creating a city planning board or when a vacancy occurs in the county's membership on the city planning board, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the city is located shall within 45 days designate a representative of the county to the mayor of the city for appointment to the city planning board. This representative may be a member of the board of county commissioners or an officeholder or employee of the county. The mayor may not reject or refuse to appoint to the city planning board a representative designated by a board of county commissioners as provided in this section, but if the county fails to designate a representative, then the mayor may appoint as a representative of the county a person of the mayor's own choosing and at the mayor's sole discretion.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3814; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 269, L. 2003.**

76-1-224. Citizen members of city planning board. (1) The citizen members shall:

(a) be qualified by knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the development of the city; and

(b) hold no other office in the city government.

(2) Any citizen appointee may be removed from office by a majority vote of the governing body of the city.

History: **En. Secs. 8, 13, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Secs. 3, 5, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3808, 11-3813; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 266, L. 1979.**

Part 3
Organization and Administration

Part Cross-References

Right of public participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 1.
Open meeting law, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 2.
Expense allowances for state, 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

76-1-301. Planning board meetings. (1) The board shall fix the time for holding regular meetings, but it shall meet at least once in the months of January, April, July, and October.

(2) Special meetings of the planning board may be called by the president or by two members upon written request to the secretary. The secretary shall send to all members, at least 2 days in advance of a special meeting, a written notice fixing the time and place of the meeting. Written notice of a special meeting is not required if the time of the special meeting has been fixed in a regular meeting or if all members are present at the special meeting.

History: **En. Secs. 16, 17, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3816, 11-3817.**

76-1-302. Planning board officers. At its first regular meeting in each year, the board shall elect from its members a president and vice-president. The vice-president shall have authority to act as president of the board during the absence or disability of the president.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3821.**

76-1-303. Offices. The city or county shall provide suitable offices for the holding of meetings and the preservation of plans, maps, documents, and accounts.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 246, L. 1957; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3823.**

76-1-304. Quorum — official action. (1) A majority of members constitutes a quorum.

(2) An action of the planning board is not official unless a quorum is present and unless the action is authorized by a majority of the quorum at a regular or properly called special meeting.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3818; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2007.**

76-1-305. Administration of board. To effectuate the purpose of this chapter, the board shall have the power and duty to:

(1) exercise general supervision of and make regulations for the administration of the affairs of the board;

(2) prescribe uniform rules pertaining to investigations and hearings;

(3) keep an accurate and complete record of all departmental proceedings, record and file all bonds and contracts, and assume responsibility for the custody and preservation of all papers and documents of the board;

(4) make recommendations and an annual report to any governing bodies represented on the board concerning the operation of the board and the status of planning within its jurisdiction;

(5) prepare, publish, and distribute reports, proposed ordinances and proposed resolutions, and other material relating to the activities authorized under this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 24, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3824(part).**

76-1-306. Staff — service contracts. The governing body shall assign staff employed by the governing body to assist the planning board in conducting its duties. The planning board may delegate to assigned staff the authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except when final action of the planning board is necessary. The governing body may make contracts for special or temporary services and any professional services.

History: **(1), (3)En. Sec. 22, Ch. 246, L. 1957; Sec. 11-3822, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 24, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1963; Sec. 11-3824, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3822, 11-3824(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 599, L. 2003.**

76-1-307. Compensation and expenses of board members and employees. (1) The members of planning boards shall receive no salary for serving on the planning board but may be reimbursed from local funds for transportation and actual expenses up to but not exceeding state transportation reimbursements and allowable expenses incurred in attending planning board meetings.

(2) When the planning board determines that it is necessary for members or employees to attend a regional or national conference or interview in another city, county, or state dealing with planning or related problems, the planning board may pay the actual expenses of the attending members or employees provided the amount has been made available in the board's appropriation.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1974; Sec. 11-3819, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 1963; Sec. 11-3820, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3819, 11-3820.**

Part 4
Financial Administration

76-1-401. Fiscal administration. (1) To effectuate the purpose of this chapter, the board shall have the power and duty to:

(a) supervise the fiscal affairs and responsibilities of the board;

(b) prepare and submit to the governing bodies represented on the board an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of the city and county governments and shall be limited in all expenditures to the provisions made therefor by the governing bodies represented upon the board.

(2) The planning board shall have authority to expend, under regular city or county procedure as provided by law, all sums appropriated to it for purposes and activities authorized by this chapter.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 24, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1963; Sec. 11-3824, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 26, Ch. 246, L. 1957; Sec. 11-3826, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3824(part), 11-3826.**

76-1-402. Funding of board operation. (1) After a city council has by ordinance, a board of county commissioners has by ordinance and resolution, or a city council and board of county commissioners have by ordinance and resolution created a planning board, the governing bodies represented upon such board may appropriate funds to carry out the duties of the planning board.

(2) When a planning board has been created by agreement of more than one governmental unit, the governing bodies of the governmental units which have created the board shall agree upon the proportion of expenditures to be borne by each such unit and may budget and appropriate the funds necessary for the respective shares thus agreed upon.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(1), (2).**

76-1-403. Tax levy by county for certain county planning districts authorized. When a county planning board has been established, the board of county commissioners may create a planning district that must include the property that lies outside the limits of the jurisdictional area, as established pursuant to 76-1-504 through 76-1-507 or as modified pursuant to 76-1-501 through 76-1-503 in counties where a city-county planning board has been established, as well as that property that lies outside the limits of any incorporated cities and towns. Subject to 15-10-420, the board of county commissioners may levy a tax on the taxable value of all taxable property located within the planning district for planning board purposes, under procedures set forth in Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(5); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 190, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-1-404. Tax levy by county for city-county planning board authorized. When a city-county planning board has been established, the board of county commissioners may create a planning district that must include the property within the jurisdictional areas as established pursuant to 76-1-504 through 76-1-507 that lies outside the limits of any incorporated cities and towns. Subject to 15-10-420, the board of county commissioners may levy on the taxable value of all taxable property located within the planning district a tax for planning board purposes, under procedures set forth in Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(4); amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 191, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-1-405. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(part); amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

76-1-406. Tax levy by municipalities authorized. Subject to 15-10-420, the governing body of any city or town represented on a planning board may levy a tax upon the taxable value of all taxable property located within the city or town for planning board purposes, under procedures set forth in Title 7, chapter 6, part 40.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(3); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 192, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-1-407. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3825(part); amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

76-1-408. Acceptance and administration of gifts and donations. (1) A city, county, or city-county planning board organized pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is hereby empowered and given the right to:

(a) accept, receive, take, hold, own, and possess any gift, donation, grant, devise, or bequest or any property (real, personal, or mixed) or any improved or unimproved park or playground; and

(b) utilize, hold, or dispose of the same for planning purposes not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Any money so accepted shall be deposited with the city or county in a special nonreverting planning board fund to be available for expenditures by the planning board for the purpose designated by the donor. The disbursing officer of a city or county shall draw warrants against such special nonreverting fund only upon vouchers signed by the president and secretary of the planning board.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3827(part).

76-1-409. Acceptance and administration of government funds and services. Upon approval of the governing bodies represented on the board, a planning board may accept, receive, and expend funds, grants, and services from the federal government or its agencies and instrumentalities, from state or local governments or their agencies and instrumentalities, or from civic sources; may contract with respect thereto; and may provide such information and reports as may be necessary to secure such financial aid.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3827(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-1-410. Planning fees — limit. (1) Governing bodies that have committed in a resolution to adopting or that have adopted a growth policy that includes the provisions of 76-1-601(4)(c) may assess planning fees to pay for services that fulfill the purposes of Title 76, chapter 1. The planning fees are in addition to any other fees authorized by law and may be collected as part of either subdivision applications or zoning permits.

(2) Planning fees may not exceed $50 for each residential lot or unit or $250 for each commercial, industrial, or other type of lot or unit.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 455, L. 2007.

Part 5
Jurisdictional Area

76-1-501. Jurisdictional area of county planning board. The board of county commissioners shall by resolution establish the jurisdictional area of the county planning board. The jurisdictional area shall include the area which is both outside the incorporated limits of any city in the county as well as outside the jurisdictional area of an existing city-county planning board established pursuant to 76-1-504 through 76-1-507. Should any city or town become represented on the county planning board pursuant to 76-1-111, the jurisdictional area of the county planning board shall be extended to include that city or town.

History: En. 11-3830.2 by Sec. 8, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830.2(1).

76-1-502. Filing of map of jurisdictional area of county planning board — revision of boundaries. The planning board, after the approval of the jurisdictional area by the board of county commissioners, shall file in the office of the clerk and recorder a map showing the boundaries of the jurisdictional area. The boundaries may be revised from time to time by resolution of the board of county commissioners. Such revised boundaries shall be shown upon a map which shall be filed as provided in this section. The area included in such map shall constitute the area over which the planning board shall have advisory jurisdiction.

History: En. 11-3830.2 by Sec. 8, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830.2(2).

76-1-503. Resolution of conflicts involving jurisdictional area of county planning boards. (1) In case an unincorporated area is within the potential jurisdiction of more than one planning board, then the boundary between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved with the approval of their respective governing bodies. Any map showing the boundary line so agreed upon and approved shall be filed as provided in 76-1-502 and thereafter shall fix the limit of territorial jurisdiction with respect to planning boards.

(2) In case the jurisdictional area of a city-county planning board, which is established subsequent to the establishment of a county planning board, is potentially within the jurisdiction of the county planning board, then the property outside any incorporated city between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved with the approval of the respective governing bodies, and a map showing the boundary lines so agreed upon shall be filed as provided in 76-1-502 and thereafter shall fix the limits of the territorial jurisdiction of the respective planning boards.

History: En. 11-3830.2 by Sec. 8, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830.2(3), (4).

76-1-504. Jurisdictional area of city-county planning board. The governing bodies represented on a city-county planning board shall by separate resolution establish the jurisdictional area of the planning board. The jurisdictional area shall include the area within the incorporated limits of the city and such contiguous unincorporated area outside the city as, in the judgment of the respective governing bodies, bears reasonable relation to the development of the area involved.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830(part).

76-1-505. Extension of boundaries of city-county planning board jurisdictional area. (1) The boundaries of the jurisdictional area can be extended further than 4½ miles from the limits of the cities only upon petition signed by 5% or more of the resident freeholders living in excess of 4½ miles and not more than 12 miles from the limits of the cities and within the area desiring to be included within said jurisdictional limits and upon presentation of said petition to the board of county commissioners.

(2) Thereafter, the board of county commissioners must by resolution set the proposed boundaries of said area and give notice of their intent to add said area to the jurisdictional limits theretofore created and of receipt of said petition by publication of notice of time and place of hearing on said petition and resolution. Said notice is to be published in a newspaper published in the county not less than 10 or more than 20 days prior to the date of said hearing. Thereafter, the boundaries of said area can only be set upon good cause being shown for the establishment of said extended jurisdictional area and the boundaries thereof, provided that such resolution shall

not be adopted by the board of county commissioners if disapproved in writing by a majority of the freeholders of the territory proposed to be embraced. The jurisdictional area shall not extend more than 12 miles beyond the limits of any city within the jurisdictional area.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830(part).

Cross-References

Publication of legal notices, Title 18, ch. 7, part 2; 18-7-411.

76-1-506. Filing of map of jurisdictional area of city-county planning board — revision of boundaries. The planning board, after approval of the jurisdictional area by the governing bodies, shall file in the office of the clerk and recorder a map showing the boundaries of the jurisdictional area. The boundaries may be revised from time to time by resolutions of the governing bodies. Such revised boundaries shall be shown upon a map which shall be filed as provided in this section. The area included in such map shall constitute the area over which the planning board shall have advisory jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830(2).

76-1-507. Resolution of conflicts over jurisdictional areas of several city-county planning boards. In case an unincorporated area is within the potential jurisdiction of more than one planning board, then the boundary between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved with the approval of their respective governing bodies. A map showing the boundary lines so agreed upon and approved shall be filed as provided in 76-1-506 and thereafter shall fix the limit of territorial jurisdiction of the respective planning boards.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830(3).

76-1-508. Planning projects outside city-county planning board jurisdictional area — broad construction. (1) Any city-county planning board organized pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is hereby empowered, if requested by the board of county commissioners, to conduct specific planning projects within the county and outside of the jurisdictional area of said city-county planning board as defined in 76-1-504 through 76-1-507.

(2) Such authority to conduct specific planning projects outside of the jurisdictional area of the city-county planning board upon request of the board of county commissioners shall be broadly construed so as to enable the county to qualify under the provisions of and regulations governing any planning assistance program administered by any agency of the United States of America or the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3830.1.

Part 6
Growth Policy

Part Cross-References

Compliance with growth policy required for annexation, 7-2-4734(3).
Publication of legal notices, Title 18, ch. 7, part 2; 18-7-411.
Compliance required by cemetery associations, 35-20-201.

76-1-601. Growth policy — contents. (1) A growth policy may cover all or part of the jurisdictional area.

(2) The extent to which a growth policy addresses the elements listed in subsection (3) is at the full discretion of the governing body.

(3) A growth policy must include:

(a) community goals and objectives;

(b) maps and text describing an inventory of the existing characteristics and features of the jurisdictional area, including:

(i) land uses;
(ii) population;
(iii) housing needs;
(iv) economic conditions;
(v) local services;

(vi) public facilities;

(vii) natural resources;

(viii) sand and gravel resources; and

(ix) other characteristics and features proposed by the planning board and adopted by the governing bodies;

(c) projected trends for the life of the growth policy for each of the following elements:

(i) land use;

(ii) population;

(iii) housing needs;

(iv) economic conditions;

(v) local services;

(vi) natural resources; and

(vii) other elements proposed by the planning board and adopted by the governing bodies;

(d) a description of policies, regulations, and other measures to be implemented in order to achieve the goals and objectives established pursuant to subsection (3)(a);

(e) a strategy for development, maintenance, and replacement of public infrastructure, including drinking water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, sewer systems, solid waste facilities, fire protection facilities, roads, and bridges;

(f) an implementation strategy that includes:

(i) a timetable for implementing the growth policy;

(ii) a list of conditions that will lead to a revision of the growth policy; and

(iii) a timetable for reviewing the growth policy at least once every 5 years and revising the policy if necessary;

(g) a statement of how the governing bodies will coordinate and cooperate with other jurisdictions that explains:

(i) if a governing body is a city or town, how the governing body will coordinate and cooperate with the county in which the city or town is located on matters related to the growth policy;

(ii) if a governing body is a county, how the governing body will coordinate and cooperate with cities and towns located within the county's boundaries on matters related to the growth policy;

(h) a statement explaining how the governing bodies will:

(i) define the criteria in 76-3-608(3)(a); and

(ii) evaluate and make decisions regarding proposed subdivisions with respect to the criteria in 76-3-608(3)(a);

(i) a statement explaining how public hearings regarding proposed subdivisions will be conducted; and

(j) an evaluation of the potential for fire and wildland fire in the jurisdictional area, including whether or not there is a need to:

(i) delineate the wildland-urban interface; and

(ii) adopt regulations requiring:

(A) defensible space around structures;

(B) adequate ingress and egress to and from structures and developments to facilitate fire suppression activities; and

(C) adequate water supply for fire protection.

(4) A growth policy may:

(a) include one or more neighborhood plans. A neighborhood plan must be consistent with the growth policy.

(b) establish minimum criteria defining the jurisdictional area for a neighborhood plan;

(c) establish an infrastructure plan that, at a minimum, includes:

(i) projections, in maps and text, of the jurisdiction's growth in population and number of residential, commercial, and industrial units over the next 20 years;

(ii) for a city, a determination regarding if and how much of the city's growth is likely to take place outside of the city's existing jurisdictional area over the next 20 years and a plan of how the city will coordinate infrastructure planning with the county or counties where growth is likely to take place;

(iii) for a county, a plan of how the county will coordinate infrastructure planning with each of the cities that project growth outside of city boundaries and into the county's jurisdictional area over the next 20 years;

(iv) for cities, a land use map showing where projected growth will be guided and at what densities within city boundaries;

(v) for cities and counties, a land use map that designates infrastructure planning areas adjacent to cities showing where projected growth will be guided and at what densities;

(vi) using maps and text, a description of existing and future public facilities necessary to efficiently serve projected development and densities within infrastructure planning areas, including, whenever feasible, extending interconnected municipal street networks, sidewalks, trail systems, public transit facilities, and other municipal public facilities throughout the infrastructure planning area. For the purposes of this subsection (4)(c)(vi), public facilities include but are not limited to drinking water treatment and distribution facilities, sewer systems, wastewater treatment facilities, solid waste disposal facilities, parks and open space, schools, public access areas, roads, highways, bridges, and facilities for fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency services;

(vii) a description of proposed land use management techniques and incentives that will be adopted to promote development within cities and in an infrastructure planning area, including land use management techniques and incentives that address issues of housing affordability;

(viii) a description of how and where projected development inside municipal boundaries for cities and inside designated joint infrastructure planning areas for cities and counties could adversely impact:

(A) threatened or endangered wildlife and critical wildlife habitat and corridors;

(B) water available to agricultural water users and facilities;

(C) the ability of public facilities, including schools, to safely and efficiently service current residents and future growth;

(D) a local government's ability to provide adequate local services, including but not limited to emergency, fire, and police protection;

(E) the safety of people and property due to threats to public health and safety, including but not limited to wildfire, flooding, erosion, water pollution, hazardous wildlife interactions, and traffic hazards;

(F) natural resources, including but not limited to forest lands, mineral resources, sand and gravel resources, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and ground water; and

(G) agricultural lands and agricultural production; and

(ix) a description of measures, including land use management techniques and incentives, that will be adopted to avoid, significantly reduce, or mitigate the adverse impacts identified under subsection (4)(c)(viii).

(d) include any elements required by a federal land management agency in order for the governing body to establish coordination or cooperating agency status as provided in 76-1-607.

(5) The planning board may propose and the governing bodies may adopt additional elements of a growth policy in order to fulfill the purpose of this chapter.

History: **Ap. p. Sec. 31, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 156, L. 1973; Sec. 11-3831, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1973; Sec. 11-3803, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3803(part), 11-3831; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 599, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 443, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 455, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 2013.**

76-1-602. Public hearing on proposed growth policy. (1) Prior to the submission of the proposed growth policy to the governing bodies, the board shall give notice and hold a public hearing on the growth policy.

(2) At least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing, the board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdictional area a notice of the time and place of the hearing.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3833; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 582, L. 1999.**

76-1-603. Adoption of growth policy by planning board. After consideration of the recommendations and suggestions elicited at the public hearing, the planning board shall by resolution:

(1) recommend the proposed growth policy and any proposed ordinances and resolutions for its implementation to the governing bodies of the governmental units represented on the planning board;

(2) recommend that a growth policy not be adopted; or

(3) recommend that the governing body take some other action related to preparation of a growth policy.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3834; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-1-604. Adoption, revision, or rejection of growth policy. (1) The governing body shall adopt a resolution of intention to adopt, adopt with revisions, or reject the proposed growth policy.

(2) If the governing body adopts a resolution of intention to adopt a growth policy, the governing body may submit to the qualified electors of the area covered by the growth policy proposed by the governing body at the next primary or general election or at a special election the referendum question of whether or not the growth policy should be adopted. A special election must be held in conjunction with a regular or primary election.

(3) A governing body may:

(a) revise an adopted growth policy following the procedures in this chapter for adoption of a proposed growth policy; or

(b) repeal a growth policy by resolution.

(4) The qualified electors of the area covered by the growth policy may by initiative or referendum adopt, revise, or repeal a growth policy under this section. A petition for initiative or referendum must contain the signatures of 15% of the qualified electors of the area covered by the growth policy.

(5) A master plan adopted pursuant to this chapter before October 1, 1999, may be repealed following the procedures in this section for repeal of a growth policy.

(6) Until October 1, 2006, a master plan that was adopted pursuant to this chapter before October 1, 1999, may be revised following the procedures in this chapter for revision of a growth policy.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of Title 7, chapter 5, part 1, apply to an initiative or referendum under this section.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3840(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 541, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 387, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-1-605. Use of adopted growth policy. (1) Subject to subsection (2), after adoption of a growth policy, the governing body within the area covered by the growth policy pursuant to 76-1-601 must be guided by and give consideration to the general policy and pattern of development set out in the growth policy in the:

(a) authorization, construction, alteration, or abandonment of public ways, public places, public structures, or public utilities;

(b) authorization, acceptance, or construction of water mains, sewers, connections, facilities, or utilities; and

(c) adoption of zoning ordinances or resolutions.

(2) (a) A growth policy is not a regulatory document and does not confer any authority to regulate that is not otherwise specifically authorized by law or regulations adopted pursuant to the law.

(b) A governing body may not withhold, deny, or impose conditions on any land use approval or other authority to act based solely on compliance with a growth policy adopted pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 247, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3840(part); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 527, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-1-606. Effect of growth policy on subdivision regulations. When a growth policy has been approved, the subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to chapter 3 of this title must be made in accordance with the growth policy.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3842; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 527, L. 2001.

76-1-607. Growth policy — use and amendment for coordination and cooperation with federal agencies. (1) A local governing body may use a growth policy as a resource management plan for the purposes of establishing coordination or cooperating agency status with a federal land management agency.

(2) The governing body may amend the growth policy to include any elements required by a federal land management agency to establish coordination or cooperating agency status.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2013.

CHAPTER 2
PLANNING AND ZONING

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Part 3 — Municipal Zoning

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76-2-1001 and 76-2-1002 reserved.
76-2-1003. Right to mine digital assets.

Chapter Cross-References

Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.

Part 1
County Planning and Zoning Commission

Part Cross-References

Property development review, Title 7, ch. 21, part 10.

76-2-101. Planning and zoning commission and district. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (5), whenever the public interest or convenience may require and on petition of 60% of the affected real property owners in the proposed district, the board of county commissioners may create a planning and zoning district and may appoint a planning and zoning commission consisting of up to seven members.

(2) A planning and zoning district may not be created in an area that has been zoned by an incorporated city pursuant to 76-2-310 and 76-2-311.

(3) For the purposes of this part, the word "district" means any area that consists of not less than 40 acres.

(4) An action challenging the process to create a planning and zoning district must begin within 6 months after the date of the order by the board of county commissioners creating the district.

(5) (a) Before the board of county commissioners determines whether the number of affected real property owners necessary to meet the petition requirement of subsection (1) has been met, draft documents of the proposed materials that may potentially govern the proposed

district must be made available to the board of county commissioners. Draft documents of the proposed materials required in this subsection (5) may include but are not limited to drafts of:

(i) a development pattern as provided in 76-2-104;

(ii) a resolution as provided in 76-2-107; and

(iii) the land use and zoning regulations as provided in 76-2-107.

(b) The final adopted development pattern, resolutions, and other materials that govern the zoning district as required in 76-2-104 and 76-2-107 must be similar to the draft documents provided to the county commissioners as required in subsection (5)(a).

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 273, L. 1971; Sec. 16-4101, R.C.M. 1947; (3) En. Sec. 7, Ch. 154, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1955; Sec. 16-4107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4101(part), 16-4107; (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 441, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 591, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 533, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 3, 2023.

Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 401, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to zoning districts created pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 1, on or after January 1, 2023."

76-2-102. Organization and operation of commission. (1) The planning and zoning commission consists of three county commissioners, either the county surveyor or the county clerk and recorder, two citizen members, each of whom resides in a different planning and zoning district or, if only one district exists in a county or is proposed, both from that district, and a county official appointed by the county commissioners. The citizen members must be appointed by the board of county commissioners to 2-year staggered terms, with one member initially appointed to a 2-year term and the remaining member initially appointed to a 1-year term. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation other than reimbursement for authorized expenses and must be residents of the county in which they serve.

(2) The commission may appoint necessary employees and fix their compensation with the approval of the board of county commissioners, select a presiding officer to serve for 1 year, appoint a secretary to keep permanent and complete records of its proceedings, and adopt rules governing the transaction of its business.

(3) Subject to 15-10-420, the finances necessary for the transaction of the planning and zoning commission's business and to pay the expenses of the employees and justified expenses of the commission's members must be paid from a levy on the taxable value of all taxable property within the district.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4101(part); amd. Sec. 137, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 193, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 446, L. 2009.

76-2-103. Powers of commission and employees. (1) In general, the planning and zoning commission shall have such powers as may be appropriate to enable it to fulfill its functions and duties to promote county planning and to carry out the purposes of this part.

(2) The planning and zoning commission and any of its members, officers, and employees in the performance of their functions may enter upon any land and make examinations and surveys and place and maintain the necessary monuments and markers thereon.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4104(part).

76-2-104. Development pattern. (1) For the purpose of furthering the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the county, the county planning and zoning commission hereby is empowered and it shall be its duty to make and adopt a development pattern for the physical and economic development of the planning and zoning district.

(2) Such development pattern, with the accompanying maps, plats, charts, and descriptive matter, shall show the planning and zoning commission's recommendations for the development of the districts, within some of which it shall be lawful and within others of which it shall be unlawful to erect, construct, alter, or maintain certain buildings or to carry on certain trades, industries, or callings or within which the height and bulk of future buildings and the area of the yards, courts, and other open spaces and the future uses of the land or buildings shall be limited and future building setback lines shall be established.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4102(part).

76-2-105. Continuation of prior nonconforming uses. Existing nonconforming uses may be continued although not in conformity with such zoning regulations.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4102(part).

76-2-106. Adoption of development district. (1) Adoption by the planning and zoning commission of the development district or any change therein may be in whole or in part but must be by the affirmative vote of the majority of the whole commission, provided, however, that prior to any such adoption, a public hearing shall have been held not less than 15 days after notice thereof shall have been posted in at least three public places within the area affected.

(2) The resolution adopting the district or any part or parts covering one or more of the functional elements which may be included within the district shall refer expressly to the maps, charts, and descriptive matters forming the pattern or part thereof. The board of county commissioners shall have the power to authorize such variance from the recommendations of the planning commission as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the decision of the planning and zoning commission will result in unnecessary hardship.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4103.

76-2-107. Preparation of resolutions and other materials. (1) The planning and zoning commission may, for the benefit and welfare of the county, prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners drafts of resolutions for the purpose of carrying out the development districts or any part of the development districts previously adopted by the commission, including zoning and land use regulations, the making of official maps, and the preservation of the integrity of the development districts and the official maps and including procedure for appeals from decisions made under the authority of the regulations and regulations for the conservation of the natural resources of the county. The board of county commissioners is authorized to adopt these resolutions.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of 76-2-104 and subsection (1) of this section, if the planning and zoning commission is unable to make and adopt a development pattern or to adopt a development district, the board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution to void a planning and zoning district created pursuant to 76-2-101.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4105(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 446, L. 2009.

76-2-108. Permits authorized. The planning and zoning commission hereby is empowered to authorize and provide for the issuance of permits as a prerequisite to construction, alteration, or enlargement of any building or structure otherwise subject to the provisions of this part and may establish and collect reasonable fees therefor. The fees so collected are to go to the general fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4105(part).

76-2-109. Effect on natural resources. (1) Regulations adopted under this part may not regulate lands used for grazing, horticulture, agriculture, the growing of timber, or the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral.

(2) (a) A provision of this part may not be construed to alter Montana law regarding the primacy of the mineral estate, to limit access to the mineral estate, or to limit development of the mineral estate.

(b) A regulation, resolution, or rule adopted pursuant to the provisions of this part may not prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral that is under the jurisdiction of the board of oil and gas conservation pursuant to Title 82, chapter 11, part 1.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4102(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 526, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 533, L. 2021.

76-2-110. Appeal procedure. Any person aggrieved by any decision of the commission or the board of county commissioners may, within 30 days after such decision or order, appeal to the district court in the county in which the property involved is located.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4105(part).

76-2-111. Cooperation by public agencies with commission. All public officials, departments, and agencies having information, maps, and data deemed by the commission pertinent to county planning are hereby empowered and directed to make such information available for the use of the county planning and zoning commission.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4104(part).

76-2-112. Effect on powers of incorporated communities to plan adjacent areas. The authority heretofore granted by law to the incorporated communities to approve subdivision plats within the unincorporated area adjacent to their corporate limits is not abrogated by this part except and until the board of county commissioners having jurisdiction over such adjacent area establishes a planning commission and adopts initial regulations for subdivision control within adjacent areas or districts. Authority of the adjacent municipality shall be suspended on the effective date of the county regulation with respect to all areas governed by county subdivision regulations.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 154, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4106.

76-2-113. Enforcement of zoning provisions. If any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted, or maintained or if any building, structure, or land is used in violation of this part or of any resolution adopted under this part, the county, in addition to other remedies, may take any appropriate action or begin proceedings to:

(1) prevent the unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use;

(2) restrain, correct, or abate a violation;

(3) prevent the occupancy of a building, structure, or land; or

(4) prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or near the premises.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 288, L. 2001.

76-2-114. Housing fees and dedication of real property prohibited. (1) A local governing body may not adopt a resolution under this part that includes a requirement to:

(a) pay a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(b) dedicate real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices.

(2) A dedication of real property as prohibited in subsection (1)(b) includes a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Imposition of fee or dedication on owner of addition prohibited, 7-2-4203.

Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-203.

Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-302.

Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body as condition of approval of subdivision prohibited, 76-3-514.

76-2-115 and 76-2-116 reserved.

76-2-117. Addition of territory adjacent to existing planning and zoning district. Territory that is directly adjacent to an existing planning and zoning district but that is not part of the district may be added to the district subject to the procedures provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 439, L. 2003.

76-2-118. Referendum to terminate zoning district. (1) Real property owners in a zoning district may petition the board of county commissioners to submit a referendum to the registered electors residing in the zoning district to terminate the zoning district. The petition must be in writing and contain the signatures and addresses of 20% or more of the real property owners in the zoning district. The petition requesting a referendum for the termination of a zoning district must be delivered to the county clerk and recorder, who shall endorse on it the date when the petition was received and validate the signatures within 60 days of receipt of the petition. If the petition contains valid signatures of at least 20% of the real property owners within the zoning district, the county clerk and recorder shall notify the county commissioners.

(2) On receipt of a valid petition described in subsection (1), the county commissioners shall submit the referendum to the registered electors residing in the district in an election conducted pursuant to Title 13, chapter 1, part 4 or 5.

(3) If the referendum described in subsection (1) and conducted under subsection (2) is not successful, the real property owners in the zoning district may not bring forth a subsequent

referendum petition for 3 years from the date that the original referendum was submitted to the registered electors pursuant to subsection (2).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 4, Ch. 401, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 3, 2023.

Applicability: Section 5, Ch. 401, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to zoning districts created pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 1, on or after January 1, 2023."

Part 2
County Zoning

Part Cross-References

Property development review, Title 7, ch. 21, part 10.

76-2-201. County zoning authorized. (1) For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare, a board of county commissioners that has adopted a growth policy pursuant to chapter 1 is authorized to adopt zoning regulations for all or parts of the jurisdictional area in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(2) For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare, a board of county commissioners that adopted a master plan pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1, before October 1, 1999, may, until October 1, 2006, adopt or revise zoning regulations that are consistent with the master plan.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4701; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-2-202. Establishment of zoning districts — regulations. (1) (a) Within the unincorporated portions of a jurisdictional area that has been established under provisions of 76-1-501 through 76-1-503 or 76-1-504 through 76-1-507 and for the purposes provided in 76-2-201, the board of county commissioners may by resolution establish zoning regulations for a part or all of the jurisdictional area or divide the county into zoning districts with zoning regulations that are considered best suited to carry out the purposes of this part. By establishing zoning regulations, the board may regulate the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, location, or use of buildings or structures or the use of land, including the creation of zoning districts that allow tiny dwelling units.

(b) An action challenging the creation of a zoning district or adoption of zoning regulations must be commenced within 6 months after the date of the order by the board of county commissioners creating the district or adopting the regulations.

(2) In a proceeding for a permit or variance to place manufactured housing within a residential zoning district, there is a rebuttable presumption that placement of a manufactured home will not adversely affect property values of conventional housing.

(3) The regulations in one district may differ from those in other districts.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Manufactured housing" means a dwelling for a single household, built offsite in a factory, that is in compliance with the applicable prevailing standards of the United States department of housing and urban development at the time of its production. A manufactured home does not include a mobile home or housetrailer, as defined in 15-1-101.

(b) (i) "Tiny dwelling unit" means a residential dwelling unit that is 350 to 750 square feet, is on a permanent foundation, and is used as a single-family dwelling for at least 45 days or longer.

(ii) Appendix Q, tiny houses, of the International Building Code as it was printed on January 1, 2023, may govern all other requirements of a tiny dwelling unit that is 350 to 750 square feet.

(5) This section may not be construed to limit conditions imposed in historic districts, local design review standards, existing covenants, or the ability to enter into covenants pursuant to Title 70, chapter 17, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4703; (1)(b)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 274, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 236, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 596, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 178, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-2-203. Criteria and guidelines for zoning regulations. (1) Zoning regulations must be:

(a) made in accordance with the growth policy; and

(b) designed to:

(i) secure safety from fire and other dangers;

(ii) promote public health, public safety, and general welfare; and

(iii) facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements.

(2) In the adoption of zoning regulations, the board of county commissioners shall consider:

(a) reasonable provision of adequate light and air;

(b) the effect on motorized and nonmotorized transportation systems;

(c) compatible urban growth in the vicinity of cities and towns that at a minimum must include the areas around municipalities;

(d) the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses; and

(e) conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the jurisdictional area.

(3) Zoning regulations must, as nearly as possible, be made compatible with the zoning ordinances of nearby municipalities.

(4) Zoning regulations may not include a requirement to:

(a) pay a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(b) dedicate real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices.

(5) A dedication of real property as prohibited in subsection (4)(b) includes a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4704; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 249, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Imposition of fee or dedication on owner of addition prohibited, 7-2-4203.

Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body resolution prohibited, 76-2-114.

Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-302.

Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body as condition of approval of subdivision prohibited, 76-3-514.

76-2-204. Role of planning boards. (1) The board of county commissioners shall require the county planning board and the city-county planning board to recommend boundaries and appropriate regulations for the various zoning districts. The county planning board and the city-county planning board shall make written reports of their recommendations to the board of county commissioners, but such recommendations shall be advisory only.

(2) This section shall apply to either the county planning board or the city-county planning board where only one of these planning boards has been established.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4702.

76-2-205. Procedure for adoption of regulations and boundaries. The board of county commissioners shall observe the following procedures in the establishment or revision of boundaries for zoning districts and in the adoption or amendment of zoning regulations:

(1) Notice of a public hearing on the proposed zoning district boundaries and of regulations for the zoning district must:

(a) state:

(i) the boundaries of the proposed district;

(ii) the general character of the proposed zoning regulations;

(iii) the time and place of the public hearing;

(iv) that the proposed zoning regulations are on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder;

(b) be posted not less than 45 days before the public hearing in at least five public places, including but not limited to public buildings and adjacent to public rights-of-way, within the proposed district; and

(c) be published once a week for 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

(2) At the public hearing, the board of county commissioners shall give the public an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed zoning district and regulations.

(3) After the public hearing, the board of county commissioners shall review the proposals of the planning board and shall make any revisions or amendments that it determines to be proper.

(4) The board of county commissioners may pass a resolution of intention to create a zoning district and to adopt zoning regulations for the district.

(5) The board of county commissioners shall publish notice of passage of the resolution of intention once a week for 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. The notice must state:

(a) the boundaries of the proposed district;

(b) the general character of the proposed zoning regulations;

(c) that the proposed zoning regulations are on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder;

(d) that for 30 days after first publication of this notice, the board of county commissioners will receive written comments on the creation of the zoning district or to the zoning regulations from persons owning real property within the district whose names appear on the last-completed assessment roll of the county.

(6) Within 30 days after the expiration of the comment period, the board of county commissioners may in its discretion adopt the resolution creating the zoning district or establishing the zoning regulations for the district.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 246, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4705; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 591, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 380, L. 2021.

76-2-206. Interim zoning district or regulation. (1) Except as provided in 76-2-240 and subject to subsection (3) of this section, the board of county commissioners may establish an interim zoning district or interim regulation to address an emergency that involves the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare if:

(a) the purpose of the interim zoning district or interim regulation is to classify those uses and related matters that must be regulated to mitigate the emergency; and

(b) within 30 working days, the county initiates a study or investigation to verify that an emergency exists and to identify the facts and circumstances that constitute the emergency, the potential options for mitigating the emergency, and the course of action that the governing body intends to take, if any, during the term of the interim zoning district or interim regulation to mitigate the emergency.

(2) A resolution for an interim zoning district or interim regulation must be limited to 1 year from the date it becomes effective. Subject to subsections (4) and (5), the board of county commissioners may extend the resolution for 1 year, but not more than one extension may be made.

(3) The board of county commissioners shall observe the following procedures in the establishment of an interim zoning district or interim regulation:

(a) Notice of a public hearing on the proposed interim zoning district boundaries or of the interim regulation must be published as provided in 7-1-2121. In addition to the requirements of 7-1-2121, the notice must state:

(i) the boundaries of the proposed district;

(ii) the specific emergency compelling the establishment of the proposed interim zoning district or interim regulation;

(iii) the general character of the proposed interim zoning district or interim regulation, including how those uses and related matters that must be regulated to mitigate the emergency will be classified and regulated; and

(iv) that the proposed interim zoning district or interim regulation is on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder.

(b) At the public hearing, the board of county commissioners shall give the public an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed establishment of an interim zoning district or interim regulation.

(c) After the hearing, the board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution to establish an interim zoning district or interim regulation.

(4) The board of county commissioners shall observe the following procedures in the extension of a resolution pursuant to subsection (2):

(a) A study or investigation as provided in subsection (1)(b) must be completed prior to the hearing on the proposed extension of the resolution.

(b) Notice of a public hearing on the proposed extension of the resolution must be published as provided in 7-1-2121. In addition to the requirements of 7-1-2121, the notice must state:

(i) the boundaries of the existing interim zoning district;

(ii) the specific emergency that compelled the establishment of the existing interim zoning district or interim regulation and the reason for the proposed extension of the resolution; and

(iii) that the proposed extension of the resolution is on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder.

(c) At the public hearing, which must be held prior to the expiration of the existing interim zoning district or interim zoning regulation, the board of county commissioners shall give the public an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed extension of the resolution.

(5) After the hearing provided for in subsection (4), the board of county commissioners may in its discretion extend the resolution for the interim zoning district or interim regulation.

History: En. 16-4711 by Sec. 20, Ch. 273, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4711; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 56, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 416, L. 2013.

76-2-207. Permits authorized. The board of county commissioners may provide for the issuance of location or conformance permits and may collect a fee for each such permit. The proceeds of such fees shall be deposited in the general fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4708(part).

76-2-208. Continuation of nonconforming uses. Any lawful use which is made of land or buildings at the time any zoning resolution is adopted by the board of county commissioners may be continued although such use does not conform to the provisions of such resolution.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4709.

76-2-209. Effect on natural resources. (1) Except as provided in 82-4-431, 82-4-432, and subsection (2) of this section, a resolution or rule adopted pursuant to the provisions of this part, except 76-2-206, may not prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resources by the owner of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resource.

(2) The complete use, development, or recovery of a mineral by an operation that mines sand and gravel or an operation that mixes concrete or batches asphalt may be reasonably conditioned or prohibited on a site that is located within a geographic area zoned as residential, as defined by the board of county commissioners and in effect prior to the filing of a permit application or at the time a written request is received for a preapplication meeting pursuant to 82-4-432.

(3) Zoning regulations adopted under this chapter and in effect prior to the filing of a permit application or at the time a written request is received for a preapplication meeting pursuant to 82-4-432 may reasonably condition, but not prohibit, the complete use, development, or recovery of a mineral by an operation that mines sand and gravel and may condition an operation that mixes concrete or batches asphalt in all zones other than residential.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4710; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 545, L. 2021.

76-2-210. Enforcement of zoning provisions. (1) If any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted, or maintained or any building, structure, or land is used in violation of this part or of any resolution adopted under this part, the county, in addition to other remedies, may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to:

(a) prevent the unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use;

(b) restrain, correct, or abate a violation;

(c) prevent the occupancy of the building, structure, or land; or

(d) prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or near the premises.

(2) For the purposes of enforcing subsections (1)(a) through (1)(c), the county shall attempt to obtain voluntary compliance at least 30 days before filing a complaint for a violation of this part that is subject to the penalties under 76-2-211.

(3) The board of county commissioners may appoint enforcing officers to supervise and enforce the provisions of the zoning resolutions.

History: En. Secs. 7, 8, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4707(part), 16-4708(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 446, L. 2009.

76-2-211. Violations and penalties. A violation of this part or any resolution adopted pursuant thereto is a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months or both.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4707(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-2-212. Minimum lot size restrictions. A board of county commissioners may not adopt zoning regulations under this part that require minimum lot sizes in an area zoned for residential use unless:

(1) the zoning regulation requiring minimum lot sizes is applied to land that is within 3 miles of the limits of an incorporated municipality; or

(2) the county has adopted a land use map in its growth policy pursuant to 76-1-601(5) that sets forth projected population densities and recommended minimum lot sizes.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 2021.

76-2-213 through 76-2-215 reserved.

76-2-216. Wholly surrounded county property — change of use — hearing. (1) If a county parcel for which zoning regulations have been adopted is wholly surrounded by municipal property and a change of an allowed use in the county zoning district occurs, the county governing body shall notify the municipality and all owners of municipal property within 300 feet of the county property of the change of use.

(2) Upon request of either the municipality or at least 10% of the property owners in the municipality who have received the notice, the county governing body shall hold a hearing on the change of use.

(3) If the county governing body determines, based on testimony provided at the hearing, that the regulations in the county district are no longer as compatible as possible with the municipal zoning ordinances as provided in 76-2-203(3), the county governing body may initiate a revision to the zoning district or amendments to the regulations as provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2013.

76-2-217 through 76-2-219 reserved.

76-2-220. Zoning commission — appointment — duties. (1) For the purpose of providing an optional method of amending any zoning regulations or zoning classification, the county commissioners may appoint a zoning commission to recommend amendments to the zoning regulations and classifications. Such a zoning commission must be composed of at least five citizen members appointed at large from the zoning district. The county commissioners may adopt bylaws for the zoning commission pertaining to the qualifications of the members and such other matters as the commissioners consider necessary.

(2) If a commission is appointed, it shall hold a public hearing to receive relevant testimony. The hearing, which may be held jointly with the hearing by the county commissioners, must be upon at least 15 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing and must be published in the contracted newspaper provided for in 18-7-411 or a newspaper of general circulation in the county. Recommendations of the zoning commission must be submitted to the county commissioners.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1981.

76-2-221. Board of adjustment. (1) The board of county commissioners shall provide for the appointment of a board of adjustment and in the regulations and restrictions adopted pursuant to the authority of this part shall provide that the board of adjustment may, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, make special exceptions to the terms of the zoning resolution in harmony with its general purposes and intent and in accordance with the general or specific rules of this part.

(2) The board of adjustment shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of any resolution adopted pursuant to this part. Meetings of the board of adjustment must be held at the call of the presiding officer and at times that the board may determine. The presiding officer or in the presiding officer's absence the acting presiding officer may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(part); amd. Sec. 2512, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-2-222. Membership and term of board members — vacancies. (1) The board of adjustment consists of five members, each to be appointed for a term of 2 years and removable for cause by the board of county commissioners upon written charges and after public hearing. The board of county commissioners may designate the same persons to act as members of the board of adjustment for unincorporated portions of the jurisdictional area as may be appointed by the municipality within the jurisdictional area under provisions of 76-2-321 through 76-2-328.

(2) Vacancies must be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 275, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

76-2-223. Powers of board of adjustment. (1) The board of adjustment shall have the following powers:

(a) to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this part or of any resolution adopted pursuant thereto;

(b) to hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the zoning resolution upon which said board is required to pass under such resolution;

(c) to authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the resolution as will not be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the resolution will result in unnecessary hardship and so that the spirit of the resolution shall be observed and substantial justice done.

(2) In exercising the above-mentioned powers, the board of adjustment may, in conformity with the provisions of this part, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination as ought to be made and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(5), (6).

76-2-224. Vote needed for board action. The concurring vote of three members of the board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of any such administrative official; to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under any such resolution; or to effect any variation in such resolution.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(7).

76-2-225. Public access to board activities. (1) All meetings of the board shall be open to the public.

(2) The board shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each question or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(part).

Cross-References

Right of public participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 1.

Open meeting law, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 2.

76-2-226. Appeals to board of adjustment. (1) Appeals to the board of adjustment may be taken by any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by a decision of the administrative officer or by an officer, department, board, or bureau of the county affected by any decision of the administrative officer. The appeal must be taken within a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the officer from whom the appeal is taken and with the board of adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds of the appeal.

(2) The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall transmit to the board in a timely manner all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed was taken.

(3) An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the board of adjustment after the notice of appeal has been filed with the officer that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in the officer's opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In that case, proceedings may not be stayed except by a restraining order, which may be granted by the board of adjustment or by a court of record on application, on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken, and on due cause shown.

(4) The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give public notice of the hearing as well as due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the appeal within a reasonable time.

(5) At the hearing, a party may appear in person or by the party's attorney.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(3), (4); amd. Sec. 2513, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 2015.

76-2-227. Appeals — board of county commissioners or board of adjustment to court of record — county commissioners may establish appeal process. (1) (a) The board of county commissioners may establish in the zoning regulations a process for an appeal of a decision by the board of adjustment to the board of county commissioners by any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by a decision of the board of adjustment or an officer, department, board, or bureau of the county.

(b) The process, if established, must provide that an appeal to the board of county commissioners be initiated by presenting to the board of county commissioners a petition, duly verified, specifying the grounds of the appeal.

(c) The petition must be presented to the board of county commissioners within 30 days after the filing of the decision of the board of adjustment, and a final decision must be made within 60 days of receipt of the petition.

(d) The board of county commissioners shall properly notice and hold a public hearing de novo.

(2) Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by a decision of the board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that the decision is illegal, in whole or in part, and specifying the grounds of the illegality. The petition must be presented to the court within 30 days after the filing of the decision in the office of the appropriate board.

(3) Upon presentation of a petition, the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment to review the decision of the board and shall prescribe in the writ the time within which a return must be made and served upon the relator's attorney, which may not be less than 10 days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ may not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may, upon application, on notice to the board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment, and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order. The board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment may not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but it is sufficient to return certified or sworn copies of the original papers or of portions of the original papers that may be called for by the writ. The return must concisely set forth other facts that may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and must be verified.

(4) If, upon the hearing, it appears to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, the court may take evidence or appoint a referee to take evidence as it may direct and report the evidence to the court with the referee's findings of fact and conclusions of law, which constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court must be made.

(5) The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up for review.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(8) thru (11); amd. Sec. 2514, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 263, L. 2021.

76-2-228. Awarding of costs upon appeal from board decision. Costs may not be allowed against the board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment unless it appears to the court that it acted with gross negligence, in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 16-4706(12); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 2015.

76-2-229. Referendum to terminate zoning district. (1) Real property owners in a zoning district may petition the board of county commissioners to submit a referendum to the registered electors residing in the zoning district to terminate the zoning district. The petition must be in writing and contain the signatures and addresses of 20% or more of the real property owners in the zoning district. The petition requesting a referendum for the termination of a zoning district must be delivered to the county clerk and recorder, who shall endorse on it the date when the petition was received and validate the signatures within 60 days of receipt of the petition. If the petition contains valid signatures of at least 20% of the real property owners within the zoning district, the county clerk and recorder shall notify the county commissioners.

(2) On receipt of a valid petition described in subsection (1), the county commissioners shall submit the referendum to the registered electors residing in the district in an election conducted pursuant to Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 2021.

76-2-230 through 76-2-239 reserved.

76-2-240. Effect on amateur radio antenna. A resolution or rule adopted pursuant to this part may not:

(1) prevent the erection of an amateur radio antenna at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications by a person who holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license and operator's license, "technician" or higher class, issued by the federal communications commission of the United States; or

(2) establish a maximum height limit for an amateur radio antenna of less than 100 feet above the ground.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 56, L. 2013.

Part 3
Municipal Zoning

Part Cross-References

Property development review, Title 7, ch. 21, part 10.

76-2-301. Municipal zoning authorized. For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, or the general welfare of the community, the city or town council or other legislative body of cities and incorporated towns is hereby empowered to regulate and restrict the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures; the percentage of lot that may be occupied; the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces; the density of population; and the location and use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2701.

Cross-References

Incorporation of technical codes by reference, 7-5-4202.

76-2-302. Zoning districts. (1) For the purposes of 76-2-301, the local city or town council or other legislative body may divide the municipality into districts of the number, shape, and area as are considered best suited to carry out the purposes of this part. Within the districts, it may regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, or use of buildings, structures, or land, including the creation of zoning districts that allow tiny dwelling units.

(2) All regulations must be uniform for each class or kind of buildings throughout each district, but the regulations in one district may differ from those in other districts.

(3) In a proceeding for a permit or variance to place manufactured housing within a residential zoning district, there is a rebuttable presumption that placement of a manufactured home will not adversely affect property values of conventional housing.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Manufactured housing" means a single-family dwelling, built offsite in a factory, that is in compliance with the applicable prevailing standards of the United States department of housing and urban development at the time of its production. A manufactured home does not include a mobile home or housetrailer, as defined in 15-1-101.

(b) (i) "Tiny dwelling unit" means a residential dwelling unit that is 350 to 750 square feet, is on a permanent foundation, and is used as a single-family dwelling for at least 45 days or longer.

(ii) Appendix Q, tiny houses, of the International Building Code as it was printed on January 1, 2023, may govern all other requirements of a tiny dwelling unit that is 350 to 750 square feet.

(5) This section may not be construed to limit conditions imposed in historic districts, local design review standards, existing covenants, or the ability to enter into covenants pursuant to Title 70, chapter 17, part 2. Local design review standards imposed by a local government must be clear, objective, and necessary to protect public health or safety or to comply with federal law.

(6) Zoning regulations may not include a requirement to:

(a) pay a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(b) dedicate real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices.

(7) A dedication of real property as prohibited in subsection (6)(b) includes a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b), when reviewing an application for a zoning permit or variance from local design review standards, the determination of compliance with local design review standards as provided in subsection (5) must be conducted by employees of the municipality, and the municipality may not require review by an external board.

(b) Subsection (8)(a) does not apply to historic preservation boards reviewing an application for a permit or variance to structures or districts that the local government has designated as historic or that are listed on the national register of historic places as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as it read on October 1, 2023.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 505, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 276, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 237, Ch. 542, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 249, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 178, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 501, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 178, L. 2023, in (1) at end inserted "including the creation of zoning districts that allow tiny dwelling units"; in (4)(a) near middle of first sentence after "in a factory" deleted "on or after January 1, 1990, that is placed on a permanent foundation, is at least 1,000 square feet in size, has a pitched roof and siding and roofing materials that are customarily, as defined by local regulations, used on site-built homes, and"; inserted (4)(b)(i) providing definition of tiny dwelling unit; inserted (4)(b)(ii) providing that the International Building Code governs tiny dwelling unit requirements; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 501, L. 2023, in (5) inserted second sentence concerning local design review standards; inserted (8)(a) and (8)(b) requiring that municipal employees conduct design review rather than an external board, except for structures or districts designated or listed as historic. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Imposition of fee or dedication on owner of addition prohibited, 7-2-4203.

Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body resolution prohibited, 76-2-114.

Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-203.

Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body as condition of approval of subdivision prohibited, 76-3-514.

76-2-303. Procedure to administer certain annexations and zoning laws — hearing and notice. (1) The city or town council or other legislative body of a municipality shall provide for the manner in which regulations and restrictions and the boundaries of districts are determined, established, enforced, and changed, subject to the requirements of subsection (2).

(2) A regulation, restriction, or boundary may not become effective until after a public hearing in relation to the regulation, restriction, or boundary at which parties in interest and citizens have an opportunity to be heard has been held. At least 15 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing must be published in an official paper or a paper of general circulation in the municipality.

(3) (a) For municipal annexations, a municipality may conduct a hearing on the annexation in conjunction with a hearing on the zoning of the proposed annexation if the proposed municipal zoning regulations for the annexed property:

(i) authorize land uses comparable to the land uses authorized by county zoning;

(ii) authorize land uses that are consistent with land uses approved by the board of county commissioners or the board of adjustment pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 1 or 2; or

(iii) are consistent with zoning requirements recommended in a growth policy adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1, for the annexed property.

(b) A joint hearing authorized under this subsection (3) fulfills a municipality's obligation regarding zoning notice and public hearing for a proposed annexation.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2704; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 355, L. 1999; Sec. 34, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 19, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Publication of legal notices, Title 18, ch. 7, part 2; 18-7-411.

76-2-304. Criteria and guidelines for zoning regulations. (1) Zoning regulations must be:

(a) made in accordance with a growth policy; and

(b) designed to:

(i) secure safety from fire and other dangers;

(ii) promote public health, public safety, and the general welfare; and

(iii) facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements.

(2) In the adoption of zoning regulations, the municipal governing body shall consider:

(a) reasonable provision of adequate light and air;

(b) the effect on motorized and nonmotorized transportation systems;

(c) promotion of compatible urban growth;

(d) the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses; and

(e) conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the jurisdictional area.

(3) In a city with a population of at least 5,000 residents, duplex housing must be allowed as a permitted use on a lot where a single-family residence is a permitted use, and zoning regulations that apply to the development or use of duplex housing may not be more restrictive than zoning regulations that are applicable to single-family residences.

(4) (a) In a municipality that is designated as an urban area by the United States census bureau with a population over 5,000 as of the most recent census, the city council or other legislative body of the municipality shall allow as a permitted use multiple-unit dwellings and mixed-use developments that include multiple-unit dwellings on a parcel or lot that:

(i) has a will-serve letter from both a municipal water system and a municipal sewer system; and

(ii) is located in a commercial zone.

(b) Zoning regulations in municipalities meeting the requirements of subsection (4)(a) may not include a requirement to provide more than:

(i) one off-street parking space for each unit and accessible parking spaces as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.; or

(ii) an equivalent number of spaces required under subsection (4)(b)(i) provided through a shared parking agreement.

(5) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Duplex housing" means a parcel or lot with two dwelling units that are designed for residential occupancy by not more than two family units living independently from each other.

(b) "Family unit" means:

(i) a single person living or residing in a dwelling or place of residence; or

(ii) two or more persons living together or residing in the same dwelling or place of residence.

(c) "Mixed-use development" means a development consisting of residential and nonresidential uses in which the nonresidential uses are less than 50% of the total square footage of the development and are limited to the first floor of buildings that are two or more stories.

(d) "Multiple-unit dwelling" means a building designed for five or more dwelling units in which the dwelling units share a common separation like a ceiling or wall and in which access cannot be gained between units through an internal doorway, excluding common hallways.

(e) "Single-family residence" has the meaning provided in 70-24-103.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2703; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 87, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 445, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 499, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 445, L. 2023, inserted (3) concerning allowing duplex housing in a city with a population of at least 5,000 residents; and inserted (5) providing definitions of duplex housing, family unit, and single-family residence. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Section 1, Ch. 499, L. 2023, inserted (4) concerning multiple-unit dwellings and mixed-use developments in a municipality designated as an urban area with a population over 5,000; and inserted (5) providing definitions of mixed-use development and multiple-unit dwelling. Amendment effective May 17, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 499, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to municipal zoning regulations enacted or adopted on or before [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 17, 2023.

76-2-305. Alteration of zoning regulations — protest. (1) A regulation, restriction, and boundary may be amended, supplemented, changed, modified, or repealed. The provisions of 76-2-303 relative to public hearings and official notice apply equally to all changes or amendments.

(2) An amendment may not become effective except upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the present and voting members of the city or town council or legislative body of the municipality if a protest against a change pursuant to subsection (1) is signed by the owners of 25% or more of:

(a) the area of the lots included in any proposed change; or

(b) those lots or units, as defined in 70-23-102, 150 feet from a lot included in a proposed change.

(3) (a) For purposes of subsection (2), each unit owner is entitled to have the percentage of the unit owner's undivided interest in the common elements of the condominium, as expressed in the declaration, included in the calculation of the protest. If the property, as defined in 70-23-102, spans more than one lot, the percentage of the unit owner's undivided interest in the common elements must be multiplied by the total number of lots upon which the property is located.

(b) The percentage of the unit owner's undivided interest must be certified as correct by the unit owner seeking to protest a change pursuant to subsection (2) or by the presiding officer of the association of unit owners.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2705; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 492, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2011.

76-2-306. Interim zoning ordinances. (1) Except as provided in 76-2-340, the city or town council or other legislative body of the municipality, to protect the public safety, health, and welfare and without following the procedures otherwise required prior to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, may adopt as an urgency measure an interim zoning ordinance prohibiting any uses that may be in conflict with a contemplated zoning proposal that the legislative body is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time.

(2) An interim zoning ordinance may be applicable only within the city limits and up to 1 mile beyond the corporate boundaries of the city or town and takes effect upon passage if a hearing is first held upon notice reasonably designed to inform all affected parties. A notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days before the hearing.

(3) An interim zoning ordinance is no longer in effect 6 months from the date of its adoption. However, after notice pursuant to 76-2-303 and pursuant to public hearing, the legislative body may extend the interim zoning ordinance for 1 year. Any extension requires a two-thirds vote for passage and becomes effective upon passage. No more than two extensions may be adopted.

History: En. 11-2711 by Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2711; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 56, L. 2013.

76-2-307. Zoning commission. In order to avail itself of the powers conferred by this part, except 76-2-306, the city or town council or other legislative body shall appoint a commission, to be known as the zoning commission, to recommend the boundaries of the various original districts and appropriate regulations to be enforced therein. Such commission shall make a preliminary report and hold public hearings thereon before submitting its final report, and such city or town council or other legislative body shall not hold its public hearings or take action until it has received the final report of such commission.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2706.

Cross-References

City-County Planning Boards, Title 76, ch. 1.

76-2-308. Enforcement of zoning regulations and ordinances. (1) The city or town council or other legislative body may provide by ordinance for the enforcement of this part and of any regulation or ordinance made thereunder.

(2) In case any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted, or maintained or any building, structure, or land is used in violation of this part or of any ordinance or other regulation made under authority conferred hereby, the proper local authorities of the municipality, in addition to other remedies, may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use; to restrain, correct, or abate such violation; to prevent the occupancy of such building, structure, or land; or to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or about such premises.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2708(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-2-309. Conflict with other laws. (1) Wherever the regulations made under authority of this part require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces, require a lower height of building or a fewer number of stories, require a greater percentage of a lot to be left unoccupied, or impose other higher standards than are required in any other statute or local ordinance or regulation, the provisions of the regulations made under authority of this part must govern.

(2) Wherever the provisions of any other statute or local ordinance or regulation require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces, require a lower height of building or a fewer number of stories, require a greater percentage of a lot to be left unoccupied, or impose other higher standards than are required by the regulations made under authority of this part, except for restrictions provided in 76-2-304(3) and (4), the provisions of the other statute or local ordinance or regulation must govern.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.9, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2709; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 445, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 499, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 445, L. 2023, in (1) and (2) near end substituted "must" for "shall"; in (2) after "authority of this part" inserted exception clause referring to 76-2-304(3); and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective January 1, 2024.

Section 2, Ch. 499, L. 2023, in (1) and (2) near end after "regulation" deleted "shall"; in (2) near end inserted exception clause referring to 76-2-403(4) and substituted "the other" for "such"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 17, 2023.

Retroactive Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 499, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to municipal zoning regulations enacted or adopted on or before [the effective date of this act]." Effective May 17, 2023.

76-2-310. Extension of municipal zoning and subdivision regulations beyond municipal boundaries. (1) Except as provided in 76-2-312 and except in locations where a county has adopted zoning or subdivision regulations, a city or town council or other legislative body that has adopted a growth policy pursuant to chapter 1 for the area to be affected by the regulations may extend the application of its zoning or subdivision regulations beyond its limits in any direction subject to the following limits:

(a) up to 3 miles beyond the limits of a city of the first class as defined in 7-1-4111;
(b) up to 2 miles beyond the limits of a city of the second class; and
(c) up to 1 mile beyond the limits of a city or town of the third class.

(2) When two or more noncontiguous cities have boundaries so near to one another as to create an area of potential conflict in the event that all cities concerned should exercise the full powers conferred by 76-2-302, 76-2-311, and this section, then the extension of zoning or subdivision regulations, or both, by these cities must terminate at a boundary line agreed upon by the cities.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 599, L. 2003.**

76-2-311. Administration of regulations in extended area. (1) A city or town council or other legislative body may enforce regulations adopted pursuant to 76-2-310, as if the property were situated within its corporate limits, until the county board adopts a growth policy pursuant to chapter 1 and accompanying zoning or subdivision resolutions that include the area.

(2) As a prerequisite to the exercise of this power, a city-county planning board whose jurisdictional area includes the area to be regulated must be formed or an existing city planning board must be increased to include two representatives from the unincorporated area that is to be affected. These representatives must be appointed by the board of county commissioners. Representation must cease when the county board adopts a growth policy pursuant to chapter 1 and accompanying zoning or subdivision resolutions that include the area.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 582, L. 1999.**

76-2-312. Exclusion for commission-manager plan municipalities. A city or town which has as its plan of government the commission-manager plan shall be excluded from the provisions of 76-2-310 and 76-2-311 which define extraterritorial authority to review proposed subdivisions.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702(part).**

76-2-313. Renumbered 76-2-411. Code Commissioner, 1983.

76-2-314. Renumbered 76-2-412. Code Commissioner, 1983.

76-2-315. Violations and penalties. (1) A violation of this part or of such ordinance or regulation made pursuant to 76-2-308(1) is a misdemeanor, and such city or town council or other legislative body may provide for the punishment thereof by fine or imprisonment or both.

(2) It is also empowered to provide civil penalties for such violation.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.8, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2708(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 266, L. 1979.**

76-2-316 through 76-2-320 reserved.

76-2-321. Board of adjustment. (1) A city or town council or other legislative body may provide for the appointment of a board of adjustment and in the regulations and restrictions adopted pursuant to the authority of this part may provide that the board of adjustment may, in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, make special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance in harmony with its general purposes and intent and in accordance with the general or specific rules contained in the ordinance.

(2) An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section providing for a board of adjustment may restrict the authority of the board and provide that the city or town council or other legislative body reserves to itself the power to make certain exceptions to regulations, ordinances, or land use plans adopted pursuant to this part.

(3) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of any ordinance adopted pursuant to this part. Meetings of the board must be held at the call of the presiding officer and at other times that the board may determine. The presiding officer or in the presiding officer's absence the acting presiding officer may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(part); amd. Sec. 2515, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-2-322. Membership and term of board members — vacancies. (1) The board of adjustment shall consist of not less than five or more than seven members to be appointed for a term to be specified by the city or town council or other legislative body or, if no term is specified, then for a term of 3 years. A member is removable for cause by the appointing authority upon written charges and after public hearing.

(2) Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1987.

76-2-323. Powers of board of adjustment. (1) The board of adjustment shall have the following powers:

(a) to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this part or of any ordinance adopted pursuant thereto;

(b) to hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance upon which such board is required to pass under such ordinance;

(c) to authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship and so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed and substantial justice done.

(2) In exercising the above-mentioned powers, such board may, in conformity with the provisions of this part, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination as ought to be made and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(5), (6).

76-2-324. Vote needed for board action. The concurring vote of four members of the board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of any such administrative official; to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under any such ordinance; or to effect any variation in such ordinance.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(7).

76-2-325. Public access to board activities. (1) All meetings of the board shall be open to the public.

(2) The board shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each question or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(part).

Cross-References

Right of public participation, Art. II, sec. 8, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 1.

Open meeting law, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.; Title 2, ch. 3, part 2.

76-2-326. Appeals to board of adjustment. (1) Appeals to the board of adjustment may be taken by a person aggrieved or by an officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality affected by any decision of the administrative officer. An appeal must be taken within a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the officer from whom the appeal is taken and with the board of adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds of the appeal.

(2) The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall, in a timely manner, transmit to the board all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed was taken.

(3) An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the board of adjustment after the notice of appeal has been filed with the officer that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in the officer's opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In that case, proceedings may

not be stayed except by a restraining order, which may be granted by the board of adjustment or by a court of record on application, on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken, and on due cause shown.

(4) The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give public notice of the hearing as well as due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the appeal within a reasonable time.

(5) At the hearing, any party may appear in person or by the party's attorney.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(3), (4); amd. Sec. 2516, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-2-327. Appeals from board to court of record. (1) Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the board of adjustment or any taxpayer or any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that the decision is illegal, in whole or in part, and specifying the grounds of the illegality. The petition must be presented to the court within 30 days after the filing of the decision in the office of the board.

(2) Upon the presentation of the petition, the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the board of adjustment to review the decision of the board of adjustment and shall prescribe in the writ the time within which a return must be made and served upon the relator's attorney, which may not be less than 10 days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ does not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may, on application, on notice to the board, and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order. The board of adjustment may not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but it is sufficient to return certified or sworn copies of the original papers or of portions of the original papers that may be called for by the writ. The return must concisely set forth other facts that may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and must be verified.

(3) If, upon the hearing, it appears to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take evidence that it may direct and report the evidence to the court with the referee's findings of fact and conclusions of law, which constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court must be made.

(4) The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up for review.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(8) thru (11); amd. Sec. 2517, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-2-328. Awarding of costs upon appeal from board decision. Costs shall not be allowed against the board unless it shall appear to the court that it acted with gross negligence, in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 5305.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2707(12).

76-2-329 through 76-2-339 reserved.

76-2-340. Effect on amateur radio antenna. A resolution or rule adopted pursuant to this part may not:

(1) prevent the erection of an amateur radio antenna at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications by a person who holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license and operator's license, "technician" or higher class, issued by the federal communications commission of the United States; or

(2) establish a maximum height limit for an amateur radio antenna of less than 100 feet above the ground.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 56, L. 2013.

76-2-341 through 76-2-344 reserved.

76-2-345. *(Effective January 1, 2024)* **Accessory dwelling units — regulations — restrictions.** (1) (a) A municipality shall adopt regulations under this chapter that allow a minimum of one accessory dwelling unit by right on a lot or parcel that contains a single-family dwelling.

(b) An accessory dwelling unit may be attached, detached, or internal to the single-family dwelling on a lot or parcel.

(c) If the accessory dwelling unit is detached from or attached to the single-family dwelling, it may not be more than 75% of the gross floor area of the single-family dwelling or 1,000 square feet, whichever is less.

(2) A municipality may not:

(a) require that a lot or parcel have additional parking to accommodate an accessory dwelling unit or require fees in lieu of additional parking;

(b) require that an accessory dwelling unit match the exterior design, roof pitch, or finishing materials of the single-family dwelling;

(c) require that the single-family dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit be occupied by the owner;

(d) require a familial, marital, or employment relationship between the occupants of the single-family dwelling and the occupants of the accessory dwelling unit;

(e) assess impact fees on the construction of an accessory dwelling unit;

(f) require improvements to public streets as a condition of permitting an accessory dwelling unit, except as necessary to reconstruct or repair a public street that is disturbed as a result of the construction of the accessory dwelling unit;

(g) set maximum building heights, minimum setback requirements, minimum lot sizes, maximum lot coverages, or minimum building frontages for accessory dwelling units that are more restrictive than those for the single-family dwelling on the lot;

(h) impose more onerous development standards on an accessory dwelling unit beyond those set forth in this section; or

(i) require a restrictive covenant concerning an accessory dwelling unit on a parcel zoned for residential use by a single-family dwelling. This subsection (2)(i) may not be construed to prohibit restrictive covenants concerning accessory dwelling units entered into between private parties, but the municipality may not condition a permit, license, or use of an accessory dwelling unit on the adoption or implementation of a restrictive covenant entered into between private parties.

(3) Nothing in this section prohibits a municipality from regulating short-term rentals as defined in 15-68-101.

(4) A municipality may require a fee for reviewing applications to create accessory dwelling units. The one-time application fee may be up to $250 for each accessory dwelling unit. Nothing in this section prohibits a municipality from requiring its usual building fees in addition to the application fee.

(5) A municipality that has not adopted or amended regulations pursuant to this section by January 1, 2024, shall review and permit accessory dwelling units in accordance with the requirements of this section until regulations are adopted or amended. Regulations in effect on or after January 1, 2024, that apply to accessory dwelling units and do not comply with this section are void.

(6) The provisions of this section do not supersede applicable building codes, fire codes, or public health and safety regulations adopted pursuant to Title 50, chapter 2.

(7) A municipality may require an accessory dwelling unit to have a will-serve letter from both a municipal water system and a municipal sewer system.

(8) Nothing in this section prohibits a municipality from adopting regulations that are more permissive than the accessory dwelling unit provisions provided in this section.

(9) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "accessory dwelling unit" means a self-contained living unit on the same parcel as a single-family dwelling of greater square footage that includes its own cooking, sleeping, and sanitation facilities and complies with or is otherwise exempt from any applicable building code, fire code, and public health and safety regulations adopted pursuant to Title 50, chapter 2.

(b) "by right" means the ability to be approved without requiring:

(i) a public hearing;

(ii) a variance, conditional use permit, special permit, or special exception; or

(iii) other discretionary zoning action other than a determination that a site plan conforms with applicable zoning regulations;

(c) "gross floor area" means the interior habitable area of a single-family dwelling or an accessory dwelling unit;

(d) "municipality" means an incorporated city, town, or consolidated city-county that exercises zoning powers under this part; and

(e) "single-family dwelling" means a building with one or more rooms designed for residential living purposes by one household that is detached from any other dwelling unit.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 502, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 502, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective January 1, 2024."

Part 4
Application to Governmental Agencies Group and Foster Homes

76-2-401. Definitions. As used in 76-2-402, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency" means a board, bureau, commission, department, an authority, or other entity of state or local government.

(2) "Local zoning regulations" means zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 1981.

76-2-402. Local zoning regulations — application to agencies. (1) Whenever an agency proposes to use public land contrary to local zoning regulations, a public hearing must be held and the agency shall attend the public hearing.

(2) The local governing body shall hold a hearing within 30 days of the date the agency gives notice to the local governing body of its intent to develop land contrary to local zoning regulations.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2021.

76-2-403 through 76-2-410 reserved.

76-2-411. Definition of community residential facility. "Community residential facility" means:

(1) a community group home for developmentally, mentally, or severely disabled persons that does not provide skilled or intermediate nursing care;

(2) a youth foster home, a kinship foster home, a youth shelter care facility, a transitional living program, or youth group home as defined in 52-2-602;

(3) a halfway house operated in accordance with regulations of the department of public health and human services for the rehabilitation of alcoholics or drug dependent persons;

(4) a licensed adult foster family care home; or

(5) an assisted living facility licensed under 50-5-227.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 364, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702.1; MCA 1981, 76-2-313; redes. 76-2-411 by Code Commissioner, 1983; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 514, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 236, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 545, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 400, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 504, L. 2003.

76-2-412. Relationship of foster homes, kinship foster homes, youth shelter care facilities, youth group homes, community residential facilities, and day-care homes to zoning. (1) A foster home, kinship foster home, youth shelter care facility, or youth group home operated under the provisions of 52-2-621 through 52-2-623 or a community residential facility serving eight or fewer persons is considered a residential use of property for purposes of zoning if the home provides care on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

(2) A family day-care home or a group day-care home, as defined in 52-2-703, is considered a residential use of property for purposes of zoning.

(3) The facilities listed in subsections (1) and (2) are a permitted use in all residential zones, including but not limited to residential zones for single-family dwellings. Any safety or sanitary regulation of the department of public health and human services or any other agency of the state or a political subdivision of the state that is not applicable to residential occupancies in general may not be applied to a community residential facility serving 8 or fewer persons or to a day-care home serving 15 or fewer children.

(4) This section may not be construed to prohibit a city or county from requiring a conditional use permit in order to maintain a home pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) if the home is licensed by the department of public health and human services. A city or county may not require a conditional use permit in order to maintain a day-care home.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-2702.2; MCA 1981, 76-2-314; redes. 76-2-412 by Code Commissioner, 1983; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 465, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 237, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 546, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 504, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Parts 5 through 8 reserved

Part 9
Agricultural Activities

76-2-901. Agricultural activities — legislative finding and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that agricultural lands and the ability and right of farmers and ranchers to produce a safe, abundant, and secure food and fiber supply have been the basis of economic growth and development of all sectors of Montana's economy. In order to sustain Montana's valuable farm economy and land bases associated with it, farmers and ranchers must be encouraged and have the right to stay in farming.

(2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to protect agricultural activities from governmental zoning and nuisance ordinances.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Nuisance defined, 27-30-101.

76-2-902. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural activity" means a condition or activity that provides an annual gross income of not less than $1,500 or that occurs on land classified as agricultural or forest land for taxation purposes. The condition or activity must occur in connection with the commercial production of farm products and includes but is not limited to:

(a) produce marketed at roadside stands or farm markets;
(b) noise;
(c) odors;
(d) dust;
(e) fumes;
(f) operation of machinery and irrigation pumps;
(g) movement of water for agricultural activities, including but not limited to use of existing county road ditches, streams, rivers, canals, and drains, and use of water for agricultural activities;
(h) ground and aerial application of seed, fertilizers, conditioners, and plant protection products;
(i) employment and use of labor;
(j) roadway movement of equipment and livestock;
(k) protection from damage from wildlife;
(l) prevention of trespass;
(m) construction and maintenance of buildings, fences, roads, bridges, ponds, drains, waterways, and similar features and maintenance of streambanks and watercourses;
(n) conversion from one agricultural activity to another, provided that the conversion does not adversely impact adjacent property owners;
(o) timber harvesting, thinning, and timber regeneration;
(p) burning and stubble and slash disposal; and
(q) plant nursery and commercial greenhouse activities.

(2) "Commercial production of farm products" means the growing, raising, or marketing of plants or animals by the owner, owner's agent, or lessee of land that provides an annual gross

income of not less than $1,500 or that occurs on land that is classified as agricultural or forest land for taxation purposes. The term includes but is not limited to:

(a) forages and sod crops;
(b) dairy and dairy products;
(c) poultry and poultry products;
(d) livestock, including breeding, feeding, and grazing of livestock and recreational equine use;
(e) fruits;
(f) vegetables;
(g) flowers;
(h) seeds;
(i) grasses;
(j) trees, including commercial timber;
(k) fresh water fish and fish products;
(l) apiaries;
(m) equine and other similar products; or
(n) any other product that incorporates the use of food, feed, fiber, or fur.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 1995.

76-2-903. Local ordinances. A city, county, taxing district, or other political subdivision of this state may not adopt an ordinance or resolution that prohibits any existing agricultural activities or forces the termination of any existing agricultural activities outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town. Zoning and nuisance ordinances may not prohibit agricultural activities that were established outside the corporate limits of a municipality and then incorporated into that municipality by annexation.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 1995.

Part 10
Digital Asset Mining

76-2-1001 and 76-2-1002 reserved.

76-2-1003. Right to mine digital assets. (1) A governing body of a city or town, the governing bodies of more than one city or town, the governing body of a county, or any combination of those governing bodies may not enact an ordinance, resolution, or rule that:

(a) imposes requirements on a digital asset mining business that are not also requirements for data centers in its area of jurisdiction;

(b) prevents a digital asset mining business from operating in an area zoned for industrial use; or

(c) prevents home digital asset mining at a private residence, except as related to existing noise ordinances.

(2) Any digital asset mining business operating on or before May 2, 2023, may continue to operate regardless of any change in zoning or regulations.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 7, Ch. 344, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 2, 2023.

CHAPTER 3
LOCAL REGULATION OF SUBDIVISIONS

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76-3-617. Phased development — application requirements — hearing required.
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76-3-620. Review requirements — written statement.
76-3-621. Park dedication requirement.
76-3-622. Water and sanitation information to accompany preliminary plat.
76-3-623. Expedited review for certain subdivisions.
76-3-624 reserved.
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Chapter Cross-References

Municipal subdivisions required to conform to subdivision laws, 7-3-4445.

Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.

Conservation easements preventing subdivision of land, 76-6-203.

Water use — ground water, Title 85, ch. 2, part 5.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Conservation easements preventing subdivision of land, 76-6-203.

76-3-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Subdivision and Platting Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3859.

76-3-102. Statement of purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to:

(1) promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by regulating the subdivision of land;

(2) prevent overcrowding of land;

(3) lessen congestion in the streets and highways;

(4) provide for adequate light, air, water supply, sewage disposal, parks and recreation areas, ingress and egress, and other public requirements;

(5) require development in harmony with the natural environment;

(6) promote preservation of open space;

(7) promote cluster development approaches that minimize costs to local citizens and that promote effective and efficient provision of public services;

(8) protect the rights of property owners;

(9) require uniform monumentation of land subdivisions and transferring interests in real property by reference to a plat or certificate of survey; and

(10) provide for phased developments.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3860; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 363, L. 2017.

76-3-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Certificate of survey" means a drawing of a field survey prepared by a registered surveyor for the purpose of disclosing facts pertaining to boundary locations.

(2) "Cluster development" means a subdivision with lots clustered in a group of five or more lots that is designed to concentrate building sites on smaller lots in order to reduce capital and maintenance costs for infrastructure through the use of concentrated public services and utilities, while allowing other lands to remain undeveloped.

(3) "Dedication" means the deliberate appropriation of land by an owner for any general and public use, reserving to the landowner no rights that are incompatible with the full exercise and enjoyment of the public use to which the property has been devoted.

(4) "Division of land" means the segregation of one or more parcels of land from a larger tract held in single or undivided ownership by transferring or contracting to transfer title to a portion of the tract or properly filing a certificate of survey or subdivision plat establishing the identity of the segregated parcels pursuant to this chapter. The conveyance of a tract of record or an entire parcel of land that was created by a previous division of land is not a division of land.

(5) "Examining land surveyor" means a registered land surveyor appointed by the governing body to review surveys and plats submitted for filing.

(6) "Final plat" means the final drawing of the subdivision and dedication required by this chapter to be prepared for filing for record with the county clerk and recorder and containing all elements and requirements set forth in this chapter and in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(7) "Governing body" means a board of county commissioners or the governing authority of a city or town organized pursuant to law.

(8) "Immediate family" means a spouse, children by blood or adoption, and parents.

(9) "Minor subdivision" means a subdivision that creates five or fewer lots from a tract of record.

(10) "Phased development" means a subdivision application and preliminary plat that at the time of submission consists of independently platted development phases that are scheduled for review on a schedule proposed by the subdivider.

(11) "Planned unit development" means a land development project consisting of residential clusters, industrial parks, shopping centers, or office building parks that compose a planned mixture of land uses built in a prearranged relationship to each other and having open space and community facilities in common ownership or use.

(12) "Plat" means a graphical representation of a subdivision showing the division of land into lots, parcels, blocks, streets, alleys, and other divisions and dedications.

(13) "Preliminary plat" means a neat and scaled drawing of a proposed subdivision showing the layout of streets, alleys, lots, blocks, and other elements of a subdivision that furnish a basis for review by a governing body.

(14) "Public utility" has the meaning provided in 69-3-101, except that for the purposes of this chapter, the term includes county or consolidated city and county water or sewer districts as provided for in Title 7, chapter 13, parts 22 and 23, and municipal sewer or water systems and municipal water supply systems established by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to Title 7, chapter 13, parts 42, 43, and 44.

(15) "Subdivider" means a person who causes land to be subdivided or who proposes a subdivision of land.

(16) "Subdivision" means a division of land or land so divided that it creates one or more parcels containing less than 160 acres that cannot be described as a one-quarter aliquot part of a United States government section, exclusive of public roadways, in order that the title to the parcels may be sold or otherwise transferred and includes any resubdivision and a condominium. The term also means an area, regardless of its size, that provides or will provide multiple spaces for rent or lease on which recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes will be placed.

(17) (a) "Tract of record" means an individual parcel of land, irrespective of ownership, that can be identified by legal description, independent of any other parcel of land, using documents on file in the records of the county clerk and recorder's office.

(b) Each individual tract of record continues to be an individual parcel of land unless the owner of the parcel has joined it with other contiguous parcels by filing with the county clerk and recorder:

(i) an instrument of conveyance in which the aggregated parcels have been assigned a legal description that describes the resulting single parcel and in which the owner expressly declares the owner's intention that the tracts be merged; or

(ii) a certificate of survey or subdivision plat that shows that the boundaries of the original parcels have been expunged and depicts the boundaries of the larger aggregate parcel.

(c) An instrument of conveyance does not merge parcels of land under subsection (17)(b)(i) unless the instrument states, "This instrument is intended to merge individual parcels of land to form the aggregate parcel(s) described in this instrument" or a similar statement, in addition to the legal description of the aggregate parcels, clearly expressing the owner's intent to effect a merger of parcels.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3861(part); amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 272, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 214, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 379, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 363, L. 2017.**

76-3-104. What constitutes subdivision. A subdivision comprises only those parcels containing less than 160 acres that cannot be described as a one-quarter aliquot part of a United States government section when the parcels have been segregated from the original tract. The subdivision plat must show all the parcels whether contiguous or not.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3861(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 272, L. 1993.**

76-3-105. Violations. Except as provided in 76-3-207, any person who violates any provision of this chapter or any local regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 3 months or by both fine and imprisonment. Each sale, lease, or transfer of each separate parcel of land in violation of any provision of this chapter or any local regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter must be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3876; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Part 2
Miscellaneous Exemptions

Part Cross-References

County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.
Property tax levies, Title 15, ch. 10.
Unit Ownership Act, Title 70, ch. 23.

76-3-201. Exemption for certain divisions of land — fees for examination of division. (1) Unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this chapter, the requirements of this chapter may not apply to any division of land that:

(a) is created by order of any court of record in this state or by operation of law or that, in the absence of agreement between the parties to the sale, could be created by an order of any court in this state pursuant to the law of eminent domain, Title 70, chapter 30;

(b) subject to subsection (4), is created to provide security for mortgages, liens, or trust indentures for the purpose of construction, improvements to the land being divided, or refinancing purposes;

(c) creates an interest in oil, gas, minerals, or water that is severed from the surface ownership of real property;

(d) creates cemetery lots;

(e) is created by the reservation of a life estate;

(f) is created by lease or rental for farming and agricultural purposes;

(g) is in a location over which the state does not have jurisdiction; or

(h) is created for rights-of-way or utility sites. A subsequent change in the use of the land to a residential, commercial, or industrial use is subject to the requirements of this chapter.

(2) An exempt division of land as provided in subsection (1)(a) is not considered a subdivision under this chapter if not more than four new lots or parcels are created from the original lot or parcel.

(3) Before a court of record orders a division of land under subsection (1)(a), the court shall notify the governing body of the pending division and allow the governing body to present written comment on the division.

(4) An exemption under subsection (1)(b) applies:

(a) to a division of land of any size;

(b) if the land that is divided is not conveyed to any entity other than the financial or lending institution to which the mortgage, lien, or trust indenture was given or to a purchaser upon foreclosure of the mortgage, lien, or trust indenture. Except as provided in subsection (5), a transfer of the divided land, by the owner of the property at the time that the land was divided, to any party other than those identified in this subsection (4)(b) subjects the division of land to the requirements of this chapter.

(c) to a parcel that is created to provide security as provided in subsection (1)(b). The remainder of the tract of land is subject to the provisions of this chapter, if applicable.

(5) If a parcel of land was divided pursuant to subsection (1)(b) and one of the parcels created by the division was conveyed by the landowner to another party without foreclosure before October 1, 2003, the conveyance of the remaining parcel is not subject to the requirements of this chapter.

(6) The governing body:

(a) may examine a division of land to determine whether or not the requirements of this chapter apply to the division;

(b) may establish reasonable fees, not to exceed $400, for the examination;

(c) shall complete the examination and approve or deny the application for a division of land under this section within 20 working days of the receipt of an application containing all materials and information required by the governing body to complete the examination under regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(p); and

(d) may not impose conditions on the approval of a division of land under this section except for conditions necessary to ensure compliance with the survey requirements of Title 76, chapter 3, part 4.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(9); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 503, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 549, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 563, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 328, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 549, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 328, L. 2023, inserted (6)(c) and (6)(d) providing 20 days to complete examination and prohibiting imposition of conditions on division of land; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 549, L. 2023, in (6)(b) increased fee from $200 to $400. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-3-202. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3861(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-3-203. Exemption for certain condominiums and townhouses. (1) Condominiums, townhomes, townhouses, or conversions, as those terms are defined in 70-23-102, constructed on land subdivided in compliance with parts 5 and 6 of this chapter or on lots within incorporated cities and towns are exempt from the provisions of this chapter if:

(a) the approval of the original subdivision of land expressly contemplated the construction of the condominiums, townhomes, or townhouses and any applicable park dedication requirements in 76-3-621 are complied with; or

(b) the condominium, townhome, or townhouse proposal is in conformance with applicable local zoning regulations pertaining to land use, density, bulk and dimensional requirements, landscaping, and parking requirements when local zoning regulations are in effect.

(2) A determination whether the condominium, townhome, townhouse, or conversion proposal is exempt from the provisions of this chapter must be made by the governing body or the agent or agency designated by the governing body within 20 working days of the receipt of an application containing all materials and information required by the governing body to complete the determination.

(3) The governing body may not enact regulations prohibiting the townhome form of ownership or impose conditions on a determination that the condominium, townhome, townhouse, or conversion proposal is exempt from the provisions of this chapter, and may not require the condominium, townhome, townhouse, or conversion proposal to undergo a conditional use permit or other quasi-judicial governmental review process pursuant to regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, as a prerequisite to determining eligibility for an exemption from the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3861(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 534, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 373, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 323, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 448, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 4, 2023.

76-3-204. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(10); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 1985.

76-3-205. Exemption for airport land and state-owned lands — exception. (1) A division of land created by lease or rental of contiguous airport-related land owned by a city, a county, the state, or a municipal or regional airport authority is not subject to the requirements of this chapter if the lease or rental is for onsite weather or air navigation facilities, the manufacture, maintenance, and storage of aircraft, or air carrier-related activities.

(2) A division of state-owned land is not subject to the requirements of this chapter unless the division creates a second or subsequent parcel from a single tract for sale, rent, or lease for residential purposes after July 1, 1974.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 548, L. 1999.

76-3-206. Exemption for conveyances executed prior to July 1, 1974. This chapter shall not be applicable to deeds, contracts, leases, or other conveyances executed prior to July 1, 1974.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3870(part).

76-3-207. Divisions or aggregations of land exempted from review but subject to survey requirements and zoning regulations — exceptions — fees for examination of division. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this chapter, the following divisions or aggregations of tracts of record of any size, regardless of the resulting size of any lot created by the division or aggregation, are not subdivisions under this chapter but are subject to the surveying requirements of 76-3-401 for divisions or aggregations of land other than subdivisions and are subject to applicable zoning regulations adopted under Title 76, chapter 2:

(a) divisions made outside of platted subdivisions for the purpose of relocating common boundary lines between adjoining properties;

(b) divisions made outside of platted subdivisions for the purpose of a single gift or sale in each county to each member of the landowner's immediate family;

(c) divisions made outside of platted subdivisions by gift, sale, or agreement to buy and sell in which the landowner enters into a covenant for the purposes of this chapter with the governing body that runs with the land and provides that the divided land will be used exclusively for agricultural purposes, subject to the provisions of 76-3-211;

(d) for five or fewer lots within a platted subdivision, the relocation of common boundaries;

(e) divisions made for the purpose of relocating a common boundary line between a single lot within a platted subdivision and adjoining land outside a platted subdivision. A restriction or requirement on the original platted lot or original unplatted parcel continues to apply to those areas.

(f) aggregation of parcels or lots when a certificate of survey or subdivision plat shows that the boundaries of the original parcels have been eliminated and the boundaries of a larger aggregate parcel are established. A restriction or requirement on the original platted lot or original unplatted parcel continues to apply to those areas.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1):

(a) within a platted subdivision filed with the county clerk and recorder, a division, redesign, or rearrangement of lots that results in an increase in the number of lots or that redesigns or rearranges six or more lots must be reviewed and approved by the governing body before an amended plat may be filed with the county clerk and recorder;

(b) (i) a division within a platted subdivision is exempt from additional subdivision reviews and is subject to applicable zoning regulations adopted under Title 76, chapter 2, unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this chapter, if the division:

(A) is within a subdivision that has been approved by a local governing body;

(B) creates parcels of a size allowed within the subdivision; and

(C) is gifted or sold to a member of the landowner's immediate family;

(ii) an amended plat must be filed with the county clerk and recorder after a division provided in subsection (2)(b)(i) occurs; and

(iii) except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2)(b), a restriction or requirement on the platted subdivision continues to apply to a division allowed in subsection (2)(b)(i);

(c) a division of land exempted under subsection (1)(b) that is also located in a zoning district is allowed if each family transfer parcel created by the division is at least 5 acres, unless the zoning district allows for smaller lot sizes; and

(d) a division of land transferred to an immediate family member pursuant to subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c) may be transferred regardless of age and may be owned jointly with that immediate family member's spouse.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), a division of land may not be made under this section unless the county treasurer has certified that all real property taxes and special assessments assessed and levied on the land to be divided have been paid.

(b) (i) If a division of land includes centrally assessed property and the property taxes applicable to the division of land are not specifically identified in the tax assessment, the department of revenue shall prorate the taxes applicable to the land being divided on a reasonable basis. The owner of the centrally assessed property shall ensure that the prorated real property taxes and special assessments are paid on the land being sold before the division of land is made.

(ii) The county treasurer may accept the amount of the tax prorated pursuant to this subsection (3)(b) as a partial payment of the total tax that is due.

(4) The governing body:

(a) may examine a division or aggregation of land to determine whether or not the requirements of this chapter apply to the division or aggregation;

(b) may establish reasonable fees, not to exceed $400, for the examination;

(c) shall complete the examination and approve or deny the application for a division or aggregation of land under this section within 20 working days of the receipt of an application containing all materials and information required by the governing body to conduct its review under regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(p); and

(d) may not impose conditions on the approval of a division or aggregation of land under this section except for conditions necessary to ensure compliance with the survey requirements of Title 76, chapter 3, part 4.

(5) An immediate family member or the spouse of an immediate family member who receives a division of land pursuant to subsection (1)(b) or (2)(b) may not transfer or otherwise convey the division of land for a period of up to 2 years after the date of the division unless the governing body sets a period of less than 2 years. A governing body may authorize variances from these requirements to address hardship situations.

(6) If a governing body can prove by documented evidence in a court of competent jurisdiction that a person has knowingly evaded subdivision regulations through the use of a division of land pursuant to subsection (1)(b) or (2)(b), that person is subject to a civil penalty of $5,000 for each division of land, payable to the governing body.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(6); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 569, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 272, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 366, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 436, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 563, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 351, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 34, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 328, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 332, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 549, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 2, Ch. 328, L. 2023, inserted (4)(c) and (4)(d) providing 20 days to complete examination and prohibiting imposition of conditions on division of land; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 332, L. 2023, inserted (2)(b), (2)(c), and (2)(d) concerning an exemption from additional subdivision reviews if certain conditions are met and transfer of land to immediate family member; inserted (5) prohibiting immediate family member or spouse of immediate family member who receives a division of land from transferring or conveying the land for a period of 2 years; inserted (6) providing a penalty for knowingly evading subdivision regulations; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 549, L. 2023, in (4)(b) increased fee from $200 to $400. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-3-208. Repealed. Sec. 14, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(7).

76-3-209. Exemption from surveying and platting requirements for lands acquired for state highways. Instruments of transfer of land which is acquired for state highways may refer by parcel and project number to state highway plans which have been recorded in compliance with 60-2-209 and are exempted from the surveying and platting requirements of this chapter. If such parcels are not shown on highway plans of record, instruments of transfer of such parcels shall be accompanied by and refer to appropriate certificates of survey and plats when presented for recording.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(4).

76-3-210. Repealed. Sec. 23, Ch. 446, L. 2009.

History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; Sec. 11-3862, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; Sec. 11-3863, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(8), 11-3863(3.1); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-3-211. Agricultural covenant — change in use. (1) A change in use for anything other than agricultural purposes subjects a division of land that received an exemption under 76-3-207(1)(c) to subdivision review under parts 5 and 6 of this chapter. However, the governing body, in its discretion, may revoke the covenant provided for in 76-3-207(1)(c) for the purposes of this chapter and the division may proceed without subdivision review if:

(a) the original lot lines are restored through aggregation of the covenanted land prior to or in conjunction with the revoking of the covenant; or

(b) a government or public entity seeks to use the land for public purposes as defined in the governing body's review criteria pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(p).

(2) If a governing body proposes to revoke a covenant pursuant to subsection (1)(b), the governing body shall hold a public hearing. Within 15 days of the hearing, the governing body shall issue written findings of fact and a decision based on the record. If the governing body approves the revoking of the covenant, the approval must be recorded with the clerk and recorder.

(3) The revocation of a covenant pursuant to this section does not affect sanitary restrictions imposed under Title 76, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 2019.

Part 3
Land Transfers

Part Cross-References

County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.
Property tax levies, Title 15, ch. 10.

76-3-301. General restriction on transfer of title to subdivided lands. (1) Except as provided in 76-3-303, every final subdivision plat must be filed for record with the county clerk and recorder before title to the subdivided land can be sold or transferred in any manner. The clerk and recorder of the county shall refuse to accept any plat for record that fails to have the approval of 76-3-611(1) in proper form unless the plat is located in an area over which the state does not have jurisdiction.

(2) The clerk and recorder shall notify the governing body or its designated agent of any land division described in 76-3-207(1).

(3) If transfers not in accordance with this chapter are made, the county attorney shall commence action to enjoin further sales or transfers and compel compliance with all provisions of this chapter. The cost of the action must be imposed against the party not prevailing.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3867(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 633, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 340, L. 2001.

76-3-302. Restrictions on recording instruments relating to land subject to surveying requirements. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the county clerk and recorder of any county may not record any instrument that purports to transfer title to or possession of a parcel or tract of land that is required to be surveyed by this chapter unless the required certificate of survey or subdivision plat has been filed with the clerk and recorder and the instrument of transfer describes the parcel or tract by reference to the filed certificate or plat.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply when the parcel or tract to be transferred:

(a) is in a location in which the state does not have jurisdiction; or

(b) was created before July 1, 1973, and the instrument of transfer for the parcel or tract includes a reference to a previously recorded instrument of transfer or is accompanied by documents that, if recorded, would otherwise satisfy the requirements of this subsection. The reference or document must demonstrate that the parcel or tract existed before July 1, 1973.

(3) The reference or documents required in subsection (2) do not constitute a legal description of the property and may not be substituted for a legal description of the property.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 340, L. 2001.**

76-3-303. Contract for deed permitted if buyer protected. Notwithstanding the provisions of 76-3-301, after the preliminary plat of a subdivision has been approved or conditionally approved, the subdivider may enter into contracts to sell lots in the proposed subdivision if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) under the terms of the contracts, the purchasers of lots in the proposed subdivision make any payments to an escrow agent, which must be a bank or savings and loan association chartered to do business in the state of Montana;

(2) under the terms of the contracts and the escrow agreement, the payments made by purchasers of lots in the proposed subdivision may not be distributed by the escrow agent to the subdivider until the final plat of the subdivision is filed with the county clerk and recorder;

(3) the contracts and the escrow agreement provide that if the final plat of the proposed subdivision is not filed with the county clerk and recorder within 2 years of the preliminary plat approval, the escrow agent shall immediately refund to each purchaser any payments the purchaser has made under the contract;

(4) the county treasurer has certified that no real property taxes assessed and levied on the land to be divided are delinquent; and

(5) the contracts contain the following language conspicuously set out: "The real property that is the subject of this contract has not been finally platted, and until a final plat identifying the property has been filed with the county clerk and recorder, title to the property may not be transferred in any manner."

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3867(4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2518, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-3-304. Effect of recording complying plat. The recording of any plat made in compliance with the provisions of this chapter shall serve to establish the identity of all lands shown on and being a part of such plat. Where lands are conveyed by reference to a plat, the plat itself or any copy of the plat properly certified by the county clerk and recorder as being a true copy thereof shall be regarded as incorporated into the instrument of conveyance and shall be received in evidence in all courts of this state.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3870(3).**

76-3-305. Vacation of plats — utility easements. (1) Any plat prepared and recorded as provided in this part may be vacated either in whole or in part as provided by 7-5-2501, 7-5-2502, 7-14-2616(1) and (2), 7-14-2617, 7-14-4114(1) and (2), and 7-14-4115. Upon vacation, the governing body or the district court, as provided in 7-5-2502, shall determine to which properties the title to the streets and alleys of the vacated portions must revert. The governing body or the district court, as provided in 7-5-2502, shall take into consideration the previous platting; the manner in which the right-of-way was originally dedicated, granted, or conveyed; the reasons stated in the petition requesting the vacation; the parties requesting the vacation; and any agreements between the adjacent property owners regarding the use of the vacated area. The title to the streets and alleys of the vacated portions may revert to one or more of the owners of the properties within the platted area adjacent to the vacated portions.

(2) However, when any poleline, pipeline, or any other public or private facility is located in a vacated street or alley at the time of the reversion of the title to the vacated street or alley, the owner of the public or private utility facility has an easement over the vacated land to continue the operation and maintenance of the public utility facility.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3870(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 100, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 277, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

76-3-306. Covenants run with the land. All covenants shall be considered to run with the land, whether marked or noted on the subdivision plat or contained in a separate instrument recorded with the plat.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3869.**

Cross-References

Covenants running with land, Title 70, ch. 17, part 2.

76-3-307. Donations or grants to public considered a grant to donee. Every donation or grant to the public or to any person, society, or corporation marked or noted on a plat is to be considered a grant to the donee.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3871.

Part 4
Survey Requirements

Part Cross-References

Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors — licensing, Title 37, ch. 67.

76-3-401. Survey requirements for lands other than subdivisions. All divisions of land for sale other than a subdivision after July 1, 1974, into parcels which cannot be described as 1/32 or larger aliquot parts of a United States government section or a United States government lot must be surveyed by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor. Surveys required under this section must comply with the requirements of 76-3-406.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1993.

76-3-402. Survey and platting requirements for subdivided lands. (1) Every subdivision of land after June 30, 1973, must be surveyed and platted in conformance with this chapter, including the requirements of 76-3-406, by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor.

(2) Subdivision plats must be prepared and filed in accordance with this chapter and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(3) All division of sections into aliquot parts and retracement of lines must conform to United States bureau of land management instructions, and all public land survey corners must be filed in accordance with Corner Recordation Act of Montana (Title 70, chapter 22, part 1). Engineering plans, specifications, and reports required in connection with public improvements and other elements of the subdivision required by the governing body must be prepared and filed by a registered engineer or a registered land surveyor, as their respective licensing laws allow, in accordance with this chapter and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 1993.

76-3-403. Monumentation. (1) The board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors shall, in conformance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, prescribe uniform standards for monumentation and for the form, accuracy, and descriptive content of records of survey.

(2) It is the responsibility of the governing body to require the replacement of all monuments removed in the course of construction.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 213, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 552, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3862(11), (12); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 211, Ch. 483, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 190, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

76-3-404. Certificate of survey. (1) Except as provided in 70-22-105, within 180 days of the completion of a survey, the registered land surveyor responsible for the survey, whether the surveyor is privately or publicly employed, shall prepare and submit for filing a certificate of survey in the county in which the survey was made if the survey:

(a) provides material evidence not appearing on any map filed with the county clerk and recorder or contained in the records of the United States bureau of land management;

(b) reveals a material discrepancy in the map;

(c) discloses evidence to suggest alternate locations of lines or points; or

(d) establishes one or more lines not shown on a recorded map, the positions of which are not ascertainable from an inspection of the map without trigonometric calculations.

(2) A certificate of survey is not required for any survey that is made by the United States bureau of land management, that is preliminary, or that will become part of a subdivision plat being prepared for recording under the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Certificates of survey must be legibly drawn, printed, or reproduced by a process guaranteeing a permanent record and must conform to monumentation and surveying requirements promulgated under this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3872; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 633, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 549, L. 2003.

76-3-405. Administration of oaths by registered land surveyor. (1) A registered land surveyor may administer and certify oaths when:

(a) it becomes necessary to take testimony for the identification of old corners or reestablishment of lost or obliterated corners;

(b) a corner or monument is found in a deteriorating condition and it is desirable that evidence concerning it be perpetuated;

(c) the importance of the survey makes it desirable to administer an oath to the surveyor's assistants for the faithful performance of their duty.

(2) A record of oaths must be preserved as part of the field notes of the survey and noted on the certificate of survey filed under 76-3-404.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3875; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2519, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-3-406. Surveys affecting irrigation districts — additional survey requirements. (1) (a) A surveyor who completes a survey identified in subsection (2) that establishes or defines a section line and creates a parcel that crosses the established or defined section line so that an irrigation district assessment boundary is included in more than 1 section shall note on the survey the acreage of the farm unit or created parcel in each section.

(b) The surveyor shall notify the appropriate irrigation district of the existence of the survey and the purpose of the survey.

(2) The requirements of subsection (1) apply only to surveys for which the surveyor determines that, based on available public records, the survey involves land:

(a) traversed by a canal or ditch owned by an irrigation district; or

(b) included in an irrigation district.

(3) For purposes of this section, "irrigation district" means a district established pursuant to Title 85, chapter 7.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1993.

76-3-407 through 76-3-410 reserved.

76-3-411. Board to prescribe standards. The board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors shall, in conformance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, prescribe uniform standards governing certificates of survey and final subdivision plats.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors, 2-15-1763.

Part 5
Local Regulations

76-3-501. Local subdivision regulations. (1) The governing body of every county, city, and town shall adopt and provide for the enforcement and administration of subdivision regulations reasonably providing for:

(a) the orderly development of their jurisdictional areas;

(b) the coordination of roads within subdivided land with other roads, both existing and planned;

(c) the dedication of land for roadways and for public utility easements;

(d) the improvement of roads;

(e) the provision of adequate open spaces for travel, light, air, and recreation;

(f) the provision of adequate transportation, water, and drainage;

(g) subject to the provisions of 76-3-511, the regulation of sanitary facilities;

(h) the avoidance or minimization of congestion; and

(i) the avoidance of subdivisions that would involve unnecessary environmental degradation and danger of injury to health, safety, or welfare by reason of natural hazard, including but not limited to fire and wildland fire, or the lack of water, drainage, access, transportation, or other public services or that would necessitate an excessive expenditure of public funds for the supply of the services.

(2) Any action that is not specifically prohibited in the conditions of subdivision approval is specifically allowed or is otherwise subject to additional restrictions that may be provided in the governing documents of the subdivision and applicable zoning regulations.

(3) If a local government has historically interpreted and enforced or chosen not to enforce a condition of subdivision approval to the benefit of a parcel owner, the local government may not undertake a different interpretation or enforcement action against a similarly situated parcel owner in the same subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 378, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 443, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 2021.

76-3-502. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 236, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

76-3-503. Hearing on proposed regulations. Before the governing body adopts subdivision regulations pursuant to 76-3-501 or 76-3-509, it shall hold a public hearing on the regulations and shall give public notice of its intent to adopt the regulations and of the public hearing by publication of notice of the time and place of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not less than 15 or more than 30 days prior to the date of the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 348, L. 2001.

76-3-504. Subdivision regulations — contents. (1) The subdivision regulations adopted under this chapter must comply with the requirements provided for in 76-3-501 and, at a minimum:

(a) list the materials that must be included in a subdivision application in order for the application to be determined to contain the required elements for the purposes of the review required in 76-3-604(1);

(b) except as provided in 76-3-509, 76-3-609, or 76-3-616, require the subdivider to submit to the governing body an environmental assessment as prescribed in 76-3-603;

(c) establish procedures consistent with this chapter for the submission and review of subdivision applications and amended applications;

(d) prescribe the form and contents of preliminary plats and the documents to accompany final plats;

(e) provide for the identification of areas that, because of natural or human-caused hazards, are unsuitable for subdivision development. The regulations must prohibit subdivisions in these areas unless the hazards can be eliminated or overcome by approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures authorized under 76-3-608(4) and (5). Approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures may not include building regulations as defined in 50-60-101 other than those identified by the department of labor and industry as provided in 50-60-901.

(f) prohibit subdivisions for building purposes in areas located within the floodway of a flood of 100-year frequency, as defined by Title 76, chapter 5, or determined to be subject to flooding by the governing body;

(g) prescribe standards for:

(i) the design and arrangement of lots, streets, and roads;

(ii) grading and drainage;

(iii) subject to the provisions of 76-3-511, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal that meet the:

(A) regulations adopted by the department of environmental quality under 76-4-104 for subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing less than 20 acres; and

(B) standards provided in 76-3-604 and 76-3-622 for subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing 20 acres or more and less than 160 acres; and

(iv) the location and installation of public utilities;

(h) provide procedures for the administration of the park and open-space requirements of this chapter;

(i) provide for the review of subdivision applications by affected public utilities and those agencies of local, state, and federal government identified during the preapplication consultation conducted pursuant to subsection (1)(q) or those having a substantial interest in a proposed subdivision. A public utility or agency review may not delay the governing body's action on the application beyond the time limits specified in this chapter, and the failure of any agency to complete a review of an application may not be a basis for rejection of the application by the governing body.

(j) when a subdivision creates parcels with lot sizes averaging less than 5 acres, require the subdivider to:

(i) reserve all or a portion of the appropriation water rights owned by the owner of the land to be subdivided and transfer the water rights to a single entity for use by landowners within the subdivision who have a legal right to the water and reserve and sever any remaining surface water rights from the land;

(ii) if the land to be subdivided is subject to a contract or interest in a public or private entity formed to provide the use of a water right on the subdivision lots, establish a landowner's water use agreement administered through a single entity that specifies administration and the rights and responsibilities of landowners within the subdivision who have a legal right and access to the water; or

(iii) reserve and sever all surface water rights from the land;

(k) (i) except as provided in subsection (1)(k)(ii), require the subdivider to establish ditch easements in the subdivision that:

(A) are in locations of appropriate topographic characteristics and sufficient width to allow the physical placement and unobstructed maintenance of open ditches or belowground pipelines for the delivery of water for irrigation to persons and lands legally entitled to the water under an appropriated water right or permit of an irrigation district or other private or public entity formed to provide for the use of the water right on the subdivision lots;

(B) are a sufficient distance from the centerline of the ditch to allow for construction, repair, maintenance, and inspection of the ditch; and

(C) prohibit the placement of structures or the planting of vegetation other than grass within the ditch easement without the written permission of the ditch owner.

(ii) Establishment of easements pursuant to this subsection (1)(k) is not required if:

(A) the average lot size is 1 acre or less and the subdivider provides for disclosure, in a manner acceptable to the governing body, that adequately notifies potential buyers of lots that are classified as irrigated land and may continue to be assessed for irrigation water delivery even though the water may not be deliverable; or

(B) the water rights are removed or the process has been initiated to remove the water rights from the subdivided land through an appropriate legal or administrative process and if the removal or intended removal is denoted on the preliminary plat. If removal of water rights is not complete upon filing of the final plat, the subdivider shall provide written notification to prospective buyers of the intent to remove the water right and shall document that intent, when applicable, in agreements and legal documents for related sales transactions.

(l) require the subdivider, unless otherwise provided for under separate written agreement or filed easement, to file and record ditch easements for unobstructed use and maintenance of existing water delivery ditches, pipelines, and facilities in the subdivision that are necessary to convey water through the subdivision to lands adjacent to or beyond the subdivision boundaries in quantities and in a manner that are consistent with historic and legal rights;

(m) require the subdivider to describe, dimension, and show public utility easements in the subdivision on the final plat in their true and correct location. The public utility easements must be of sufficient width to allow the physical placement and unobstructed maintenance of public utility facilities for the provision of public utility services within the subdivision.

(n) establish whether the governing body, its authorized agent or agency, or both will hold public hearings;

(o) establish procedures describing how the governing body or its agent or agency will address information presented at the hearing or hearings held pursuant to 76-3-605 and 76-3-615;

(p) establish criteria that the governing body or reviewing authority will use to determine whether a proposed method of disposition using the exemptions provided in 76-3-201 or 76-3-207 is an attempt to evade the requirements of this chapter. The regulations must provide for an appeals process to the governing body if the reviewing authority is not the governing body.

(q) establish a preapplication process that:

(i) requires a subdivider to meet with the authorized agent or agency, other than the governing body, that is designated by the governing body to review subdivision applications prior to the subdivider submitting the application;

(ii) requires, for informational purposes only, identification of the state laws, local regulations, and growth policy provisions, if a growth policy has been adopted, that may apply to the subdivision review process;

(iii) requires a list to be made available to the subdivider of the public utilities, those agencies of local, state, and federal government, and any other entities that may be contacted for comment on the subdivision application and the timeframes that the public utilities, agencies, and other entities are given to respond. If, during the review of the application, the agent or agency designated by the governing body contacts a public utility, agency, or other entity that was not included on the list originally made available to the subdivider, the agent or agency shall notify the subdivider of the contact and the timeframe for response.

(iv) requires that a preapplication meeting take place no more than 30 days from the date that the authorized agent or agency receives a written request for a preapplication meeting from the subdivider; and

(v) establishes a time limit after a preapplication meeting by which an application must be submitted;

(r) require that the written decision required by 76-3-620 must be provided to the applicant within 30 working days following a decision by the governing body to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a subdivision;

(s) establish criteria for reviewing an area, regardless of its size, that provides or will provide multiple spaces for recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes.

(2) In order to accomplish the purposes described in 76-3-501, the subdivision regulations adopted under 76-3-509 and this section may include provisions that are consistent with this section that promote cluster development.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(2), (3); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 238, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 201, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 527, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 564, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 599, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 317, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 443, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 379, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 319, L. 2021.

76-3-505. Repealed. Sec. 16, Ch. 298, L. 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 579, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 256, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 239, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 599, L. 2003.

76-3-506. Provision for granting variances. (1) Subdivision regulations may authorize the governing body, after a public hearing on the variance request before the governing body or its designated agent or agency, to grant variances from the regulations when strict compliance will result in undue hardship and when it is not essential to the public welfare.

(2) Any variance granted pursuant to this section must be based on specific variance criteria contained in the subdivision regulations.

(3) A minor subdivision as provided for in 76-3-609(2) is not subject to the public hearing requirement of this section.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(6); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 446, L. 2009.

76-3-507. Provision for security requirements to ensure construction of public improvements. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (4), the governing body shall require the subdivider to complete required improvements within the proposed subdivision prior to the approval of the final plat.

(2) (a) In lieu of the completion of the construction of any public improvements prior to the approval of a final plat, the governing body shall at the subdivider's option allow the subdivider to provide or cause to be provided a bond or other reasonable security, in an amount and with surety and conditions satisfactory to the governing body, providing for and securing the construction and installation of the improvements within a period specified by the governing body and expressed in the bonds or other security. The governing body shall reduce bond or security requirements commensurate with the completion of improvements.

(b) In lieu of requiring a bond or other means of security for the construction or installation of all the required public improvements under subsection (2)(a), the governing body may approve an incremental payment or guarantee plan. The improvements in a prior increment must be completed or the payment or guarantee of payment for the costs of the improvements incurred in a prior increment must be satisfied before development of future increments.

(3) Approval by the governing body of a final plat prior to the completion of required improvements and without the provision of the security required under subsection (2) is not an act of a legislative body for the purposes of 2-9-111.

(4) The governing body may require a percentage of improvements or specific types of improvements necessary to protect public health and safety to be completed before allowing bonding or other reasonable security under subsection (2)(a) for purposes of filing a final plat. The requirement is applicable to approved preliminary plats.

(5) If capacity for the subdivision was approved under a development plan as provided for in 75-6-130, the governing body shall require the subdivider to complete the water and sewer improvements within and to the proposed subdivision prior to the approval of the final plat. The subdivider shall provide a letter from the department that states that certification and as-builts for the subdivision have been received and that the municipality is in compliance with the applicable development plan.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(7); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 503, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 353, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 353, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.

76-3-508. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 236, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(8).

76-3-509. Local option cluster development regulations and exemptions authorized. (1) If the governing body has adopted a growth policy that meets the requirements of 76-1-601, the governing body may adopt regulations to promote cluster development and preserve open space under this section.

(2) Regulations adopted under this section must:

(a) establish a maximum size for each parcel in a cluster development;

(b) subject to subsection (3)(d), establish a maximum number of parcels in a cluster development; and

(c) establish requirements, including a minimum size for the area to be preserved, for preservation of open space as a condition of approval of a cluster development subdivision under regulations adopted pursuant to this section. Land protected as open space on a long-term basis must be identified on the final subdivision plat, and the plat must include a copy of or a recording reference to the irrevocable covenant prohibiting further subdivision, division, or development of the open space lots or parcels, as provided in Title 70, chapter 17, part 2.

(3) Regulations adopted under this section may:

(a) establish a shorter timeframe for review of proposed cluster developments;

(b) establish procedures and requirements that provide an incentive for cluster development subdivisions that are consistent with the provisions of this chapter;

(c) authorize the review of a division of land that involves more than one existing parcel as one subdivision proposal for the purposes of creating a cluster development;

(d) authorize the creation of one clustered parcel for each existing parcel that is reviewed as provided in subsection (3)(c); and

(e) establish exemptions from the following:

(i) the requirements of an environmental assessment pursuant to 76-3-603;

(ii) review of the criteria in 76-3-608(3)(a); and

(iii) park dedication requirements pursuant to 76-3-621.

(4) Except as provided in this section, the provisions of this chapter apply to cluster development subdivisions.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 137, L. 2011.**

76-3-510. Payment for extension of capital facilities. (1) A local government may require a subdivider to pay or guarantee payment for part or all of the costs of extending capital facilities related to public health and safety, including but not limited to public roads, sewer lines, water supply lines, and storm drains to a subdivision. The costs must reasonably reflect the expected impacts directly attributable to the subdivision. A local government may not require a subdivider to pay or guarantee payment for part or all of the costs of constructing or extending capital facilities related to education.

(2) All fees, costs, or other money paid by a subdivider under this section must be expended on the capital facilities for which the payments were required.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 405, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 446, L. 2009.**

76-3-511. Local regulations no more stringent than state regulations or guidelines. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4) or unless required by state law, a governing body may not adopt a regulation under 76-3-501 or 76-3-504(1)(g)(iii) that is more stringent than the comparable state regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The governing body may incorporate by reference comparable state regulations or guidelines.

(2) The governing body may adopt a regulation to implement 76-3-501 or 76-3-504(1)(g)(iii) that is more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines only if the governing body makes a written finding, after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record, that:

(a) the proposed local standard or requirement protects public health or the environment; and

(b) the local standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the governing body's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed local standard or requirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a regulation of the governing body adopted after January 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines may petition the governing body to review the regulation. If the governing body determines that the regulation is more stringent than comparable state regulations or guidelines, the governing body shall comply with this section by either revising the regulation to conform to the state regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged regulation. The governing body may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed $250.

(b) A person may also petition the governing body for a regulation review under subsection (4)(a) if the governing body adopts a regulation after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no state regulations or guidelines existed and the state government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted governing body regulation.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 278, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

76-3-512 and 76-3-513 reserved.

76-3-514. Housing fees and dedication of real property prohibited. (1) A local governing body may not require, as a condition for approval of a subdivision under this part:

(a) the payment of a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(b) the dedication of real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices.

(2) A dedication of real property as prohibited in subsection (1)(b) includes a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 249, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Imposition of fee or dedication on owner of addition prohibited, 7-2-4203.
Imposition of fee or dedication by local governing body resolution prohibited, 76-2-114.
Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-203.
Imposition of fee or dedication in zoning regulations prohibited, 76-2-302.

Part 6
Local Review Procedure

76-3-601. Submission of application and preliminary plat for review — water and sanitation information required. (1) The subdivider shall present to the governing body or to the agent or agency designated by the governing body the subdivision application, including the preliminary plat of the proposed subdivision, for local review. The preliminary plat must show all pertinent features of the proposed subdivision and all proposed improvements and must be accompanied by the preliminary water and sanitation information required under 76-3-622.

(2) (a) When the proposed subdivision lies within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by the city or town governing body.

(b) When the proposed subdivision is situated entirely in an unincorporated area, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by the governing body of the county. However, if the proposed subdivision lies within 1 mile of a third-class city or town, within 2 miles of a second-class city, or within 3 miles of a first-class city, the county governing body shall submit the application and preliminary plat to the city or town governing body or its designated agent for review and comment. If the proposed subdivision is situated within a rural school district, as described in 20-9-615, the county governing body shall provide a summary of the information contained in the application and preliminary plat to school district trustees.

(c) If the proposed subdivision lies partly within an incorporated city or town, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by both the city or town and the county governing bodies.

(d) When a proposed subdivision is also proposed to be annexed to a municipality, the governing body of the municipality shall coordinate the subdivision review and annexation procedures to minimize duplication of hearings, reports, and other requirements whenever possible.

(3) The provisions of 76-3-604, 76-3-605, 76-3-608 through 76-3-610, and this section do not limit the authority of certain municipalities to regulate subdivisions beyond their corporate limits pursuant to 7-3-4444.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 506, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 109, L. 2013.

76-3-602. Fees. The governing body may establish reasonable fees to be paid by the subdivider to defray the expense of reviewing subdivision applications.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3868; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 298, L. 2005.

76-3-603. Contents of environmental assessment. (1) When required, the environmental assessment must accompany the subdivision application and must include:

(a) for a major subdivision:

(i) a description of every body or stream of surface water that may be affected by the proposed subdivision, together with available ground water information, and a description of the topography, vegetation, and wildlife use within the area of the proposed subdivision;

(ii) a summary of the probable impacts of the proposed subdivision based on the criteria described in 76-3-608;

(iii) a community impact report containing a statement of anticipated needs of the proposed subdivision for local services, including education and busing; roads and maintenance; water, sewage, and solid waste facilities; and fire and police protection; and

(iv) additional relevant and reasonable information related to the applicable regulatory criteria adopted under 76-3-501 as may be required by the governing body;

(b) except as provided in 76-3-609, for a minor subdivision, a summary of the probable impacts of the proposed subdivision based on the criteria described in 76-3-608.

(2) An environmental assessment conducted pursuant to this chapter is distinct from an environmental review conducted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1. The standards of review applicable to an environmental review conducted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, do not apply to an environmental assessment conducted pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 213, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3863(4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2017.

76-3-604. Review of subdivision application — review for required elements and sufficiency of information. (1) (a) A subdivision application is considered to be received on the date of delivery to the reviewing agent or agency and when accompanied by the review fee submitted as provided in 76-3-602.

(b) Within 5 working days of receipt of a subdivision application, the reviewing agent or agency shall determine whether the application contains all of the listed materials as required by 76-3-504(1)(a) and shall notify the subdivider or, with the subdivider's written permission, the subdivider's agent of the reviewing agent's or agency's determination. If the reviewing agent or agency determines that elements are missing from the application, the reviewing agent or agency shall identify those elements in the notification.

(2) (a) Within 15 working days after the reviewing agent or agency notifies the subdivider or the subdivider's agent that the application contains all of the required elements as provided in subsection (1), the reviewing agent or agency shall determine whether the application and required elements contain detailed, supporting information that is sufficient to allow for the review of the proposed subdivision under the provisions of this chapter and the local regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter and shall notify the subdivider or, with the subdivider's written permission, the subdivider's agent of the reviewing agent's or agency's determination.

(b) If the reviewing agent or agency determines that information in the application is not sufficient to allow for review of the proposed subdivision, the reviewing agent or agency shall identify the insufficient information in its notification.

(c) A determination that an application contains sufficient information for review as provided in this subsection (2) does not ensure that the proposed subdivision will be approved or conditionally approved by the governing body and does not limit the ability of the reviewing agent or agency or the governing body to request additional information during the review process.

(3) The time limits provided in subsections (1) and (2) apply to each submittal of the application until:

(a) a determination is made that the application contains the required elements and sufficient information; and

(b) the subdivider or the subdivider's agent is notified.

(4) After the reviewing agent or agency has notified the subdivider or the subdivider's agent that an application contains sufficient information as provided in subsection (2), the governing body shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed subdivision within 60 working days or 80 working days if the proposed subdivision contains 50 or more lots, based on its determination of whether the application conforms to the provisions of this chapter and to the local regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, unless:

(a) the subdivider and the reviewing agent or agency agree to an extension or suspension of the review period, not to exceed 1 year; or

(b) a subsequent public hearing is scheduled and held as provided in 76-3-615.

(5) (a) If the governing body fails to comply with the time limits under subsection (4), the governing body shall pay to the subdivider a financial penalty of $50 per lot per month or a pro rata portion of a month, not to exceed the total amount of the subdivision review fee collected by the governing body for the subdivision application, until the governing body denies, approves, or conditionally approves the subdivision.

(b) The provisions of subsection (5)(a) do not apply if the review period is extended or suspended pursuant to subsection (4).

(6) If the governing body denies or conditionally approves the proposed subdivision, it shall send the subdivider a letter, with the appropriate signature, that complies with the provisions of 76-3-620.

(7) (a) The governing body shall collect public comment submitted at a hearing or hearings regarding the information presented pursuant to 76-3-622 and shall make any comments submitted or a summary of the comments submitted available to the subdivider within 30 days after conditional approval or approval of the subdivision application and preliminary plat.

(b) The subdivider shall, as part of the subdivider's application for sanitation approval, forward the comments or the summary provided by the governing body to the:

(i) reviewing authority provided for in Title 76, chapter 4, for subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing less than 20 acres; and

(ii) local health department or board of health for proposed subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing 20 acres or more and less than 160 acres.

(8) (a) For a proposed subdivision that will create one or more parcels containing less than 20 acres, the governing body may require approval by the department of environmental quality as a condition of approval of the final plat.

(b) For a proposed subdivision that will create one or more parcels containing 20 acres or more, the governing body may condition approval of the final plat upon the subdivider demonstrating, pursuant to 76-3-622, that there is an adequate water source and at least one area for a septic system and a replacement drainfield for each lot.

(9) (a) Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposed subdivision under this chapter may occur only under those regulations in effect at the time a subdivision application is determined to contain sufficient information for review as provided in subsection (2).

(b) If regulations change during the review periods provided in subsections (1) and (2), the determination of whether the application contains the required elements and sufficient information must be based on the new regulations.

(10) Unless otherwise provided by law, the governing body may review but does not have approval authority of the governing documents of the subdivision or amendments to the governing documents unless the governing documents directly and materially impact a condition of subdivision approval.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 236, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 527, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 405, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 109, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 319, L. 2021.

76-3-605. Hearing on subdivision application. (1) Except as provided in 76-3-609 and 76-3-616 and subject to the regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(o) and 76-3-615, at least one public hearing on the subdivision application must be held by the governing body, its authorized agent or agency, or both and the governing body, its authorized agent or agency, or both shall consider all relevant evidence relating to the public health, safety, and welfare, including the environmental assessment if required, to determine whether the subdivision application should be approved, conditionally approved, or denied by the governing body.

(2) When a proposed subdivision is also proposed to be annexed to a municipality, the governing body of the municipality shall hold joint hearings on the subdivision application and annexation whenever possible.

(3) Notice of the hearing must be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing. The subdivider, each property owner of record whose property is immediately adjoining the land included in the preliminary plat, and each purchaser under contract for deed of property immediately adjoining the land included in the preliminary plat must also be notified of the hearing by registered or certified mail not less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing.

(4) When a hearing is held by an agent or agency designated by the governing body, the agent or agency shall act in an advisory capacity and recommend to the governing body the approval, conditional approval, or denial of the proposed subdivision. This recommendation must be submitted to the governing body in writing not later than 10 working days after the public hearing.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 89, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 526, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 455, L. 2007.

76-3-606. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 468, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3864(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 703, L. 1979.

76-3-607. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 468, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3864(3) thru (7).

76-3-608. Criteria for local government review. (1) The basis for the governing body's decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed subdivision is whether the subdivision application, preliminary plat, applicable environmental assessment, public hearing, planning board recommendations, or additional information demonstrates that development of the proposed subdivision meets the requirements of this chapter. A governing body may not deny approval of a proposed subdivision based solely on the subdivision's impacts on educational services or based solely on parcels within the subdivision having been designated as wildland-urban interface parcels under 76-13-145.

(2) The governing body shall issue written findings of fact that weigh the criteria in subsection (3), as applicable.

(3) A subdivision proposal must undergo review for the following primary criteria:

(a) except when the governing body has established an exemption pursuant to subsection (6) or except as provided in 76-3-509, 76-3-609(2) or (4), or 76-3-616, the specific, documentable, and clearly defined impact on agriculture, agricultural water user facilities, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health and safety, excluding any consideration of whether the proposed subdivision will result in a loss of agricultural soils;

(b) compliance with:

(i) the survey requirements provided for in part 4 of this chapter;

(ii) the local subdivision regulations provided for in part 5 of this chapter; and

(iii) the local subdivision review procedure provided for in this part;

(c) the provision of easements within and to the proposed subdivision for the location and installation of any planned utilities; and

(d) the provision of legal and physical access to each parcel within the proposed subdivision and the required notation of that access on the applicable plat and any instrument of transfer concerning the parcel.

(4) The governing body may require the subdivider to design the proposed subdivision to reasonably minimize potentially significant adverse impacts identified through the review required under subsection (3) but may not require a set-aside of land or monetary contribution for the loss of agricultural soils. Pursuant to 76-3-620, the governing body shall issue written findings to justify the reasonable mitigation required under this subsection (4).

(5) (a) In reviewing a proposed subdivision under subsection (3) and when requiring mitigation under subsection (4), a governing body may not unreasonably restrict a landowner's ability to develop land, but it is recognized that in some instances the impacts of a proposed development may be deemed unmitigable and will preclude approval of the subdivision.

(b) When requiring mitigation under subsection (4) and consistent with 76-3-620, a governing body shall consult with the subdivider and shall give due weight and consideration to the expressed preference of the subdivider.

(6) A governing body may conditionally approve or deny a proposed subdivision as a result of the water and sanitation information provided pursuant to 76-3-622 or public comment received pursuant to 76-3-604 on the information provided pursuant to 76-3-622 only if the conditional approval or denial is based on existing subdivision, zoning, or other regulations that the governing body has the authority to enforce.

(7) A governing body may not require as a condition of subdivision approval that a property owner waive a right to protest the creation of a special improvement district or a rural improvement district for capital improvement projects that does not identify the specific capital improvements for which protest is being waived. A waiver of a right to protest may not be valid for a time period longer than 20 years after the date that the final subdivision plat is filed with the county clerk and recorder.

(8) A governing body may not approve a proposed subdivision if any of the features and improvements of the subdivision encroach onto adjoining private property in a manner that is not otherwise provided for under chapter 4 or this chapter or if the well isolation zone of any proposed well to be drilled for the proposed subdivision encroaches onto adjoining private property unless the owner of the private property authorizes the encroachment. For the purposes of this section, "well isolation zone" has the meaning provided in 76-4-102.

(9) If a federal or state governmental entity submits a written or oral comment or an opinion regarding wildlife, wildlife habitat, or the natural environment relating to a subdivision application for the purpose of assisting a governing body's review, the comment or opinion may be included in the governing body's written statement under 76-3-620 only if the comment or opinion provides scientific information or a published study that supports the comment or opinion. A governmental entity that is or has been involved in an effort to acquire or assist others in acquiring an interest in the real property identified in the subdivision application shall disclose that the entity has been involved in that effort prior to submitting a comment, an opinion, or information as provided in this subsection.

(10) Findings of fact by the governing body concerning whether the development of the proposed subdivision meets the requirements of this chapter must be based on the record as a whole. The governing body's findings of fact must be sustained unless they are arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(4); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 272, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 455, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 406, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 112, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 275, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 319, L. 2021.

76-3-609. Review procedure for minor subdivisions — determination of sufficiency of application — governing body to adopt regulations. (1) Except as provided in subsections (6) through (8), minor subdivisions must be reviewed as provided in this section and subject to the applicable local regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504.

(2) If the tract of record proposed to be subdivided has not been subdivided or created by a subdivision under this chapter or has not resulted from a tract of record that has had more than five parcels created from that tract of record under 76-3-201 or 76-3-207 since October 1, 2003, then the proposed subdivision is a first minor subdivision from a tract of record and, when legal and physical access to all lots is provided, must be reviewed as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the governing body shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the first minor subdivision from a tract of record within 35 working days of a determination by the reviewing agent or agency that the application contains required elements and sufficient information for review. The determination and notification to the subdivider must be made in the same manner as is provided in 76-3-604(1) through (3).

(b) The subdivider and the reviewing agent or agency may agree to an extension or suspension of the review period, not to exceed 1 year.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (2)(d)(ii), an application must include a summary of the probable impacts of the proposed subdivision based on the criteria described in 76-3-608(3).

(d) The following requirements do not apply to the first minor subdivision from a tract of record as provided in subsection (2):

(i) the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment; and

(ii) the requirement to review the subdivision for the criteria contained in 76-3-608(3)(a) if the minor subdivision is proposed in the portion of a jurisdictional area that has adopted zoning regulations that address the criteria in 76-3-608(3)(a).

(e) The governing body or its authorized agent or agency may not hold a public hearing or a subsequent public hearing under 76-3-615 for a first minor subdivision from a tract of record as described in subsection (2).

(f) The governing body may adopt regulations that establish requirements for the expedited review of the first minor subdivision from a tract of record. The following apply to a proposed subdivision reviewed under the regulations:

(i) except as provided in subsection (2)(d), the provisions of 76-3-608(3); and

(ii) the provisions of Title 76, chapter 4, part 1, whenever approval is required by those provisions.

(3) Except as provided in 76-3-616 and subsection (4) of this section, any minor subdivision that is not a first minor subdivision from a tract of record, as provided in subsection (2), is a subsequent minor subdivision and must be reviewed as provided in 76-3-601 through 76-3-605, 76-3-608, 76-3-610 through 76-3-614, and 76-3-620.

(4) The governing body may adopt subdivision regulations that establish requirements for review of subsequent minor subdivisions that meet or exceed the requirements that apply to the first minor subdivision, as provided in subsection (2) and this chapter.

(5) (a) Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a subdivision under this chapter may occur only under those regulations in effect at the time that a subdivision application is determined to contain sufficient information for review as provided in subsection (2).

(b) If regulations change during the period that the application is reviewed for required elements and sufficient information, the determination of whether the application contains the required elements and sufficient information must be based on the new regulations.

(6) First and subsequent minor subdivisions must be reviewed using the administrative process provided for in subsection (7) if the proposed subdivision:

(a) is located in an area that is subject to and complies with zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 2 or 3, that, at a minimum, address development intensity through densities, bulk and dimensional requirements, and use standards;

(b) has a will-serve letter from a municipal water and sewer service or by a county water and/or sewer district created under 7-13-2203 that supplies both water and sewer services;

(c) has existing legal and physical access to each lot; and

(d) does not require a variance to any of the contents of the subdivision regulations required in 76-3-504(1)(g).

(7) An administrative minor subdivision meeting the requirements of subsection (6) is exempt from:

(a) submitting the summary of probable impacts based on criteria described in 76-3-608(3) and the environmental assessment required in 76-3-603;

(b) the review criteria described in 76-3-608(3)(a); and

(c) the requirements of subsections (2) through (5) of this section.

(8) (a) For administrative minor subdivisions, the subdivision administrator appointed by the governing body shall:

(i) assume all decision-making authority of the governing body provided in 76-3-608;

(ii) approve, conditionally approve, or deny an administrative minor subdivision and issue a written statement pursuant to 76-3-620 within 30 working days of a determination by the reviewing agent or agency that the application contains required elements and sufficient information for review as provided in 76-3-604(1) through (3); and

(iii) immediately on a determination that the application meets the requirements of 76-3-604(1) through (3), notify by first-class mail of the pending application:

(A) each property owner of record whose property is immediately adjoining the land included in the preliminary plat; and

(B) each purchaser under contract for deed of property immediately adjoining the land included in the preliminary plat.

(b) If a party identified in 76-3-625(3) objects to a subdivision administrator's decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny an administrative minor subdivision, the party may request in writing that the subdivision administrator forward the application on to the governing body. The governing body shall sustain the subdivision administrator's decision based on the record as a whole unless the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful. The governing body has 15 working days from the receipt of the request to review a decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the administrative minor subdivision and make a final determination.

(9) As used in this section, "administrative minor subdivision" means a subdivision meeting the requirements of subsection (6). All the requirements of Title 76, chapter 3, except those exempt in subsections (7) and (8), apply to an administrative minor subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(6); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 579, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 256, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 455, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 331, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 340, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 1, Ch. 331, L. 2023, in (2) near middle substituted "October 1, 2003" for "July 1, 1973". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 1, Ch. 340, L. 2023, in (1) at beginning inserted exception clause; inserted (6) concerning the requirements of an administrative minor subdivision that can use the administrative process; inserted (7) concerning the administrative process; inserted (8) concerning a subdivision administrator's decision; inserted (9) providing definition of administrative minor subdivision; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-3-610. Effect of approval of application and preliminary plat. (1) Upon approving or conditionally approving an application and preliminary plat, the governing body shall provide the subdivider with a dated and signed statement of approval. This approval must be in force for not more than 3 calendar years or less than 1 calendar year. At the end of this period the governing body may, at the request of the subdivider, extend its approval for a mutually agreed-upon period of time. Any mutually agreed-upon extension must be in writing and dated and signed by the members of the governing body and the subdivider or subdivider's agent. The governing body may issue more than one extension.

(2) Except as provided in 76-3-507, after the application and preliminary plat are approved, the governing body and its subdivisions may not impose any additional conditions as a prerequisite to final plat approval if the approval is obtained within the original or extended approval period as provided in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3866(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 2011.

76-3-611. Review of final plat. (1) The governing body or the agent or agency designated by the governing body shall examine each final plat, and the governing body shall approve the plat only if:

(a) it conforms to the conditions of approval set forth on the preliminary plat and to the terms of this chapter and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter; and

(b) the county treasurer has certified that all real property taxes and special assessments assessed and levied on the land to be subdivided have been paid.

(2) (a) The governing body may require that final plats and certificates of survey be reviewed for errors and omissions in calculation or drafting by an examining land surveyor before recording with the county clerk and recorder. When the survey data shown on the plat or certificate of survey meets the conditions pursuant to this chapter, the examining land surveyor shall certify the compliance in a printed or stamped certificate on the plat or certificate of survey. The certificate must be signed by the surveyor.

(b) A land surveyor may not act as an examining land surveyor in regard to a plat or certificate of survey in which the surveyor has a financial or personal interest.

(3) (a) A final plat is considered to be received on the date of delivery to the governing body or the agent or agency designated by the governing body when accompanied by the review fee submitted as provided in 76-3-602.

(b) Within 20 working days of receipt of a final plat, the governing body or the agent or agency designated by the governing body shall determine whether the final plat contains the information required under subsections (1) and (2) and shall notify the subdivider or, with the subdivider's written permission, the subdivider's agent of that determination in writing. If the governing body or its agent or agency determines that the final plat does not contain the information required under subsections (1) and (2), the governing body or its agent or agency shall identify the final plat's defects in the notification.

(c) The governing body or its agent or agency may review subsequent submissions of the final plat only for information found to be deficient during the original review of the final plat under subsection (3)(b).

(d) If the governing body determines that an examining land surveyor must review a final plat pursuant to subsection (2)(a), the governing body or its agent or agency shall identify the requirement in its notification.

(e) The time limits provided in subsection (3)(b) apply to each submission of the final plat until a written determination is made that the final plat contains the information required under subsections (1) and (2) and the subdivider or the subdivider's agent is notified.

(4) If a determination is made under subsection (3)(b) that the final plat contains the information required under subsections (1) and (2), the governing body shall review and approve or deny the final plat within 20 working days.

(5) The subdivider or the subdivider's agent and the governing body or its reviewing agent or agency may mutually agree to extend the review periods provided for in this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3867(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 293, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 2017.

76-3-612. Subdivision guarantee required for review process. (1) The subdivider shall submit with the final plat a subdivision guarantee issued by an authorized title insurer or its title insurance producer showing the names of the owners of record of the land to be subdivided and the names of lienholders or claimants of record against the land and the written consent to the subdivision by the owners of the land, if other than the subdivider, and any lienholders or claimants of record against the land.

(2) The governing body may provide for the review of the subdivision guarantee for the land in question by the county attorney where the land lies in an unincorporated area or by the city or town attorney when the land lies within the limits of a city or town.

(3) As used in this section, "subdivision guarantee" means a form of guarantee that is approved by the commissioner of insurance and is specifically designed to disclose the information required in subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 334, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3865; amd. Sec. 186, Ch. 575, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 210, L. 2021.

76-3-613. Index of plats to be kept by county clerk and recorder. (1) The county clerk and recorder shall maintain an index of all recorded subdivision plats and certificates of survey.

(2) This index shall list plats and certificates of survey by the quarter section, section, township, and range in which the platted or surveyed land lies and shall list the recording or filing numbers of all plats depicting lands lying within each quarter section. Each quarter section list shall be definitive to the exclusion of all other quarter sections. The index shall also list the names of all subdivision plats in alphabetical order and the place where filed.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3873.

76-3-614. Correction of recorded plat. When a recorded plat does not definitely show the location or size of lots or blocks or the location or width of any street or alley, the governing body may at its own expense cause a new and correct survey and plat to be made and recorded in the office of the county clerk and recorder. The corrected plat must, to the extent possible, follow the plan of the original survey and plat. The surveyor making the resurvey shall endorse the corrected plat referring to the original plat and noting the defect existing therein and the corrections made.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 500, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 11-3874.

76-3-615. Subsequent hearings — consideration of new information — requirements for regulations. (1) The regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504(1)(o) must comply with the provisions of this section.

(2) The governing body shall determine whether public comments or other information presented to the governing body at a hearing held pursuant to 76-3-605 constitutes relevant, new information regarding a subdivision application or a substantial change to the design of the subdivision that has never been submitted as evidence or considered by either the governing body or its agent or agency and has a substantial effect on the governing body's consideration of the application.

(3) If the governing body determines that the information presented to the governing body constitutes the information described in subsection (2), the governing body may:

(a) approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed subdivision without basing its decision on the new information if the governing body determines that the new information is either irrelevant or not credible or the change to the design of the subdivision does not substantially impact the analysis of potentially significant adverse impacts; or

(b) schedule or direct its agent or agency to schedule a subsequent public hearing for consideration of only the new information, including a substantial change to the design of the subdivision for purposes of considering its findings of fact and conclusions and any proposed conditions of approval in light of the new information that the governing body will rely on in making its decision on the proposed subdivision.

(4) If a public hearing is held as provided in subsection (3)(b), the 60-working-day review period required in 76-3-604(4) is suspended and the new hearing must be noticed and held within 45 days of the governing body's determination to schedule a new hearing. After the new hearing, the 60-working-day time limit resumes at the governing body's next scheduled public meeting for which proper notice for the public hearing on the subdivision application can be provided. The governing body may not consider any information regarding the subdivision application that is presented after the hearing when making its decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed subdivision.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-3-616. Exemption for certain subdivisions. (1) A subdivision that meets the criteria in subsection (2) is exempt from the following requirements:

(a) preparation of an environmental assessment as required by 76-3-603;

(b) a public hearing on the subdivision application pursuant to 76-3-605; and

(c) review of the subdivision for the criteria listed in 76-3-608(3)(a).

(2) To qualify for the exemptions in subsection (1), a subdivision must meet the following criteria:

(a) the proposed subdivision is entirely within an area inside or adjacent to an incorporated city or town where the governing body has adopted a growth policy that includes the provisions of 76-1-601(4)(c);

(b) the proposed subdivision is entirely within an area subject to zoning adopted pursuant to 76-2-203 or 76-2-304 that avoids, significantly reduces, or mitigates adverse impacts identified in a growth policy that includes the provisions of 76-1-601(4)(c); and

(c) the subdivision proposal includes a description of future public facilities and services, using maps and text, that are necessary to efficiently serve the projected development.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 455, L. 2007.

76-3-617. Phased development — application requirements — hearing required. (1) A subdivider applying for phased development review shall submit with the phased development application an overall phased development preliminary plat on which independent platted development phases must be presented. The phased development application must contain the information required pursuant to parts 5 and 6 of this chapter for all phases of a development and a schedule for when the subdivider plans to submit for review each phase of the development. The subdivider may change the schedule for review of each phase of the development upon approval of the governing body after a public hearing as provided in subsection (4) if the change does not negate conditions of approval or otherwise adversely affect public health, safety, and welfare.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by this section, the phased development application must be reviewed in conformity with parts 5 and 6 of this chapter. In addition, each phase of the phased development must be reviewed as provided in subsection (4).

(3) The governing body may approve phased developments that extend beyond the time limits set forth in 76-3-610 but all phases of the phased development must be submitted for review and approved, conditionally approved, or denied within 20 years of the date the overall phased development preliminary plat is approved by the governing body.

(4) For any phase of the approved subdivision submitted for final plat approval more than 5 years after the date of preliminary approval of the subdivision, the subdivider shall provide written notice to the governing body not more than 1 year or less than 90 calendar days in advance of submitting the final plat application. The governing body shall hold a public hearing pursuant to 76-3-605(3) within 30 working days after receipt of the written notice from the subdivider to determine whether changed circumstances justify amending any conditions of approval or imposing additional conditions of approval. The governing body may amend or impose additional conditions of approval only if it determines, based on a review of the primary criteria, that the existing conditions of approval are inadequate to mitigate the potentially significant adverse impacts identified during the original review based on changed circumstances. Notwithstanding the provisions of 76-3-610(2), the governing body shall issue supplemental written findings of fact within 20 working days of the hearing. Any additional conditions must be met before final plat approval for each remaining phase and the approval in accordance with 76-3-611 is in force for not more than 3 calendar years or less than 1 calendar year within the maximum timeframe provided in subsection (3).

(5) The governing body may impose a reasonable periodic fee for the review under subsection (4) of the phases in the phased development.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 363, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 4, Ch. 171, L. 2023, provided: "[Section 2] [76-3-617] applies to subdivision applications that are approved on or after October 1, 2023."

76-3-618 and 76-3-619 reserved.

76-3-620. Review requirements — written statement. (1) In addition to the requirements of 76-3-604 and 76-3-609, following any decision by the governing body to deny or conditionally approve a proposed subdivision, the governing body shall, in accordance with the time limit established in 76-3-504(1)(r), prepare a written statement that:

(a) must be provided to the applicant;

(b) must be made available to the public;

(c) includes information regarding the appeal process for the denial or imposition of conditions;

(d) identifies the regulations and statutes that are used in reaching the decision and explains how they apply to the basis of the decision;

(e) provides the facts and conclusions that the governing body relied upon in making the decision and references documents, testimony, or other materials that form the basis of the decision; and

(f) identifies the conditions that apply to the preliminary plat approval and that must be satisfied before the final plat may be approved.

(2) If the governing body conditionally approves the proposed subdivision, each condition required for subdivision approval must identify a specific, documentable, and clearly defined purpose or objective related to the primary criteria set forth in 76-3-608(3) that forms the basis for the condition.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 224, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 319, L. 2021.

76-3-621. Park dedication requirement. (1) Except as provided in 76-3-509 or subsections (2), (3), and (6) through (9) of this section, a subdivider shall dedicate to the governing body a cash or land donation equal to:

(a) 11% of the area of the land proposed to be subdivided into parcels of one-half acre or smaller;

(b) 7.5% of the area of the land proposed to be subdivided into parcels larger than one-half acre and not larger than 1 acre;

(c) 5% of the area of the land proposed to be subdivided into parcels larger than 1 acre and not larger than 3 acres; and

(d) 2.5% of the area of the land proposed to be subdivided into parcels larger than 3 acres and not larger than 5 acres.

(2) When a subdivision is located totally within an area for which density requirements have been adopted pursuant to a growth policy under chapter 1 or pursuant to zoning regulations under chapter 2, the governing body may establish park dedication requirements based on the community need for parks and the development densities identified in the growth policy or regulations. Park dedication requirements established under this subsection are in lieu of those provided in subsection (1) and may not exceed 0.03 acres per dwelling unit.

(3) A park dedication may not be required for:

(a) land proposed for subdivision into parcels larger than 5 acres;

(b) subdivision into parcels that are all nonresidential;

(c) a subdivision in which parcels are not created, except when that subdivision provides permanent multiple spaces for recreational camping vehicles, mobile homes, or condominiums;

(d) a subdivision in which only one additional parcel is created; or

(e) except as provided in subsection (8), a first minor subdivision from a tract of record as described in 76-3-609(2).

(4) The governing body, in consultation with the subdivider and the planning board or park board that has jurisdiction, may determine suitable locations for parks and playgrounds and, giving due weight and consideration to the expressed preference of the subdivider, may determine whether the park dedication must be a land donation, cash donation, or a combination of both. When a combination of land donation and cash donation is required, the cash donation may not exceed the proportional amount not covered by the land donation.

(5) (a) In accordance with the provisions of subsections (5)(b) and (5)(c), the governing body shall use the dedicated money or land for development, acquisition, or maintenance of parks to serve the subdivision.

(b) The governing body may use the dedicated money to acquire, develop, or maintain, within its jurisdiction, parks or recreational areas or for the purchase of public open space or conservation easements only if:

(i) the park, recreational area, open space, or conservation easement is within a reasonably close proximity to the proposed subdivision; and

(ii) the governing body has formally adopted a park plan that establishes the needs and procedures for use of the money.

(c) The governing body may not use more than 50% of the dedicated money for park maintenance.

(6) The local governing body shall waive the park dedication requirement if:

(a) (i) the preliminary plat provides for a planned unit development or other development with land permanently set aside for park and recreational uses sufficient to meet the needs of the persons who will ultimately reside in the development; and

(ii) the area of the land and any improvements set aside for park and recreational purposes equals or exceeds the area of the dedication required under subsection (1);

(b) (i) the preliminary plat provides long-term protection of critical wildlife habitat; cultural, historical, or natural resources; agricultural interests; or aesthetic values; and

(ii) the area of the land proposed to be subdivided, by virtue of providing long-term protection provided for in subsection (6)(b)(i), is reduced by an amount equal to or exceeding the area of the dedication required under subsection (1);

(c) the area of the land proposed to be subdivided, by virtue of a combination of the provisions of subsections (6)(a) and (6)(b), is reduced by an amount equal to or exceeding the area of the dedication required under subsection (1); or

(d) (i) the subdivider provides for land outside of the subdivision to be set aside for park and recreational uses sufficient to meet the needs of the persons who will ultimately reside in the subdivision; and

(ii) the area of the land and any improvements set aside for park and recreational uses equals or exceeds the area of dedication required under subsection (1).

(7) The local governing body may waive the park dedication requirement if:

(a) the subdivider provides land outside the subdivision that affords long-term protection of critical wildlife habitat, cultural, historical, or natural resources, agricultural interests, or aesthetic values; and

(b) the area of the land to be subject to long-term protection, as provided in subsection (7)(a), equals or exceeds the area of the dedication required under subsection (1).

(8) (a) A local governing body may, at its discretion, require a park dedication for:

(i) a subsequent minor subdivision as described in 76-3-609(3); or

(ii) a first minor subdivision from a tract of record as described in 76-3-609(2) if:

(A) the subdivision plat indicates development of condominiums or other multifamily housing;

(B) zoning regulations permit condominiums or other multifamily housing; or

(C) any of the lots are located within the boundaries of a municipality.

(b) A local governing body that chooses to require a park dedication shall specify in regulations the circumstances under which a park dedication will be required.

(9) Subject to the approval of the local governing body and acceptance by the school district trustees, a subdivider may dedicate a land donation provided in subsection (1) to a school district, adequate to be used for school facilities or buildings.

(10) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "cash donation" is the fair market value of the unsubdivided, unimproved land; and

(b) "dwelling unit" means a residential structure in which a person or persons reside.

(11) A land donation under this section may be inside or outside of the subdivision.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 348, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 469, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 333, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 446, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Sale, lease, or exchange of dedicated park lands, 7-16-2324.

76-3-622. Water and sanitation information to accompany preliminary plat. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the subdivider shall submit to the governing body or to the agent or agency designated by the governing body the information listed in this section for proposed subdivisions that will include new water supply or wastewater facilities. The information must include:

(a) a vicinity map or plan that shows:

(i) the location, within 100 feet outside of the exterior property line of the subdivision and on the proposed lots, of:

(A) flood plains;

(B) surface water features;

(C) springs;

(D) irrigation ditches;

(E) existing, previously approved, and, for parcels less than 20 acres, proposed water wells and wastewater treatment systems, except that the subdivider may locate a water well anywhere on a lot, parcel, or tract of record if the subdivider maintains the minimum setback distances adopted in rule by the department of environmental quality;

(F) for parcels less than 20 acres, mixing zones identified as provided in subsection (1)(g); and

(G) the representative drainfield site used for the soil profile description as required under subsection (1)(d); and

(ii) the location, within 500 feet outside of the exterior property line of the subdivision, of public water and sewer facilities;

(b) a description of the proposed subdivision's water supply systems, storm water systems, solid waste disposal systems, and wastewater treatment systems, including:

(i) whether the water supply and wastewater treatment systems are individual, shared, multiple user, or public as those systems are defined in rules published by the department of environmental quality; and

(ii) if the water supply and wastewater treatment systems are shared, multiple user, or public, a statement of whether the systems will be public utilities as defined in 69-3-101 and subject to the jurisdiction of the public service commission or exempt from public service commission jurisdiction and, if exempt, an explanation for the exemption;

(c) a drawing of the conceptual lot layout at a scale no smaller than 1 inch equal to 200 feet that shows all information required for a lot layout document in rules adopted by the department of environmental quality pursuant to 76-4-104;

(d) evidence of suitability for new onsite wastewater treatment systems that, at a minimum, includes:

(i) a soil profile description from a representative drainfield site identified on the vicinity map, as provided in subsection (1)(a)(i)(G), that complies with standards published by the department of environmental quality;

(ii) demonstration that the soil profile contains a minimum of 4 feet of vertical separation distance between the bottom of the permeable surface of the proposed wastewater treatment system and a limiting layer; and

(iii) in cases in which the soil profile or other information indicates that ground water is within 7 feet of the natural ground surface, evidence that the ground water will not exceed the minimum vertical separation distance provided in subsection (1)(d)(ii);

(e) for new water supply systems, unless cisterns are proposed, evidence of adequate water availability:

(i) obtained from well logs or testing of onsite or nearby wells;

(ii) obtained from information contained in published hydrogeological reports; or

(iii) as otherwise specified by rules adopted by the department of environmental quality pursuant to 76-4-104;

(f) evidence of sufficient water quality in accordance with rules adopted by the department of environmental quality pursuant to 76-4-104;

(g) a preliminary analysis of potential impacts to ground water quality from new wastewater treatment systems, using as guidance rules adopted pursuant to 75-5-301 and 75-5-303 related to standard mixing zones for ground water, source specific mixing zones, and nonsignificant changes in water quality. The preliminary analysis may be based on currently available information and must consider the effects of overlapping mixing zones from proposed and existing wastewater treatment systems within and directly adjacent to the subdivision. Instead of performing the preliminary analysis required under this subsection (1)(g), the subdivider may perform a complete nondegradation analysis in the same manner as is required for an application that is reviewed under Title 76, chapter 4.

(2) A subdivider whose land division is excluded from review under 76-4-125(1) is not required to submit the information required in this section.

(3) A governing body may not, through adoption of regulations, require water and sanitation information in addition to the information required under this section unless the governing body complies with the procedures provided in 76-3-511.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 324, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 673, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 673, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

76-3-623. Expedited review for certain subdivisions. (1) Except as provided in subsection (9), a subdivision application, regardless of the number of lots, that meets the requirements provided in subsection (3) is entitled to the expedited review process provided in this section at the applicant's request.

(2) A subdivision application that meets the requirements provided in subsection (3) is exempt from:

(a) the preparation of an environmental assessment as required in 76-3-603; and

(b) the review criteria listed in 76-3-608(3)(a).

(3) A subdivision qualifies for the expedited review process provided in this section if the proposed subdivision:

(a) is within:

(i) an incorporated city or town or consolidated city-county government and is subject to an adopted growth policy pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1, and adopted zoning regulations pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 3; or

(ii) a county water and/or sewer district created under 7-13-2203 that provides both water and sewer services or an area outside the boundaries of an incorporated city, town, county, or consolidated city-county that is served by city, town, county, or consolidated city-county water and sewer services and is subject to an adopted growth policy as provided in Title 76, chapter 1, and zoning regulations pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, part 2, that, at a minimum, address development intensity through minimum lot sizes or densities, bulk and dimensional requirements, and use standards;

(b) complies with zoning regulations adopted pursuant to 76-2-203 or 76-2-304 and complies with the design standards and other subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504; and

(c) includes in its proposal plans for the onsite development of or extension to public infrastructure in accordance with adopted ordinances and regulations.

(4) On submission for expedited review under this section, the subdivision application must be reviewed for required elements and sufficiency of information as provided in 76-3-601(1) through (3) to determine whether the application complies with zoning regulations adopted pursuant to 76-2-203 or 76-2-304 and complies with the design standards and other subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504 and includes in its proposal plans for the onsite development of or extension to public infrastructure in accordance with adopted ordinances and regulations. The application may include a request for variance or deviation from subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504 and in accordance with the provisions of 76-3-506.

(5) The governing body shall:

(a) hold a hearing and approve, conditionally approve, or deny the subdivision application within 35 working days of a determination by the reviewing agent or agency that the application contains required elements and sufficient information for review as provided in subsection (3). If the subdivision application includes a request for variance or deviation from subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504, the time for holding a hearing as required in this subsection (5) must be extended to a total of 45 working days.

(b) provide notice for the hearing required in subsection (5)(a) by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not less than 15 days prior to the date of the hearing;

(c) approve the application unless public comment or other information demonstrates the application does not comply with:

(i) adopted zoning regulations, design standards, and other requirements of subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504, including any criteria for granting variances or deviations from subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to 76-3-504; or

(ii) adopted ordinances or regulations for the onsite development of or extension to public infrastructure; and

(d) provide to the applicant and the public a written statement within 30 days of the decision to approve or deny a proposed subdivision for expedited review as allowed in this section that provides:

(i) the facts and conclusions that the governing body relied on in making its decision to approve or deny the application; and

(ii) the conditions that apply to the preliminary plat approval that must be satisfied before the final plat may be approved.

(6) The governing body may:

(a) with the agreement of the applicant, grant one extension of the review period allowed in subsection (5)(a) not to exceed 180 calendar days;

(b) adopt conditions of approval only to ensure an approved subdivision application is completed in accordance with the approved application and any applicable requirements pursuant to Title 76, chapter 4; or

(c) delegate to its reviewing agent or agency the requirement to hold a public hearing on the subdivision application as required in this section.

(7) A local governing body may not adopt zoning regulations pursuant to 76-2-203 or 76-2-304, subdivision regulations pursuant to 76-3-504, or other ordinances or regulations that restrict the use of the expedited subdivision review process as provided in this section.

(8) (a) Except as modified in this section, subdivision applications meeting the requirements for an expedited review remain subject to the provisions of 76-3-608(3)(b) through (3)(d) and 76-3-608(6) through (10), 76-3-610 through 76-3-614, 76-3-621, and 76-3-625.

(b) The provisions of this section supersede any provision of this chapter that is in conflict with any provision of this section.

(9) A subdivision located outside of the boundaries of an incorporated city or town may not utilize the expedited review process provided in this section unless the board of county commissioners of the county where the subdivision is located has voted to allow the provisions of this section to apply to subdivisions located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.

(10) An incorporated city, town, or consolidated city-county shall implement the expedited review provided for in this section for a proposed subdivision that meets the criteria in subsection (3)(a)(i) regardless of whether the city, town, or consolidated city-county has incorporated the provisions of this section into the city, town, or consolidated city-county's local subdivision regulations.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-3-624 reserved.

76-3-625. Violations — actions against governing body. (1) A person who has filed with the governing body an application for a subdivision under this chapter may bring an action in district court to sue the governing body to recover actual damages caused by a final action, decision, or order of the governing body or a regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter within 180 days of the final action, decision, order, or adoption of a regulation. The governing body's decision, based on the record as a whole, must be sustained unless the decision being challenged is arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

(2) (a) A party identified in subsection (3) who is aggrieved by a decision of the governing body to approve, conditionally approve, or deny an application and preliminary plat for a proposed subdivision may, within 30 days from the date of the written decision, appeal to the district court in the county in which the property involved is located to challenge the approval, imposition of conditions, or denial of the preliminary plat.

(b) A party identified in subsection (3) who is aggrieved by any other final decision of the governing body regarding a subdivision may, within 30 days from the date of the written decision, appeal to the district court in the county in which the property involved is located to challenge the decision.

(c) A petition allowed in subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) must specify the grounds upon which the appeal is made. The governing body's decision, based on the record as a whole, must be sustained unless the decision being challenged is arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

(3) The following parties may appeal under the provisions of subsection (2):

(a) the subdivider;

(b) a landowner with a property boundary contiguous to the proposed subdivision or a private landowner with property within the county or municipality where the subdivision is proposed if that landowner can show a likelihood of material injury to the landowner's property or its value;

(c) the county commissioners of the county where the subdivision is proposed; and

(d) (i) a first-class municipality, as described in 7-1-4111, if a subdivision is proposed within 3 miles of its limits;

(ii) a second-class municipality, as described in 7-1-4111, if a subdivision is proposed within 2 miles of its limits; and

(iii) a third-class municipality or a town, as described in 7-1-4111, if a subdivision is proposed within 1 mile of its limits.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "aggrieved" means a person who can demonstrate a specific personal and legal interest, as distinguished from a general interest, who has been or is likely to be specially and injuriously affected by the decision.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 468, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 298, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 446, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 362, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 190, L. 2021.**

CHAPTER 4
STATE REGULATION OF SUBDIVISIONS

Part 1 — Sanitation in Subdivisions

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Penalties, fees, and interest, Title 76, ch. 4, part 10.

Part 1
Sanitation in Subdivisions

Part Cross-References

Solid waste disposal exception, 75-10-214.

Water use — ground water, Title 85, ch. 2, part 5.

76-4-101. Public policy. It is the public policy of this state to extend present laws controlling water supply, sewage disposal, and solid waste disposal to include individual wells affected by adjoining sewage disposal and individual sewage systems to protect the quality and potability of water for public water supplies and domestic uses and to protect the quality of water for other beneficial uses, including uses relating to agriculture, industry, recreation, and wildlife.

History: **En. Sec. 148, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5001.**

76-4-102. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Adequate county water and/or sewer district facilities" means facilities provided by a county water and/or sewer district incorporated under Title 7, chapter 13, that operate in compliance with Title 75, chapters 5 and 6.

(2) "Adequate municipal facilities" means municipally, publicly, or privately owned facilities that supply water, treat sewage, or dispose of solid waste for all or most properties within the boundaries of a municipality and that are operating in compliance with Title 75, chapters 5 and 6, including development plans approved by the department pursuant to 75-6-130.

(3) "Board" means the board of environmental review.

(4) "Certifying authority" means a municipality or a county water and/or sewer district that meets the eligibility requirements established by the department under 76-4-104(7).

(5) "Department" means the department of environmental quality.

(6) "Extension of a public sewage system" means a sewerline that connects two or more sewer service lines to a sewer main.

(7) "Extension of a public water supply system" means a waterline that connects two or more water service lines to a water main.

(8) "Facilities" means public or private facilities for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or solid waste and any pipes, conduits, or other stationary method by which water, sewage, or solid wastes might be transported or distributed.

(9) "Independent reviewer" means a registered sanitarian or registered professional engineer that the department has certified to conduct a review under 76-4-104.

(10) "Individual water system" means any water system that serves one living unit or commercial unit and that is not a public water supply system as defined in 75-6-102.

(11) "Mixing zone" has the meaning provided in 75-5-103.

(12) (a) "Proposed drainfield mixing zone" means a mixing zone submitted for approval under this chapter after March 30, 2011.

(b) The term does not include drainfield mixing zones that existed or were approved under this chapter prior to March 30, 2011.

(13) (a) "Proposed well isolation zone" means a well isolation zone submitted for approval under this chapter after October 1, 2013.

(b) The term does not include well isolation zones that existed or were approved under this chapter prior to October 1, 2013.

(14) "Public sewage system" or "public sewage disposal system" means a public sewage system as defined in 75-6-102.

(15) "Public water supply system" has the meaning provided in 75-6-102.

(16) "Regional authority" means any regional water authority, regional wastewater authority, or regional water and wastewater authority organized pursuant to the provisions of Title 75, chapter 6, part 3.

(17) "Registered professional engineer" means a person licensed to practice as a professional engineer under Title 37, chapter 67.

(18) "Registered sanitarian" means a person licensed to practice as a sanitarian under Title 37, chapter 40.

(19) "Reviewing authority" means the department or a local department or board of health certified to conduct a review under 76-4-104.

(20) "Sanitary restriction" means a prohibition against the erection of any dwelling, shelter, or building requiring facilities for the supply of water or the disposition of sewage or solid

waste or the construction of water supply or sewage or solid waste disposal, facilities until the department has approved plans for those facilities.

(21) "Sewage" has the meaning provided in 75-5-103.

(22) "Sewer service line" means a sewerline that connects a single building or living unit to a public sewage system or to an extension of a public sewage system.

(23) "Solid waste" has the meaning provided in 75-10-103.

(24) "Subdivision" means a division of land or land so divided that creates one or more parcels containing less than 20 acres, exclusive of public roadways, in order that the title to or possession of the parcels may be sold, rented, leased, or otherwise conveyed and includes any resubdivision, any condominium, townhome, or townhouse, or any parcel, regardless of size, that provides two or more permanent spaces for recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes.

(25) "Water service line" means a waterline that connects a single building or living unit to a public water supply system or to an extension of a public water supply system.

(26) "Well isolation zone" means the area within a 100-foot radius of a water well or a smaller, site-specific radius as approved by the department.

History: En. Sec. 149, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5002(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 195, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 353, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 611, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 673, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 6, Ch. 353, L. 2023, in definition of adequate municipal facilities at end inserted "including development plans approved by the department pursuant to 75-6-130"; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 2, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 611, L. 2023, inserted definition of independent reviewer; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 673, L. 2023, in definition of well isolation zone at end inserted "or a smaller, site-specific radius as approved by the department". Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Section 2, Ch. 752, L. 2023, in definition of certifying authority at end substituted "76-4-104(7)" for "76-4-104(6)". Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-103. What constitutes subdivision. The plat for a subdivision must show all parcels, whether contiguous or not. A parcel that is 20 acres or more in size, exclusive of public roadways, is not subject to review under this part unless the parcel provides two or more permanent spaces for recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes. The rental or lease of one or more parts of a single building, structure, or other improvement, whether existing or proposed, is not a subdivision, as that term is defined in this part, and is not subject to the requirements of this part.

History: En. Sec. 149, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5002(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 419, L. 2021.

76-4-104. Rules for administration and enforcement. (1) The department shall, subject to the provisions of 76-4-135, adopt reasonable rules, including adoption of sanitary standards, necessary for administration and enforcement of this part.

(2) The rules and standards must provide the basis for approving subdivisions for various types of public and private water supplies, sewage disposal facilities, storm water drainage ways, and solid waste disposal. The rules and standards must be related to:

(a) size of lots;
(b) contour of land;
(c) porosity of soil;
(d) ground water level;
(e) distance from lakes, streams, and wells;
(f) type and construction of private water and sewage facilities; and
(g) other factors affecting public health and the quality of water for uses relating to agriculture, industry, recreation, and wildlife.

(3) The storm drainage review requirements of this chapter do not apply to divisions or parcels of land that are exempt from review under 76-3-207(1)(a), (1)(d), (1)(e), or (1)(f) that:

(a) are used for a single-family residential purpose; and
(b) include no more than 25% that is impervious.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), the rules must provide for the review of subdivisions consistent with 76-4-114 by a local department or board of health, as described in Title 50, chapter 2, part 1, if the local department or board of health employs a registered sanitarian or a registered professional engineer and if the department certifies under subsection (5) that the local department or board is competent to conduct the review.

(b) (i) Except as provided in 75-6-121 and subsection (4)(b)(ii) of this section, a local department or board of health may not review public water supply systems, public sewage systems, or extensions of or connections to these systems.

(ii) A local department or board of health may be certified by the department to review subdivisions proposed to connect to existing municipal or county water and/or sewer district water and wastewater systems previously approved by the department if no extension of the systems is required.

(5) (a) The department shall also adopt standards and procedures for certification and maintaining certification to ensure that a local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer is competent to review the subdivisions as described in subsection (4).

(b) On or before December 31, 2023, the department shall develop procedures for certification of prequalified independent reviewers and develop a training curriculum to ensure compliance with this part.

(6) The department shall review those subdivisions described in subsection (4) if:

(a) a proposed subdivision lies within more than one jurisdictional area and the respective governing bodies are in disagreement concerning approval of or conditions to be imposed on the proposed subdivision; or

(b) the local department or board of health elects not to be certified.

(7) The rules must further provide for:

(a) providing the reviewing authority with a copy of the plat or certificate of survey subject to review under this part and other documentation showing the layout or plan of development, including:

(i) total development area; and

(ii) total number of proposed units and structures requiring facilities for water supply or sewage disposal;

(b) adequate evidence that a water supply that is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity, and dependability will be available to ensure an adequate supply of water for the type of subdivision proposed;

(c) evidence concerning the potability of the proposed water supply for the subdivision;

(d) adequate evidence that a sewage disposal facility is sufficient in terms of capacity and dependability;

(e) standards and technical procedures applicable to storm drainage plans and related designs, in order to ensure proper drainage ways, except that the rules must provide a basis for not requiring storm water review under this part for parcels 5 acres and larger on which the total impervious area does not and will not exceed 5%. Nothing in this section relieves any person of the duty to comply with the requirements of Title 75, chapter 5, or rules adopted pursuant to Title 75, chapter 5.

(f) standards and technical procedures applicable to sanitary sewer plans and designs, including soil testing and site design standards for on-lot sewage disposal systems when applicable;

(g) standards and technical procedures applicable to water systems;

(h) standards and technical procedures applicable to solid waste disposal;

(i) adequate evidence that a proposed drainfield mixing zone and a proposed well isolation zone are located wholly within the boundaries of the proposed subdivision where the proposed drainfield or well is located or that an easement or, for public land, other authorization has been obtained from the landowner to place the proposed drainfield mixing zone or proposed well isolation zone outside the boundaries of the proposed subdivision where the proposed drainfield or proposed well is located.

(i) A proposed drainfield mixing zone or a proposed well isolation zone for an individual water system well that is a minimum of 50 feet inside the subdivision boundary may extend outside the boundaries of the subdivision onto adjoining land that is dedicated for use as a right-of-way for roads, railroads, or utilities.

(ii) This subsection (7)(i) does not apply to the divisions provided for in 76-3-207 except those under 76-3-207(1)(b). Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the extension, construction, or reconstruction of or other improvements to a public sewage system within a well isolation zone that extends onto land that is dedicated for use as a right-of-way for roads, railroads, or utilities.

(j) criteria for granting waivers and deviations from the standards and technical procedures adopted under subsections (7)(e) through (7)(i);

(k) evidence to establish that, if a public water supply system or a public sewage system is proposed, provision has been made for the system and, if other methods of water supply or sewage disposal are proposed, evidence that the systems will comply with state and local laws and regulations that are in effect at the time of submission of the subdivision application under this chapter. Evidence that the systems will comply with local laws and regulations must be in the form of a certification from the local health department as provided by department rule.

(l) evidence to demonstrate that appropriate easements, covenants, agreements, and management entities have been established to ensure the protection of human health and state waters and to ensure the long-term operation and maintenance of water supply, storm water drainage, and sewage disposal facilities;

(m) eligibility requirements for municipalities and county water and/or sewer districts to qualify as a certifying authority under the provisions of 76-4-127;

(n) construction details for individual and shared onsite wastewater systems to be reviewed by the local board of health at the time of septic permitting, except that the reviewing authority may require additional construction detail if the wastewater is not residential strength;

(o) simplified methods for storm water reviews, including acceptable minimum storm water volumes based solely on impervious area for proposed lots with one or two single-family residences; and

(p) a basis for exempting from review facilities previously approved under this chapter or by a local reviewing authority of the facility is not proposed to be changed, is not affected by a proposed change to another facility, and meets the design conditions of its existing approval under this chapter or by the local authority and is operating properly. Existing systems must meet the current setbacks established in rule and subsection (7)(i), unless the lot was created before the relevant effective dates for mixing zones and isolation zones.

(8) The requirements of subsection (7)(i) regarding proposed drainfield mixing zones and proposed well isolation zones apply to all subdivisions or divisions excluded from review under 76-4-125 created after October 1, 2021, except as provided in subsections (7)(i)(i) and (7)(i)(ii).

(9) The department shall:

(a) conduct a biennial review of experimental wastewater system components that have been granted a waiver or deviation as provided in subsection (7)(j);

(b) utilize relevant analysis of wastewater system components approved in other states and data from peer-reviewed third-party studies to conduct the review provided in subsection (9)(a);

(c) propose those experimental wastewater system components that meet the purposes and provisions of this part for adoption into the rules pursuant to this section; and

(d) report to the local government interim committee biennially, in accordance with 5-11-210, the number and type of experimental wastewater system components reviewed and the number and type of system components approved and provide written findings to explain why a system component was reviewed but not approved.

(10) Review and certification or denial of certification that a division of land is not subject to sanitary restrictions under this part may occur only under those rules in effect when a complete application is submitted to the reviewing authority, except that in cases in which current rules would preclude the use for which the lot was originally intended, the applicable requirements in effect at the time the lot was recorded must be applied. In the absence of specific requirements, minimum standards necessary to protect public health and water quality apply.

(11) The reviewing authority may not deny or condition a certificate of subdivision approval under this part unless it provides a written statement to the applicant detailing the circumstances of the denial or condition imposition. The statement must include:

(a) the reason for the denial or condition imposition;

(b) the evidence that justifies the denial or condition imposition; and

(c) information regarding the appeal process for the denial or condition imposition.

(12) (a) Subject to subsection (12)(b), the department may adopt rules that provide technical details and clarification regarding the water and sanitation information required to be submitted under 76-3-622.

(b) A subdivider may locate a water well anywhere on a lot, parcel, or tract of record if the subdivider maintains the minimum setback distances adopted in rule. The reviewing authority may not limit a subdivider to a single proposed well location.

(13) (a) The rules must provide for the review of subdivisions consistent with 76-4-114 by an independent reviewer if the department certifies under subsection (5) of this section that the independent reviewer is competent to conduct the review.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (13)(b)(ii), an independent reviewer may not review public water supply systems, public sewage systems, or extensions of or connections to these systems.

(ii) An independent reviewer may be certified by the department to review subdivisions proposed to connect to existing municipal or county water and/or sewer district water and wastewater systems previously approved by the department if no extension of the system is required.

(c) If 110 or more new files are submitted to the department for review in any 1 month, the department shall assign applications received in that month to independent reviewers unless an independent reviewer is not available.

(d) The department shall reimburse independent reviewers at the same rate the department reimburses local departments or local boards of health certified under subsection (4).

(14) Prior to being assigned an application for review, an independent reviewer shall identify any conflict of interest related to the project under potential review. If the independent reviewer identifies a conflict of interest, the application for review must be assigned to a different independent reviewer.

(15) An independent reviewer acting under the requirements of this chapter shall comply with the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, for public information requests.

(16) An independent reviewer conducting reviews under this section shall complete documents necessary to complete the review and to comply with:

(a) the Montana Environmental Policy Act provided for in Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3; and

(b) real property takings requirements in accordance with Title 70.

History: En. Sec. 152, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5005(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 378, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 471, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 195, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 261, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 49, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 419, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 611, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 673, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 3, Ch. 611, L. 2023, in (5)(a) near middle substituted "local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer" for "local department, or board of health"; inserted (5)(b) concerning prequalified independent reviewers; inserted (13) concerning the review of subdivisions by independent reviewer; inserted (14) concerning independent reviewers and conflicts of interest; inserted (15) concerning independent reviewer's compliance with public information requests; inserted (16) concerning documents completed by independent reviewer; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 673, L. 2023, in (12)(a) at beginning inserted exception clause; inserted (12)(b) concerning water well locations; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Section 3, Ch. 752, L. 2023, inserted (3) concerning storm drainage review requirements; inserted (7)(n) concerning rules for construction details of wastewater systems; inserted (7)(o) concerning rules for simplified methods for storm water reviews; inserted (7)(p) concerning exempting previously approved facilities; and made minor changes in style. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

2023 Amendment of Administrative Rule: Section 1, Ch. 239, L. 2023, directed the Department of Environmental Quality to amend ARM 17.36.328. See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2023. Effective April 24, 2023.

Direction to Department of Environmental Quality: Section 1, Ch. 518, L. 2023, provided: "The department of environmental quality, under its authority to promulgate rules pursuant to 75-5-305 and 76-4-104, shall amend the technical standards found in DEQ4 and all necessary administrative rules to allow for a new subsurface wastewater treatment system in an area that has been cut or filled.

(2) The amendments to DEQ4 and all necessary administrative rules required in subsection (1) must provide that soil testing conditions and 4 feet of natural soil separation to a limiting layer are required. Cut or fill may not be used to provide the required vertical or horizontal separation under rule or circular." Effective May 18, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-105. Subdivision fees — subdivision program funding. (1) The department shall adopt rules setting forth fees that do not exceed actual costs for reviewing plats and subdivisions, conducting inspections pursuant to 76-4-107, and conducting enforcement activities pursuant to 76-4-108. The rules must provide for a schedule of fees to be paid by the applicant to the department. The fees must be used for review of plats and subdivisions, conducting inspections pursuant to 76-4-107, and conducting enforcement activities pursuant to 76-4-108. The fees must be based on the complexity of the subdivision, including but not limited to:

(a) the number of lots in the subdivision;
(b) the type of water system to serve the development;
(c) the type of sewage disposal to serve the development; and
(d) the degree of environmental research necessary to supplement the review procedure.

(2) (a) Except as provided for in subsection (2)(b), for extensions requested by the department of the deadlines in 76-4-114, the department shall refund the applicant:

(i) for the first extension, 25% of the fees;
(ii) for the second extension, 50% of the fees; and
(iii) for the third extension, the remaining fees paid.

(b) Reimbursement is not required for extensions:

(i) requested by the applicant under 76-4-114(4); or
(ii) necessary under 76-4-114(5) to obtain the required information in 76-4-115(2).

(c) A reimbursement provided for in this subsection (2) applies only to the portions of the application review being completed by the department.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to determine the distribution of fees to the local reviewing authority for reviews conducted pursuant to 76-4-104, inspections conducted pursuant to 76-4-107, and enforcement activities conducted pursuant to 76-4-108.

(4) The local reviewing authority may establish a fee to review applications, conduct site visits, and review applicable exemptions under this chapter. The fee must be paid directly to the local reviewing authority and may not exceed the local reviewing authority's actual cost that is not otherwise reimbursed by the department from fees adopted pursuant to this section.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 152, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 1977; Sec. 69-5005, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; Sec. 69-5003, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(part), 69-5005(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 553, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 696, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 708, L. 1985; (5)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 708, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 645, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 514, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 419, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 611, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 611, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-106. Cooperation with other governmental agencies. (1) The reviewing authority may require the use of records of all state, county, and municipal agencies and may seek the assistance of those agencies.

(2) State, county, and municipal officers and employees, including local health officers and sanitarians, shall cooperate with the reviewing authority in furthering the purposes of this part so far as is practical and consistent with their own duties.

(3) A local reviewing authority without a registered sanitarian or a registered professional engineer to conduct a review under this part may contract with another local reviewing authority for the services of its registered sanitarian or registered professional engineer to conduct the review.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 490, L. 1985.

76-4-107. Authority to inspect and monitor — certification. (1) In order to carry out the objectives of this part, to monitor the installation of sewage disposal and water supply systems, and to prevent the occurrence of water pollution problems associated with subdivision development, the reviewing authority, whenever any water supply or sewage disposal system is proposed or has been constructed, may:

(a) enter any public or private property, at reasonable times and after presentation of appropriate credentials by an authorized representative of the reviewing authority, to inspect the system in order to ensure that the plans and specifications approved for the system have been adhered to and that the provisions of this part, rules, or orders are being satisfied;

(b) require as a condition of approval that records concerning the operation of a sewage disposal or water supply system be maintained or that monitoring equipment or wells be installed, used, and maintained for the collection of data related to water quality.

(2) The reviewing authority shall require certification from a registered professional engineer that a public water supply system or a public sewage disposal system required by rule to be designed by a registered professional engineer has been constructed according to approved plans and specifications.

History: En. 69-5010 by Sec. 1, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5010; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 80, L. 2019.

76-4-108. Enforcement. (1) If the reviewing authority has reason to believe that a violation of this part or a rule adopted or an order issued under this part has occurred, the reviewing authority may have written notice and an order served personally or by certified mail on the alleged violator or the alleged violator's agent. The notice must state the provision alleged to be violated, the facts alleged to constitute the violation, the corrective action required by the reviewing authority, and the time within which the action is to be taken. A notice and order issued by the department under this section may also assess an administrative penalty as provided in 76-4-109. The alleged violator may, no later than 30 days after service of a notice and order under this section, request a hearing before the local reviewing authority if it issued the notice of violation or the board if the department issued the notice of violation. A request for a hearing must be filed in writing with the appropriate entity and must state the reason for the request. If a request is filed, a hearing must be held within a reasonable time.

(2) In addition to or instead of issuing an order, the reviewing authority may initiate any other appropriate action to compel compliance with this part.

(3) The provisions of this part may be enforced by a reviewing authority other than the department or board only for those divisions described in 76-4-104(4). If a local reviewing authority fails to adequately enforce the provisions of this part, the department or the board may compel compliance with this part under the provisions of this section.

(4) When a local reviewing authority exercises the authority delegated to it by this section, the local reviewing authority is legally responsible for its actions under this part.

(5) If the department or a local reviewing authority determines that a violation of this part, a rule adopted under this part, or an order issued under this part has occurred, the department or the local reviewing authority may revoke its certificate of approval for the subdivision and reimpose sanitary restrictions following written notice to the alleged violator. Upon revocation of a certificate, the person aggrieved by revocation may request a hearing. A hearing request must be filed in writing within 30 days after receipt of the notice of revocation and must state the reason for the request. The hearing is before the board if the department revoked the certificate or before the local reviewing authority if the local reviewing authority revoked the certificate.

(6) The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5007; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 490, L. 1985; (5)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 79, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 443, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 752, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

76-4-109. Penalties. (1) A person who violates a provision of this part, except 76-4-122(1), or a rule adopted or an order issued under this part is guilty of an offense and subject to a fine in an amount not to exceed $1,000.

(2) (a) In addition to the fine specified in subsection (1), a person who violates any provision of this part or any rule adopted or order issued under this part is subject to an administrative penalty in an amount not to exceed $250 or a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $1,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(b) Penalties assessed under this subsection (2) must be determined in accordance with the penalty factors in 76-4-1001. An action to recover penalties must be brought in the district court of the county in which the violation occurred.

(3) Penalties imposed under subsection (1) or (2) do not bar enforcement of this part or rules or orders issued under it by injunction or other appropriate remedy.

(4) The purpose of this section is to provide additional and cumulative remedies.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5008(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 443, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 535, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Misdemeanor defined, 45-2-101.

76-4-110. Additional remedies available. This part does not abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in equity or under the common law or statutory law, criminal or civil, nor does any provision of this part or any act done by virtue of it estop the state, any municipality or other subdivision of the state, or any person in the exercise of the person's rights in equity or under the common law or statutory law.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5008(part); amd. Sec. 2520, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-4-111. Exemption for certain condominiums, townhomes, and townhouses. (1) Condominiums, townhomes, or townhouses, as those terms are defined in 70-23-102, constructed on land subdivided in compliance with parts 5 and 6 of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and this part are exempt from the provisions of this part.

(2) Whenever a parcel of land has previously been reviewed under either department requirements or local health requirements and has received approval for a given number of living units, duplexes, or commercial units, the construction or conversion of the same or a fewer number of condominium units, townhomes, or townhouses on that parcel is not subject to the provisions of this part, provided that, if a new extension of a public water supply system or extension of a public sewage system is required to serve the development, the department reviews and approves plans for the extension.

History: En. Sec. 149, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5002(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 592, L. 1985; (3)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 62, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 323, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 419, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Unit Ownership Act, Title 70, ch. 23.

76-4-112. Easements and restrictive covenants. (1) The reviewing authority may require the owner of a proposed subdivision to grant an easement or enter into a restrictive covenant pursuant to rules adopted by the department for the purpose of:

(a) ensuring the long-term operation and maintenance of water supply, storm water drainage, and sewage disposal facilities;

(b) protecting state waters; or

(c) prohibiting the placement of water wells within a ground water mixing zone.

(2) An easement or covenant required under this section must run with the land. The easement or covenant may be enforced by the reviewing authority. The easement or covenant may not be terminated without the consent of the reviewing authority.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 280, L. 2001.

76-4-113. Notification to purchasers. The developer or owner of an approved subdivision shall provide each purchaser of property within the subdivision with a copy of the plat or certificate of survey and the certificate of subdivision approval specifying the approved type and locations of water supply, storm water drainage, and sewage disposal facilities and information regarding connection to municipal, county water and/or sewer district, or regional authority facilities provided for under 76-4-130. Each subsequent seller of property within the subdivision shall include within the instruments of transfer a reference to the conditions of the certificate of subdivision approval. The seller of any lot recorded with the exemption in 76-4-125(1)(c) shall include within the instruments of transfer a reference to that exclusion and a statement that the lot has not been reviewed or approved under this part. A written verification of notice that is signed by both the seller and the purchaser and is recorded with the county clerk and recorder constitutes conclusive evidence of compliance with this section for that transaction.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 419, L. 2021.**

76-4-114. Review of application. Except as provided in 76-4-125, the applicant shall submit an application for review of a subdivision pursuant to the following procedure:

(1) An applicant may request a preapplication meeting with the reviewing authority prior to submitting an application. The reviewing authority shall schedule the requested meeting between the applicant and the reviewing authority within 30 days of receiving the request from the applicant. The meeting may be conducted in person, via telephone, or via teleconference. For informational purposes only, the reviewing agent shall identify the state laws and rules that may apply to the subdivision review process.

(2) If the proposed development includes onsite sewage disposal facilities, the applicant shall notify the designated agent of the local board of health prior to presenting the subdivision application to the reviewing authority. The agent may conduct a preliminary site assessment to determine whether the site meets applicable state and local requirements.

(3) (a) After submitting an application if required under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act, the applicant shall submit an application to the reviewing authority. A subdivision application is considered to be received on the date of delivery to the reviewing authority when accompanied by the review fee established pursuant to 76-4-105.

(b) Within 15 days of the receipt of an application, the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall determine whether the application contains the elements required by 76-4-115(1) to allow for review and shall notify the applicant of the determination. If the reviewing authority or independent reviewer determines that elements are missing from the application, the reviewing agent or agency shall identify those elements in the notification. The applicant shall address the missing elements identified by the reviewing authority or independent reviewer. A determination that an application contains the required elements for review as provided in this subsection (3)(b) does not ensure that the proposed subdivision will be approved and does not limit the ability of the reviewing authority or independent reviewer to request additional information during the review process.

(c) (i) After the reviewing authority or independent reviewer notifies the applicant that the application contains all of the required elements as provided by subsection (3)(b), the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall make a final decision or a recommendation on the application. Except as provided by subsection (4), the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall:

(A) make a final decision within 40 days of finding that the application contains all of the required elements if the reviewing authority is the department; or

(B) make a recommendation for approval to the department or deny the application within 30 days of finding that the application contains all of the required elements if the reviewing authority is a local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer. If the department receives a recommendation for approval of the subdivision from a local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer, the department shall make a final decision on the application within 10 days of receiving the recommendation.

(ii) If the department approves the application, the department shall issue a certificate of subdivision approval indicating that it has approved the plans and specifications and that the subdivision is not subject to a sanitary restriction.

(iii) If the reviewing authority or independent reviewer denies the application, the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall identify the deficiencies that result in the denial in a notification to the applicant. The reviewing authority may identify other apparent deficiencies in additional information submitted after the initial application.

(d) (i) If the reviewing authority or independent reviewer denies an application and the applicant resubmits a corrected application within 30 days after the date of the denial letter, the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall complete review of the resubmitted application within 30 days after receipt of the resubmitted application.

(ii) If the reviewing authority or independent reviewer denies an application and the applicant resubmits a corrected application after 30 days after the date of the denial letter, the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall complete review of the resubmitted application within:

(A) 55 days after receipt of the resubmitted application if the reviewing authority is the department; or

(B) 45 days after receipt of the resubmitted application if the reviewing authority is a local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer.

(iii) If the review of the resubmitted application is conducted by a local department, local board of health, or independent reviewer and the reviewing authority or independent reviewer makes a recommendation to the department for approval of the application, the department shall make a final decision on the application within 10 days after the local reviewing authority or independent reviewer completes its review under subsection (3)(d)(i) or (3)(d)(ii).

(4) Except as provided in subsections (6) and (7), if the reviewing authority or independent reviewer needs an extension of a deadline in this section to complete its review or if an applicant requests an extension of a deadline, then the reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall notify the applicant of the extension prior to the end of the review deadline. An extension under this subsection may not exceed 30 days.

(5) The reviewing authority or independent reviewer may extend a deadline in this section until the items required in 76-4-115(2) are submitted. The reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall notify the applicant of the extension before the end of the review deadline. The reviewing authority or independent reviewer shall make a final decision within 30 days of receipt of the items required in 76-4-115(2).

(6) The department may extend a deadline under subsections (3)(c) and (3)(d) by 90 days if an environmental assessment is required.

(7) The department may extend a deadline under subsections (3)(c) and (3)(d) by 120 days if an environmental impact statement is required.

(8) An application is considered an overdue application if the department has not provided a response or met the statutory timelines provided in this section.

(9) If a municipal system has been delegated review authority under 75-6-112, the department is not required to review water or sewer facilities that have already been approved by the municipality.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 611, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 611, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-115. Contents of application — supplemental information. (1) The application submitted under 76-4-114 must include preliminary plans and specifications for the proposed development, information required under rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, and any additional information the applicant feels necessary.

(2) In addition to the information required for the submission of the application under subsection (1), before the reviewing authority or independent reviewer makes a final decision on the application, the applicant shall provide:

(a) a copy of the certification from the local health department required by 76-4-104(7)(k);

(b) if required under Title 76, chapter 3, an approval from the local governing body under Title 76, chapter 3; and

(c) any public comments or summaries of public comments collected as provided in 76-3-604(7).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 611, L. 2023; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendments — Composite Section: Section 6, Ch. 611, L. 2023, in (2) near middle inserted "or independent reviewer". Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Section 5, Ch. 752, L. 2023, in (2)(a) at end substituted "76-4-104(7)(k)" for "76-4-104(6)(k)". Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-116. Annual and quarterly reports. (1) The department shall report annually to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210 summarizing the review procedures adopted under Title 76, chapter 4, and recommendations as to whether statutory changes should be made to the process.

(2) The department shall report quarterly to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210 the number and percentage of overdue files as provided in 76-4-114(8).

(3) (a) Before July 1, 2028, the department shall provide a comprehensive review of subdivision review procedures, including an analysis of the role of independent reviewers, delays in permit issuance, and permit outcomes. The department shall consider and collect input from stakeholders in preparing the comprehensive review.

(b) The department shall report to the environmental quality council the information provided in the comprehensive review required in subsection (3)(a). The environmental quality council may provide recommendations to the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 261, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 611, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 611, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-117 through 76-4-119 reserved.

76-4-120. Development plans — exceptions. (1) A reviewing authority may not approve a subdivision under this chapter that is subject to a development plan approved under 75-6-130 unless the subdivision is subject to the provisions of Title 76, chapter 3, and the governing body has required department certification before final plat approval pursuant to 76-3-507(5).

(2) A certifying authority may not certify that a division under 76-4-125(1)(d) will be served by adequate municipal facilities pursuant to a development plan approved under 75-6-130 unless the division is subject to the provisions of Title 76, chapter 3, and the governing body has required department certification before final plat approval pursuant to 76-3-507(5).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 353, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 8, Ch. 353, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 2, 2023.

76-4-121. Restrictions on subdivision activities. A person may not dispose of any lot within a subdivision, erect any facility for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or solid waste, erect any building or shelter in a subdivision that requires facilities for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or solid waste, or occupy any permanent buildings in a subdivision until:

(1) a certificate of subdivision approval has been issued pursuant to 76-4-114 indicating that the reviewing authority has approved the subdivision application and that the subdivision is not subject to a sanitary restriction;

(2) the certifying authority has provided certification pursuant to 76-4-127 that the subdivision will be provided with adequate municipal or county water and/or sewer district facilities and adequate storm water drainage; or

(3) the subdivision is otherwise exempt from review under 76-4-125.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(4); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 543, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 80, L. 2019.

76-4-122. Certain filings prohibited. (1) The county clerk and recorder may not file or record any plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration subject to review under this part showing a subdivision unless it complies with the provisions of this part.

(2) A county clerk and recorder may not accept a subdivision plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration subject to review under this part for filing until one of the following conditions has been met:

(a) the person wishing to file the plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration has obtained approval of the local health officer having jurisdiction and has filed the approval with the reviewing authority and a certificate of subdivision approval has been issued pursuant to 76-4-114 indicating that the reviewing authority has approved the subdivision application and that the subdivision is not subject to a sanitary restriction;

(b) the person wishing to file the plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration has obtained a certificate from the certifying authority pursuant to 76-4-127 that the subdivision will be provided with adequate municipal or county water and/or sewer district facilities and adequate storm water drainage; or

(c) the person wishing to file the plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration has placed on the plat, certificate of survey, or townhome, townhouse, or condominium declaration an acknowledged certification that the subdivision is exempt from review under this part. The certification must quote in its entirety the wording of the applicable exemption.

History: (1)En. Sec. 151, Ch. 197, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5004; (2)En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; Sec. 69-5003, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(7), 69-5004; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 599, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 80, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Classification of municipalities, 7-1-4111.

76-4-123. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 280, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(1); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 582, L. 1999.

76-4-124. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 280, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(2), (3); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 582, L. 1999.

76-4-125. Land divisions excluded from review. (1) A subdivision excluded from the provisions of chapter 3 must be submitted for review according to the provisions of this part, except that the following divisions or parcels, unless the exclusions are used to evade the provisions of this part, are not subject to review:

(a) the exclusions cited in 76-3-201 and 76-3-207(1)(f);

(b) divisions made for the purpose of acquiring additional land to become part of an approved parcel, provided that water or sewage disposal facilities may not be constructed on the additional acquired parcel and that the division does not fall within a previously platted or approved subdivision;

(c) divisions made for purposes other than the construction of water supply or sewage or solid waste disposal facilities as the department specifies by rule;

(d) as certified pursuant to 76-4-127:

(i) new divisions subject to review under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act;

(ii) divisions or previously divided parcels recorded with sanitary restrictions; or

(iii) divisions or previously divided parcels of land that are exempt from the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act review under 76-3-203 or 76-3-207(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(d), (1)(e), or (1)(f);

(e) subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a remainder of an original tract created by segregating a parcel from the tract for purposes of transfer if:

(i) the remainder is served by a public or multiple-user sewage system approved before January 1, 1997, pursuant to local regulations or this chapter; or

(ii) the remainder is 1 acre or larger and has an individual sewage system serving a discharge source that was in existence prior to April 29, 1993, and, if required when installed, the system was approved pursuant to local regulations or this chapter; and

(f) the sale of cabin or home sites as provided for and subject to the limitations in 77-2-318(2).

(2) Consistent with the applicable provisions of 50-2-116, a local health officer may require that, prior to the filing of a plat or a certificate of survey subject to review under this part for the parcel to be segregated from the remainder referenced in subsection (1)(e)(ii), the remainder include acreage or features sufficient to accommodate a replacement drainfield.

(3) A previously divided parcel that meets the eligibility criteria for an existing exemption from this part may use the exemption in lieu of obtaining a certificate of subdivision approval if the appropriate document, exemption certificate, certificate of survey, or subdivision plat filed with the county clerk and recorder cites the applicable exemption in its entirety.

(4) At the request of the owner, the original certificate of subdivision approval shall be reissued for a parcel previously approved under this part if:

(a) the parcel was subsequently divided without review and approval under this part; and

(b) the unapproved parcels are aggregated to return to the original divided parcel as originally approved.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(8), (10); amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 299, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 302, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 337, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 405, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 217, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 123, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 379, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 3, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 419, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 518, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 752, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 752, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

76-4-126. Right to hearing. (1) Upon a denial of approval of subdivision plans and specifications relating to environmental health facilities, the person who is aggrieved by the denial may request a hearing before the board. A hearing request must be filed, in writing, within 30 days after receipt of the notice of denial and must state the reason for the request. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to a hearing held under this section.

(2) If the grounds for a denial of approval under this part include noncompliance with local laws or regulations other than those adopting, pursuant to 50-2-116, state minimum standards for the control and disposal of sewage, the board shall upon receipt of a hearing request refer the local compliance issues to the appropriate local authority. After opportunity for a hearing, the local authority shall issue a determination regarding the local compliance issues, and the board shall incorporate the determination of the local authority in the board's final decision.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 509, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5006; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 79, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Contested case defined — applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-102.

76-4-127. Notice of certification that adequate storm water drainage and adequate municipal facilities will be provided. (1) To qualify for the exemption from review set out in 76-4-125(1)(d), the certifying authority shall send notice of certification to the reviewing authority that adequate storm water drainage and adequate municipal facilities will be provided for the subdivision. For a subdivision subject to Title 76, chapter 3, the certifying authority shall send notice of certification to the reviewing authority prior to final plat approval.

(2) The notice of certification must include the following:

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) a copy of the preliminary plat included with the application for the proposed subdivision or a final plat when a preliminary plat is not necessary or, for a subdivision not subject to Title 76, chapter 3, a copy of the certificate of survey map or amended plat map or a declaration and floor plan, including the layout of each unit proposed to be recorded under Title 70, chapter 23, part 3;

(c) the number of parcels in the subdivision;

(d) a copy of any applicable zoning ordinances in effect;

(e) how construction of the sewage disposal and water supply systems or extensions will be financed;

(f) the relative location of the subdivision to the city or the county water and/or sewer district boundaries of the certifying authority;

(g) certification that adequate municipal or county water and/or sewer district facilities for the supply of water and disposal of sewage and solid waste will be provided. Facilities for subdivisions subject to 76-3-507 must be provided within the time that section provides.

(h) if water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste, or storm water drainage facilities are not municipally owned, certification from the facility owners that adequate facilities will be available; and

(i) certification that the certifying authority has or will review and approve plans to ensure adequate storm water drainage.

(3) A municipality may be authorized to act as a reviewing authority under this section and may self-approve the municipality's own exemption.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(part); amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 592, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 582, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 599, L. 2003; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 433, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 344, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 371, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 611, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 611, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Applicability: Section 11, Ch. 611, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to applications received on or after January 1, 2024."

76-4-128. Repealed. Sec. 15, Ch. 280, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 152, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 557, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5005(5); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 553, L. 1981.

76-4-129. Joint application form and concurrent review. The review required by this part and the provisions of chapter 3 may occur concurrently subject to the requirements of 76-4-115.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(11); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 236, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 274, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 419, L. 2021.

76-4-130. Deviation from certificate of subdivision approval. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person may not construct or use a facility that deviates from the certificate of subdivision approval until the reviewing authority has approved the deviation.

(2) A person may deviate from the certificate of subdivision approval without approval by the reviewing authority if the deviation consists solely of connecting to municipal, county water and/or sewer district, or regional authority facilities in place of previously approved facilities. The department may require notification when a person connects to municipal, county water and/or sewer district, or regional authority facilities.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(9); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 490, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 419, L. 2021.

76-4-131. Applicability of public water supply laws. An exclusion provided for in this part does not relieve any person of the duty to comply with the requirements of Title 75, chapter 6. An extension of a public water supply system or an extension of a public sewage system to serve a subdivision must be reviewed in accordance with the provisions of Title 75, chapter 6.

History: En. Sec. 150, Ch. 197, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 509, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 140, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 554, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 69-5003(6); amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 80, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 419, L. 2021.

76-4-132. Special revenue account — deposit and use of fees. (1) All fees collected by the department under 76-4-105 must be deposited in an account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) Funds in the account established in subsection (1) may be used only as provided in 76-4-105.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 514, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 280, L. 2001.

76-4-133. Installation inspection. A person who owns or controls a parcel of land that has been approved under this chapter for the installation of an individual, shared, or multiple-user sewage system shall:

(1) have the system inspected during installation by the local health officer, as defined in 50-1-101, or by the installer or other person designated by the local health officer; and

(2) file with the local board of health a certification by the inspector that the system has been installed in compliance with the certificate of subdivision approval and any conditions of approval.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 280, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 150, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 80, L. 2019.

76-4-134. Owner request for review. The department may review any parcel of land submitted for review by the owner of the parcel to determine whether the parcel may be developed with water and wastewater systems and to provide adequate solid waste disposal and storm water management. Upon making the determinations, the department may issue a certificate of subdivision approval for the parcel.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 2009.

76-4-135. State regulations no more stringent than federal regulations or guidelines. (1) After April 14, 1995, except as provided in subsections (2) through (5) or unless required by state law, the department may not adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than the comparable federal regulations or guidelines that address the same circumstances. The department may incorporate by reference comparable federal regulations or guidelines.

(2) The department may adopt a rule to implement this chapter that is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines only if the department makes a written finding after a public hearing and public comment and based on evidence in the record that:

(a) the proposed state standard or requirement protects public health or the environment of the state; and

(b) the state standard or requirement to be imposed can mitigate harm to the public health or environment and is achievable under current technology.

(3) The written finding must reference information and peer-reviewed scientific studies contained in the record that forms the basis for the department's conclusion. The written finding must also include information from the hearing record regarding the costs to the regulated community that are directly attributable to the proposed state standard or requirement.

(4) (a) A person affected by a rule of the department adopted after January 1, 1990, and before April 14, 1995, that that person believes to be more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines may petition the department to review the rule. If the department determines that the rule is more stringent than comparable federal regulations or guidelines, the department shall comply with this section by either revising the rule to conform to the federal regulations or guidelines or by making the written finding, as provided under subsection (2), within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months after receiving the petition. A petition under this section does not relieve the petitioner of the duty to comply with the challenged rule. The department may charge a petition filing fee in an amount not to exceed $250.

(b) A person may also petition the department for a rule review under subsection (4)(a) if the department adopts a rule after January 1, 1990, in an area in which no federal regulations or guidelines existed and the federal government subsequently establishes comparable regulations or guidelines that are less stringent than the previously adopted department rule.

(5) This section does not apply to a rule adopted under the emergency rulemaking provisions of 2-4-303(1).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 471, L. 1995.

76-4-136. Exemption from environmental review — rulemaking. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when reviewing applications under this part for subdivisions that:

(a) are located 2 or more miles from high-quality waters, as defined in 75-5-103;

(b) include 14 or fewer single-family residential subdivision lots;

(c) include wastewater systems that meet nonsignificance criteria established in rule; and

(d) demonstrate full compliance with the acquisition of necessary water rights and water availability.

(2) The exemption provided for in subsection (1) does not apply to subdivision applications that expand or are adjacent to projects exempted from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, after May 2, 2023.

(3) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 354, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 2, 2023.

Parts 2 through 9 reserved

Part 10
Penalties, Fees, and Interest

76-4-1001. Penalty factors. (1) In determining the amount of an administrative or civil penalty to which subsection (4) applies, the department of environmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, shall take into account the following factors:

(a) the nature, extent, and gravity of the violation;

(b) the circumstances of the violation;

(c) the violator's prior history of any violation, which:

(i) must be a violation of a requirement under the authority of the same chapter and part as the violation for which the penalty is being assessed;

(ii) must be documented in an administrative order or a judicial order or judgment issued within 3 years prior to the date of the occurrence of the violation for which the penalty is being assessed; and

(iii) may not, at the time that the penalty is being assessed, be undergoing or subject to administrative appeal or judicial review;

(d) the economic benefit or savings resulting from the violator's action;

(e) the violator's good faith and cooperation;

(f) the amounts voluntarily expended by the violator, beyond what is required by law or order, to address or mitigate the violation or impacts of the violation; and

(g) other matters that justice may require.

(2) After the amount of a penalty is determined under subsection (1), the department of environmental quality or the district court, as appropriate, may consider the violator's financial ability to pay the penalty and may institute a payment schedule or suspend all or a portion of the penalty.

(3) The department of environmental quality may accept a supplemental environmental project as mitigation for a portion of the penalty. For purposes of this section, a "supplemental environmental project" is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action but which the violator is not otherwise legally required to perform.

(4) This section applies to penalties assessed by the department of environmental quality or the district court under Title 75, chapters 2, 5, 6, 11, and 20; Title 75, chapter 10, parts 2, 4, 5, and 12; and Title 76, chapter 4.

(5) The department of environmental quality may adopt rules to implement this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 487, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 324, L. 2021.**

76-4-1002. Collection of penalties, fees, late fees, and interest. (1) If the department of environmental quality is unable to collect penalties, fees, late fees, or interest assessed pursuant to the provisions of Title 75 or Title 76, chapter 4, the department of environmental quality may assign the debt to a collection service or transfer the debt to the department of revenue pursuant to Title 17, chapter 4, part 1.

(2) (a) The reasonable collection costs of a collection service, if approved by the department of environmental quality, or assistance costs charged the department of environmental quality by the department of revenue pursuant to 17-4-103(3) may be added to the debt for which collection is being sought.

(b) (i) All money collected by the department of revenue is subject to the provisions of 17-4-106.

(ii) All money collected by a collection service must be paid to the department of environmental quality and deposited in the general fund or the accounts specified in statute for the assessed penalties, fees, late fees, or interest, except that the collection service may retain those collection costs or, if the total debt is not collected, that portion of collection costs that are approved by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 487, L. 2005.**

Part 11
Out-of-State Sales of In-State Subdivisions
(Repealed)

76-4-1101. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: (1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 191, L. 1963; Sec. 67-2109, R.C.M. 1947; (2) thru (4)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 321, Ch. 350, L. 1974; Sec. 67-2101, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2101, 67-2109; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 497, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

76-4-1102. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 322, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2102.

76-4-1103. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 323, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2103(1).

76-4-1104. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 323, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2103(2).

76-4-1105. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 191, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2104.

76-4-1106. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 324, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2105.

76-4-1107. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 325, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2106(part).

76-4-1108. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 325, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2106(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

76-4-1109. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 326, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2107.

76-4-1110. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 330, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2113.

76-4-1111. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 329, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2112.

76-4-1112. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 191, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2111.

76-4-1113. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 328, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2110.

76-4-1114. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 327, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2108.

76-4-1115. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 332, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2116; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-4-1116. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 191, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 331, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2114.

76-4-1117. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 170, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 191, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2115; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

Part 12
In-State Sales of Out-of-State Subdivisions
(Repealed)

76-4-1201. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2136.

76-4-1202. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 333, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2117; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 497, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1981.

76-4-1203. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 2, 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 334, 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2118(part), 67-2126(1); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 497, L. 1979.

76-4-1204. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2126(4).

76-4-1205. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2126(6).

76-4-1206. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 10, 11, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 340, 341, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2126(5)(b), 67-2127(1).

76-4-1207. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 341, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2127(2), (3).

76-4-1208. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 341, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2127(part).

76-4-1209. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 341, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2127(part).

76-4-1210. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 341, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2127(part).

76-4-1211. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 334, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2118(part).

76-4-1212. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 334, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2118(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

76-4-1213. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 2, 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 334, 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2118(part), 67-2126(5)(c); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

76-4-1214 through 76-4-1220 reserved.

76-4-1221. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2119(part).

76-4-1222. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2119(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 351, L. 1979.

76-4-1223. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2119(part).

76-4-1224. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2119(part).

76-4-1225. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2126(7).

76-4-1226. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2120.

76-4-1227. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 5, 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(part), 67-2126(5)(a).

76-4-1228. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(1)(b), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l).

76-4-1229. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(1)(d), (e).

76-4-1230. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(1)(a), (c), (m), (n), (o).

76-4-1231. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(2).

76-4-1232. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 335, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2121(3).

76-4-1233. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 336, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2122(1).

76-4-1234. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Secs. 6, 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 336, 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2122(2), 67-2126(2).

76-4-1235. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 336, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2122(3).

76-4-1236. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 337, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2123.

76-4-1237. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 338, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2124(part).

76-4-1238. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 338, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2124(part).

76-4-1239. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 338, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2124(4).

76-4-1240. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 339, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2125.

76-4-1241. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 342, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2128(1).

76-4-1242. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 342, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2128(2).

76-4-1243. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 343, Ch. 350, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2129.

76-4-1244. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 340, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2126(3).

76-4-1245. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2131; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-4-1246. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2134.

76-4-1247. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2132(a), (b), (e).

76-4-1248. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2132(c), (d).

76-4-1249. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2132(f).

76-4-1250. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 97, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2133.

76-4-1251. Repealed. Sec. 46, Ch. 481, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 97, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 344, Ch. 350, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 67-2135.

CHAPTER 5
FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOODWAY MANAGEMENT

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Chapter Cross-References

Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Flood control by water and sewer districts, 7-13-2218.
Flood Control Act of 1954 — distribution of revenue to counties, 17-3-231, 17-3-232.
Easements relating to flooding, 70-17-101.
Application of The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975, 75-7-105.
Renewable resource development program — flood control, 85-1-602.
Flood control by conservancy districts, 85-9-102.

Part 1
General Provisions

76-5-101. Findings. The people of the state of Montana find that:

(1) recurrent flooding of a portion of the state's land resources causes loss of life, damage to property, disruption of commerce and governmental services, and unsanitary conditions; all of which are detrimental to the health, safety, welfare, and property of the occupants of flooded lands and the people of this state; and

(2) the public interest necessitates management and regulation of flood-prone lands and waters in a manner consistent with sound land and water use management practices which will prevent and alleviate flooding threats to life and health and reduce private and public economic losses.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3501.

76-5-102. Policy and purposes. (1) The policy and purposes of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter are to:

(a) guide development of the floodway areas of this state consistent with the enumerated findings;

(b) recognize the right and need of watercourses to periodically carry more than the normal flow of water;

(c) provide state coordination and technical assistance to local units in management of floodway areas;

(d) coordinate federal, state, and local management activities for floodway areas;

(e) encourage local governmental units to manage flood-prone lands, including the adoption, enforcement, and administration of land use regulations; and

(f) provide the department of natural resources and conservation with authority necessary to carry out a comprehensive floodway management program for the state.

(2) Specifically, it is the purpose of parts 1 through 4 to:

(a) restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health or safety of property in times of flood or that cause increased flood heights or velocities;

(b) require that uses vulnerable to floods, including public facilities that serve the uses, be provided with flood protection at the time of initial construction;

(c) develop and provide information to identify lands that are unsuited for certain development purposes because of flood hazard;

(d) distinguish between the land use regulations applied to the designated floodway and those applied to that portion of the designated flood plain not contained within the designated floodway;

(e) apply more restrictive land use regulations within the designated floodway;

(f) ensure that regulations and minimum standards adopted under parts 1 through 4, insofar as possible, balance the greatest public good with the least private injury.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3502; amd. Sec. 241, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-103. Definitions. As used in parts 1 through 4 of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Artificial obstruction" means any obstruction that is not a natural obstruction and includes any dam, wall, riprap, embankment, levee, dike, pile, abutment, projection, revetment, excavation, channel rectification, bridge, conduit, culvert, building, refuse, automobile body, fill, or other analogous structure or matter in, along, across, or projecting into any flood plain or floodway that may impede, retard, or change the direction of the flow of water, either in itself or by catching or collecting debris carried by the water, or that is placed where the natural flow of the water would carry the same downstream to the damage or detriment of either life or property.

(2) "Channel" means the geographical area within either the natural or artificial banks of a watercourse or drainway.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(4) "Designated flood plain" means a flood plain whose limits have been designated pursuant to part 2 of this chapter.

(5) "Designated floodway" means a floodway whose limits have been designated pursuant to part 2 of this chapter.

(6) "Drainway" means any depression 2 feet or more below the surrounding land serving to give direction to a current of water less than 9 months of the year and having a bed and well-defined banks.

(7) "Establish" means construct, place, insert, or excavate.

(8) "Flood" means the water of any watercourse or drainway that is above the bank or outside the channel and banks of the watercourse or drainway.

(9) "Flood of 100-year frequency" means a flood magnitude expected to recur on the average of once every 100 years or a flood magnitude that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

(10) "Flood plain" means the area adjoining the watercourse or drainway that would be covered by the floodwater of a flood of 100-year frequency, except for sheetflood areas that receive less than 1 foot of water per occurrence and are considered "zone B" or a "shaded X zone" by the federal emergency management agency.

(11) "Floodway" means the channel of a watercourse or drainway and those portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel that are reasonably required to carry and discharge the floodwater of any watercourse or drainway.

(12) "Natural obstruction" means any rock, tree, gravel, or analogous natural matter that is an obstruction and has been located within the flood plain or floodway by a nonhuman cause.

(13) "Owner" means any person who has dominion over, control of, or title to an obstruction.

(14) "Political subdivision" means any incorporated city or town or any county organized and having authority to adopt and enforce land use regulations.

(15) "Responsible political subdivision" means a political subdivision that has enacted land use regulations in accordance with parts 1 through 4.

(16) (a) "Watercourse" means any depression 2 feet or more below the surrounding land serving to give direction to a current of water at least 9 months of the year and having a bed and well-defined banks.

(b) Upon order of the department, the term also includes any particular depression that would not otherwise be within the definition of watercourse.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3503(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 428, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 242, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 2009.**

76-5-104. Presumption that depression is watercourse. In the event of doubt as to whether a depression is a watercourse or drainway, it shall be presumed to be a watercourse.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3503(part).**

76-5-105. Authority to enter and investigate lands or waters. (1) The department or the responsible political subdivision may make reasonable entry upon any lands and waters in the state for the purpose of making an investigation, survey, removal, or repair contemplated by parts 1 through 4 of this chapter. Unless written consent is obtained, however, the department or the responsible political subdivision shall provide written notice of its entry by personal delivery to the owner, owner's agent, lessee, or lessee's agent whose lands will be entered. If none of these persons can be found, the department or the responsible political subdivision shall affix a copy of the notice to one or more conspicuous places on the property.

(2) An investigation of a natural or artificial obstruction or nonconforming use shall be made by the department or the responsible political subdivision either on its own initiative, on the written request of three titleholders of land abutting the watercourse or drainway involved, or on the written request of a political subdivision. Upon the request of an owner, owner's agent, lessee, or lessee's agent whose lands will be entered to undertake the investigation, the department or the responsible political subdivision shall release the names and addresses of the persons or political subdivision requesting the investigation.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3509; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 382, L. 1985.**

76-5-106. Exemption for small drainage area. Parts 1 through 4 of this chapter do not extend to any obstruction in the flood plain or floodway of a watercourse or drainway where the drainage area above the watercourse or drainway, either within or outside the state, is less than 25 square miles in extent unless a particular watercourse or drainway is expressly declared to be within the coverage of parts 1 through 4 by order of the department.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3510; amd. Sec. 243, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-107. Federal supremacy. Parts 1 through 4 do not interfere with the right of the United States to regulate interstate commerce or the navigable waters of the United States.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3514(part).

76-5-108. Permit construed as added requirement. The granting of a permit under parts 1 through 4 of this chapter does not affect any other type of approval required by any other statute or ordinance of the state, of any political subdivision, or of the United States but is an added requirement.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3514(part).

76-5-109. Other legal remedies preserved — immunity. (1) The grant or denial of a permit does not have an effect on a remedy of a person at law or in equity.

(2) When it is shown that there is a wrongful failure to comply with parts 1 through 4 of this chapter, there is a rebuttable presumption that the obstruction was the proximate cause of the flooding of the land of a person bringing suit.

(3) The use of any one of the remedies or powers given to the department in parts 1 through 4 is not a bar to the exercise of any other remedy or power given by parts 1 through 4.

(4) An action for damages sustained because of injury caused by an obstruction for which a permit has been granted under parts 1 through 4 may not be brought against the state or the department.

History: (1), (2), (4)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1977; Sec. 89-3514, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 15, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 205, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 89-3515, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3514(part), 89-3515; amd. Sec. 244, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-110. Penalties for violation. Any person who violates 76-5-401 through 76-5-404 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than $100 or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 10 days or be both so fined and imprisoned. Each day's continuance of a violation shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 393, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3513.

Part 2
Role of State Agencies

76-5-201. Program for delineation of flood plains and floodways. (1) The department shall initiate a comprehensive program for the delineation of designated flood plains and designated floodways for each watercourse and drainway in the state. It shall make a study relating to the acquiring of flood data and may enter into arrangements with the United States geological survey, the United States army corps of engineers, or any other state or federal agency for the acquisition of data.

(2) Before the department establishes by order a designated flood plain or a designated floodway, the department shall consult with the affected political subdivisions. Consultation must include but is not limited to the following:

(a) specifically requesting that the political subdivisions submit pertinent data concerning flood hazards, including flooding experiences, plans to avoid potential hazards, estimates of economic impacts of flooding on the community, both historical and prospective, and other data that is considered appropriate;

(b) notifying local officials, including members of the county commission, city council, and planning board, of the progress of surveys, studies, and investigations and of proposed findings, along with information concerning data and methods employed in reaching conclusions; and

(c) encouraging local dissemination of information concerning surveys, studies, and investigations so that interested persons will have an opportunity to bring relevant data to the attention of the department.

(3) Nothing in this part precludes a political subdivision from designating by ordinance or resolution, without prior state designation, flood plains and floodways as designated by the United States federal emergency management agency and as necessary for compliance with the national flood insurance program if the department determines the designation is in compliance with parts 1 through 4 of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(1); amd. Sec. 245, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 113, L. 2009.

76-5-202. Designation of flood plains and floodways. (1) When sufficient data has been acquired by the department, the department shall establish, by order after a public hearing, the designated flood plain within which a political subdivision may establish land use regulation.

(2) When sufficient data has been acquired, the department shall establish, by order after a public hearing, the designated floodway within which a political subdivision may establish land use regulation.

(3) These designations must be based upon reasonable hydrological certainty. Designations made according to a flood hazard boundary map prepared by the federal emergency management agency have a rebuttable presumption of reasonable hydrological certainty.

(4) The department shall record all designated flood plains or designated floodways in the office of the county clerk and recorder of each county in which those flood plains or floodways are found.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 246, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-203. Alteration of flood plains or floodways. The department may alter the flood plains or floodways at any later time, by order after a public hearing, if a reevaluation of the then available flood data warrants it.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(part); amd. Sec. 247, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-204. What constitutes notice. Notice of a hearing or order of the department establishing or altering the flood plains or floodways must be given by publishing the notice once each week for 3 consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper published or of general circulation in the area involved. The last publication of the notice may not be less than 10 days prior to the date set for the hearing or the effective date of the order.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(part); amd. Sec. 248, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-205. Furnishing of material to local governments. (1) When the designated flood plain or the designated floodway has been established, the department shall furnish this data to officials of the political subdivision having jurisdiction over those areas, together with a map outlining the areas involved, a copy of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter, adopted rules of the department, and suggested minimum standards adopted by the department.

(2) These standards and rules must reflect gradations in flood hazard based on criteria as outlined in 76-5-406. In adopting these standards and rules, the department shall consider local input from the affected political subdivisions.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(part); amd. Sec. 249, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-206. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 253, L. 974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3508; amd. Sec. 250, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-207. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 203, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3512.

76-5-208. Orders and rules. (1) The department may adopt orders and rules to implement parts 1 through 4 of this chapter. All orders and rules must be on file at the offices of the department and in the office of the county clerk and recorder of each county affected by the order or rule.

(2) In addition to any requirement imposed by 76-5-202 through 76-5-205, the department shall provide notice by mail to the titleholder of land adjacent to a watercourse or drainway that would be specifically affected by a proposed order. The notice must be provided at least 10 days prior to a hearing, if one is required, or at least 10 days prior to the effective date of the order if a hearing is not required.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3511(part); amd. Sec. 251, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 23, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules under Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

76-5-209. Appeal from order. (1) A person aggrieved by any order of the department issued under parts 1 through 4 of this chapter may appeal from the order to a court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the order's effective date. Service of notice of the appeal must be made upon the department.

(2) If an appeal is taken, enforcement of the order is stayed pending the outcome of the appeal.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3511(part); amd. Sec. 252, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Contested cases under Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 6.

Part 3
Role of Local Government

Part Cross-References

Flood Control Act of 1954 — distribution of revenue to counties, 17-3-231, 17-3-232.

76-5-301. Land use regulations. (1) Upon transmittal of the flood plain information to officials of a political subdivision, the political subdivision has 6 months from the date of transmittal to adopt land use regulations that meet or exceed the minimum standards of the department. The regulations may include, for the purposes of flood plain management only, flood plain management regulations within sheetflood areas as determined by the federal emergency management agency.

(2) If within the 6-month period the political subdivision has failed to adopt the land use regulations, the department shall enforce the minimum standards within the designated flood plain or the designated floodway as established by the department under 76-5-202 through 76-5-205, and an artificial obstruction or nonconforming use may not be established by any person within the designated flood plain or the designated floodway unless specifically authorized by the department.

(3) A political subdivision that has failed to adopt land use regulations that meet or exceed the minimum standards of the department within the 6-month period may subsequently adopt regulations, and if approved by the department, the regulations are effective within the designated flood plain or floodway and must be administered and enforced by the political subdivision.

(4) When necessary for compliance with federal flood insurance requirements, the department may shorten the 6-month period upon notification to the political subdivision and publication of a notice of the revised period in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area once a week for 3 consecutive weeks.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 262, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3504(3) thru (5); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 74, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 253, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-5-302. Substitution of local control for state permit system. (1) If a political subdivision enacts, in harmony with the purposes of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter, permit issuance ordinances, regulations, or resolutions and land use ordinances, regulations, or resolutions that meet or exceed the minimum standards of the department and if the administrative and enforcement procedures established for those ordinances, regulations, or resolutions are found acceptable by the department, a permit from the department is not required.

(2) However, if the department determines that there is a failure by a political subdivision to comply with the intent, purposes, and provisions of parts 1 through 4 and the minimum standards adopted under parts 1 through 4, the powers of the political subdivision may be suspended after hearing and the minimum standards adopted by the department must be enforced by the department until the department determines that the political subdivision will comply.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 204, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 271, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 73, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3514(part); amd. Sec. 254, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

Part 4
Use of Flood Plains and Floodways

Part Cross-References

Easements relating to flooding, 70-17-101.

76-5-401. Permissible open-space uses. The following open-space uses are permitted within the designated floodway to the extent that they are not prohibited by any other ordinance or statute and provided they do not require structures other than portable structures, fill, or permanent storage of materials or equipment:

(1) agricultural uses;

(2) industrial-commercial uses such as loading areas, parking areas, or emergency landing strips;

(3) private and public recreational uses such as golf courses, tennis courts, driving ranges, archery ranges, picnic grounds, boat launching ramps, swimming areas, parks, wildlife management and natural areas, alternative livestock ranches, fish hatcheries, shooting preserves, target ranges, trap and skeet ranges, hunting and fishing areas, or hiking and horseback riding trails;

(4) forestry, including processing of forest products with portable equipment;

(5) residential uses such as lawns, gardens, parking areas, and play areas;

(6) excavations subject to the issuance of a permit under 76-5-405 and 76-5-406.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3506(2); amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 7, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Recreational use of flood control channel prohibited, 23-2-301, 23-2-302.

76-5-402. Permissible uses within flood plain but outside floodway. Permits must be granted for the following uses within that portion of the flood plain not contained within the designated floodway to the extent that they are not prohibited by any other ordinance, regulation, or statute:

(1) any use permitted in the designated floodway;

(2) structures, including but not limited to residential, commercial, and industrial structures, provided that:

(a) the structures meet the minimum standards adopted by the department;

(b) residential structures are constructed so that the lowest floor elevation, including basements, is 2 feet above the 100-year flood elevation;

(c) commercial and industrial structures are either constructed as specified in subsection (2)(b) or are adequately floodproofed up to an elevation no lower than 2 feet above the 100-year flood elevation. The floodproofing must be in accordance with the minimum standards adopted by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3506(3); amd. Sec. 255, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 2009.**

76-5-403. Prohibited uses within floodway. The following nonconforming uses shall be prohibited within the designated floodway:

(1) a building for living purposes or place of assembly or permanent use by human beings;

(2) a structure or excavation that will cause water to be diverted from the established floodway, cause erosion, obstruct the natural flow of water, or reduce the carrying capacity of the floodway;

(3) the construction or permanent storage of an object subject to flotation or movement during flood level periods.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3506(4).**

Cross-References

Recreational use of flood control channel prohibited, 23-2-301, 23-2-302.

76-5-404. Artificial obstructions and nonconforming uses. (1) An artificial obstruction or nonconforming use in a designated flood plain or designated floodway enforced under 76-5-301(1) and (2) and not exempt under 76-5-401 through 76-5-403 or subsection (2) or (3) of this section is a public nuisance unless a permit has been obtained for the artificial obstruction or nonconforming use from the department or the responsible political subdivision.

(2) It is unlawful for a person to establish an artificial obstruction or nonconforming use within a designated flood plain or a designated floodway without a permit from the department or the responsible political subdivision.

(3) (a) Parts 1 through 4 of this chapter do not affect any existing artificial obstruction or nonconforming use established in the designated flood plain or designated floodway before the land use regulations adopted by the political subdivision are effective or before the department has enforced a designated flood plain or a designated floodway under 76-5-301(1) and (2).

(b) However, a person may not make nor may an owner allow alterations of an artificial obstruction or nonconforming use within a designated flood plain or a designated floodway whether the obstruction proposed for alteration was located in the flood plain or floodway before or after July 1, 1971, except upon express written approval of the department or the responsible political subdivision. Maintenance of an obstruction is not an alteration.

History: **En. Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 294, L. 1973; amd. Secs. 197, 198, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Secs. 4, 5, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3505, 89-3506(1); amd. Sec. 256, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

76-5-405. Variance for obstruction or nonconforming use. (1) The department or the responsible political subdivision may issue permits for the establishment or alteration of artificial obstructions and nonconforming uses that would otherwise violate 76-5-401 through 76-5-404. The application for the permit must be submitted to the department or the responsible political subdivision and contain the information that the department requires, including complete maps, plans, profiles, and specifications of the obstruction or use and watercourse or drainway.

(2) Permits for obstructions or uses to be established in the designated flood plain or designated floodway of watercourses must be approved or denied within a reasonable time by the department or the responsible political subdivision. Permits for obstructions or uses in the designated flood plains or designated floodways are conclusively considered to have been granted 60 days after the receipt of the application by the department or the responsible political subdivision or after a time that the department or the responsible political subdivision specifies, unless the department or the responsible political subdivision notifies the applicant that the permit is denied. The responsible political subdivision shall send to the department a copy of each permit granted pursuant to 76-5-406 and this section.

(3) The department or the responsible political subdivision may issue the permit with reasonable conditions. The permitted obstruction or use must be maintained in compliance with the permit.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3507(part); amd. Sec. 257, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, L. 2011.**

76-5-406. Criteria to be considered in connection with variance request. In passing upon the application, the department or the responsible political subdivision shall consider in accordance with the minimum standards established by the department:

(1) the danger to life and property by water that may be backed up or diverted by the obstruction or use;

(2) the danger that the obstruction or use will be swept downstream to the injury of others;

(3) the availability of alternate locations;

(4) the construction or alteration of the obstruction or use in such a manner as to lessen the danger;

(5) the permanence of the obstruction or use;

(6) the anticipated development in the foreseeable future of the area that may be affected by the obstruction or use; and

(7) other factors in harmony with the purpose of parts 1 through 4 of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 393, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 271, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3507(part); amd. Sec. 258, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

Parts 5 through 10 reserved

Part 11
Water Conservation and Flood Control Projects

Part Cross-References

Flood Control Act of 1954 — distribution of revenue to counties, 17-3-231, 17-3-232.

Eminent domain for flooding from construction of dam, 70-30-104.

Flood control function of conservancy districts, 85-9-102.

76-5-1101. Water conservation and flood control projects authorized. (1) Cities, towns, or counties, through their councils, boards of county commissioners, or other governing body, are hereby empowered, either individually or jointly, to engage or participate in the establishment of water conservation and flood control projects within the limits of such city, town, or county:

(a) for the protection or reclamation of property situated therein from floods or high waters and to protect property therein from the effects of floodwater; and

(b) for the conservation, development, storage, distribution, drainage, and utilization of water for purposes beneficial to the district.

(2) Purposes beneficial to the district include but are not limited to industrial and municipal water supply, recreation and wildlife, irrigation, streamflow stabilization, household and domestic use, and pollution abatement whenever the establishment of such a water conservation and flood control system shall, in the judgment of the city council, board of county commissioners, or other governing body, be conducive to public convenience and welfare.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3301(part).**

76-5-1102. Types of projects. Such cities, towns, or counties in accordance with the provisions of this part, individually, jointly, or severally or in cooperation with the federal or state government or any department or agency thereof and with each other, may deepen, widen, straighten, alter, change, divert, or otherwise improve the watercourses within or without their limits by constructing levees, dikes, embankments, structures, impounding reservoirs, or conduits and improve, widen, and establish streets, alleys, and boulevards across and adjacent to the abandoned or new channel or conduit and provide for the payment of the cost and maintenance of such project or projects under the terms of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3301(part).**

76-5-1103. Water conservation and flood control activities declared public purpose. Such water conservation and flood control activities and their establishment, construction, operation, and maintenance as authorized by this part are declared to be for the protection of the tax base of the city, town, or county; for the protection of public roads, lands, and improvements; for the protection of the public health, sanitation, and safety; and for improvement of the general welfare.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3302.**

76-5-1104. Construction of part. (1) This part and each section thereof shall be construed as granting additional power without limiting the power already existing in cities, towns, and counties.

(2) The provisions of this part and the methods of organization of water conservation and flood control projects are hereby declared to be an alternative method to any other method proposed by any law now in existence or hereafter enacted for the creation of such projects, and

it is hereby declared that no provision hereof shall be amended or repealed by implication or otherwise as being in conflict with any existing law or future enactment unless specifically so declared by the legislature.

History: (1)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 272, L. 1965; Sec. 89-3313, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 284, L. 1967; Sec. 89-3314, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3313, 89-3314.

76-5-1105. Division of work into parts. Whenever any city, town, or county has begun a water conservation or flood control system, or both, under this part, the council, board, or other governing body shall have the power to divide the work into parts, sections, or districts; to omit parts of said work; and to contract for any part or section separately and proceed therewith the same as if the entire work or improvements were contracted for, done, or made.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3311.

76-5-1106. Requirements to change project boundaries — election. The boundaries of a project once established may not be extended without approval by a majority of the electors residing in the area proposed to be annexed. The election must be held in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3301(part); amd. Sec. 238, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

76-5-1107. Direction and construction responsibility of state or federal government — local role. This part contemplates that the actual direction of the project and the doing of the work in connection therewith is assumed by either the state or the federal government and the city, town, or county provides and assumes the cost of necessary right-of-way over and above such contributions in that regard as the federal government may choose to make. Under such limitation, all appropriate portions of this part shall apply.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3306.

76-5-1108. Acquisition of property. (1) Cities, towns, and counties may acquire by gift, purchase, or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, private property within the limits of the project that may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this part and to provide an outlet for the watercourses, either natural or artificial. Watercourses may be deepened, widened, straightened, altered, changed, diverted, or otherwise improved under the provisions of this part. Property rights that may be acquired include the right to cross railroad right-of-way and property and highway right-of-way and property so as not to impair the previous public use.

(2) All applicable provisions of Title 70, chapter 30, apply to the condemnation of property under this section.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3303; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29, Mont. Const.; Title 70, ch. 30.

76-5-1109. Contracts for use of railroads and highways. A city, town, or county may contract with a railroad company or with the department of transportation for the use of railroad or highway rights-of-way and embankments and other railroad or highway property which can be utilized by the city, town, or county for the purpose of water conservation or flood control or protection as part of its water conservation or flood control system, or both, for a period not exceeding 99 years.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 284, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 207, Ch. 316, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3310; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.

76-5-1110. Cooperation with governmental, public, and private agencies. (1) Cities, towns, and counties may in accordance with the provisions of this part:

(a) accept funds and property or other assistance, financial or otherwise, from federal, state, and other public or private sources for the purpose of aiding the construction and maintenance of water conservation and flood control projects; and

(b) cooperate and contract with the state or federal government or any department or agency thereof in furnishing assurances and meeting local cooperation requirements of any project involving control, conservation, and use of water.

(2) Cities, towns, and counties may also enter into agreement with the federal government to maintain levees, dikes, or other construction and to do all other acts required by the federal government in maintaining the work when completed.

History: **En. Secs. 4, 7, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Secs. 4, 6, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3304, 89-3307(part).**

76-5-1111. Apportionment of costs. (1) The cost of all right-of-way acquired by purchase or condemnation pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, together with any other property rights that may be required in furtherance of projects under this part, may be borne by the city, town, or county.

(2) The work of actual construction and the cost of construction may be borne by the federal government.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 272, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3305; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

76-5-1112. Sources of funds for cost of acquiring right-of-way and other costs. (1) The council, board, or governing body shall have power to allocate a portion of the street or road fund, as the case may be, for the purpose of acquiring right-of-way or the operation and maintenance of completed projects.

(2) Cities, towns, and counties in furtherance of such water conservation and flood control projects may accept contributions to enable them to pay for necessary right-of-way.

(3) The council, board of county commissioners, or other governing body shall also have the authority to receive and accept appropriations and contributions from any source of either money or property or other things of value to be held, used, and applied for the purposes provided in this part.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 284, L. 1967; Sec. 89-3308, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 7, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 284, L. 1967; Sec. 89-3307, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 284, L. 1967; Sec. 89-3309.1, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3307(part), 89-3308, 89-3309.1(part).**

76-5-1113. Special assessments for operation and maintenance authorized. (1) Any city, town, or county that shall establish a water conservation or flood control system, or both, pursuant to this part may for the purpose of providing funds for the operation and maintenance thereof levy an annual special assessment against all real property in the area benefiting from such system.

(2) Such special assessments for the operation and maintenance of any system authorized by this part shall be levied as are other special improvement levies as required by law.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3309(part).**

Cross-References

Special improvement district assessments, Title 7, ch. 12, part 41.

76-5-1114. Determination of assessment. (1) The special assessment shall be:

(a) levied against each lot or parcel of land in the benefited area for that portion of the money required which its area bears to the total area of all of the lands to be assessed; or

(b) at the option of the governing body of the city, town, or county, as the case may be, based upon the taxable valuation, as stated in the last-completed county assessment roll, of the lots or parcels of land, exclusive of improvements thereon, within said benefited area; in which case each lot or parcel of land to be assessed shall be assessed with that part of the amount of money required which its taxable valuation bears to the total taxable valuation of all of the lands to be assessed.

(2) However, where the benefited area lies in more than one county or lies both within a county and also a city or town, the same method of assessment shall be used for each governing body.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3309(part).**

76-5-1115. Fees and charges authorized. Cities, towns, and counties may for the purpose of providing funds for the operation and maintenance of completed projects fix, maintain, and collect fees, rents, tolls, and other charges for services rendered or facilities provided.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3309.1(part).**

76-5-1116. Determination of fees and charges. (1) In fixing the rate, fee, toll, or rent for water furnished for household use, domestic use, irrigation use, industrial use, and municipal use and for water used for streamflow stabilization, the governing body shall charge a fee sufficient to pay the proportionate share of the repairs, maintenance, and operating expenses as the use bears in economic value to the total economic value of the total use of the facilities of the project or projects. The economic value is to be determined by the governing body.

(2) For the benefits received by areas within the boundaries of the project or projects for flood prevention, flood control, and pollution abatement, the governing body shall determine a reasonable valuation or charge. The valuation or charge must be certified by the governing body to the county commissioners prior to the time general taxes are levied and assessed. Subject to 15-10-420, the county commissioners shall levy a special assessment as provided for in 76-5-1113 and 76-5-1114 against the area or areas sufficient to provide revenue for the repairs, maintenance, and operating expenses of the project.

(3) For recreation use the governing body shall first determine the share of the costs of operation, repairs, and depreciation to be charged against recreation uses and from this figure shall subtract the estimated amount of fees and tolls collected for recreation uses. The deficiency, if any, must be certified to the county commissioners, and subject to 15-10-420, special assessments must be levied by the county commissioners in the manner provided in this section.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 284, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3309.1(part); amd. Sec. 144, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

76-5-1117. Bonds authorized — procedure. Cities, towns, and counties are authorized to contract indebtedness and to issue special improvement district or rural improvement district bonds to provide funds for the payment of the cost of improvements contemplated by this part by following the procedures established for the issuance of such bonds under the provisions of Title 7, chapter 12, part 42, as to cities and towns and Title 7, chapter 12, part 21, as to counties. Payment and security for the bonds shall be provided by following the following procedures:

(1) Tax assessments for the payment of the bonds shall be levied in accordance with Title 7, chapter 12, parts 41 and 42, or Title 7, chapter 12, part 21, as to cities and counties, respectively, or 76-5-1114(1).

(2) A revolving fund, to be pledged for the security of the bonds, must be established pursuant to the provisions of Title 7, chapter 12, part 42, as to cities and towns, and Title 7, chapter 12, part 21, as to counties, by the governing body authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 272, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 89-3312; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 1981.

CHAPTER 6
OPEN SPACES

Part 1 — General Provisions

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Chapter Cross-References
Agricultural appraisal, Title 15, ch. 7, part 2.
State forest lands — deferral of management prohibited, 77-5-116.

Part 1
General Provisions

76-6-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Open-Space Land and Voluntary Conservation Easement Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-601.

76-6-102. Intent, findings, and policy. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Open-Space Land and Voluntary Conservation Easement Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this chapter provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) The legislature finds that:

(a) the rapid growth and spread of urban development are creating critical problems of service and finance for the state and local governments;

(b) the present and future rapid population growth in urban areas is creating severe problems of urban and suburban living;

(c) this population spread and its attendant development are disrupting and altering the remaining natural areas, biotic communities, and geological and geographical formations and thereby providing the potential for the destruction of scientific, educational, aesthetic, and ecological values;

(d) the present and future rapid population spread throughout the state of Montana into its open spaces is creating serious problems of lack of open space and overcrowding of the land;

(e) to lessen congestion and to preserve natural, ecological, geographical, and geological elements, the provision and preservation of open-space lands are necessary to secure park, recreational, historic, and scenic areas and to conserve the land, its biotic communities, its natural resources, and its geological and geographical elements in their natural state;

(f) the acquisition or designation of interests and rights in real property by certain qualifying private organizations and by public bodies to provide or preserve open-space land is essential to the solution of these problems, the accomplishment of these purposes, and the health and welfare of the citizens of the state;

(g) the exercise of authority to acquire or designate interests and rights in real property to provide or preserve open-space land and the expenditure of public funds for these purposes would be for a public purpose; and

(h) the statutory provision enabling certain qualifying private organizations to acquire interests and rights in real property to provide or preserve open-space land is in the public interest.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-602(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

76-6-103. Purposes. In accordance with the findings in 76-6-102, the legislature states that the purposes of this chapter are to:

(1) authorize and enable public bodies and certain qualifying private organizations voluntarily to provide for the preservation of native plants or animals, biotic communities, or geological or geographical formations of scientific, aesthetic, or educational interest;

(2) provide for the preservation of other significant open-space land anywhere in the state either in perpetuity or for a term of years; and

(3) encourage private participation in such a program by establishing the policy to be utilized in determining the property tax to be levied upon the real property which is subject to the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-602(part).

76-6-104. Definitions. The following terms whenever used or referred to in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context:

(1) "Comprehensive planning" means planning for development and shall include:

(a) preparation of general physical plans with respect to the pattern and intensity of land use and the provision of public facilities, including transportation facilities, together with long-range fiscal plans for such development as a guide for long-range development;

(b) programming and financing plans for capital improvements;

(c) coordination of all related plans and planned activities at both the intragovernmental and intergovernmental levels; and

(d) preparation of regulatory and administrative measures in support of the foregoing.

(2) "Conservation easement" means an easement or restriction, running with the land and assignable, whereby an owner of land voluntarily relinquishes to the holder of such easement or restriction any or all rights to construct improvements upon the land or to substantially alter the natural character of the land or to permit the construction of improvements upon the land or the substantial alteration of the natural character of the land, except as this right is expressly reserved in the instruments evidencing the easement or restriction.

(3) "Open-space land" means any land which is provided or preserved for:

(a) park or recreational purposes;

(b) conservation of land or other natural resources;

(c) historic or scenic purposes; or

(d) assisting in the shaping of the character, direction, and timing of community development.

(4) "Public body" means the state, counties, cities, towns, and other municipalities.

(5) "Qualified private organization" means a private organization:

(a) competent to own interests in real property;

(b) which qualifies and holds a general tax exemption under the federal Internal Revenue Code, section 501(c); and

(c) whose organizational purposes are designed to further the purposes of this chapter.

(6) "Urban area" means any area which is urban in character, including surrounding areas which form an economic and socially related region, taking into consideration such factors as present and future population trends and patterns of urban growth, location of transportation facilities and systems, and distribution of industrial, commercial, residential, governmental, institutional, and other activities.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-603(part).**

76-6-105. Construction of chapter. (1) To the extent that the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other law, the provisions of this chapter are controlling. The powers conferred by this chapter are in addition and supplemental to the powers conferred by any other law.

(2) This chapter may not be construed to imply that any easement, covenant, condition, or restriction that does not have the benefit of this chapter is not enforceable based on any provisions of this chapter. This chapter does not diminish the powers granted by any general or special law to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise and to use land for public purposes.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 337, L. 1969; Sec. 62-609, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 62-618 by Sec. 14, Ch. 489, L. 1975; Sec. 62-618, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 62-609(part), 62-618; amd. Sec. 279, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 125, L. 2001.**

76-6-106. Acquisition and designation of real property by public body. To carry out the purposes of this chapter, any public body may:

(1) acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or grant title to or any interests or rights in real property, including land and water, that will provide a means for the preservation or provision of significant open-space land or the preservation of native plants or animals, biotic communities, or geological or geographical formations of scientific, aesthetic, or educational interest, or both;

(2) designate any real property, including land and water, in which it has an interest to be retained and used for the preservation and provision of significant open-space land or

the preservation of native plants or animals, biotic communities, or geological or geographical formations of scientific, aesthetic, or educational interests, or both.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-604(part).

76-6-107. Conversion or diversion of open-space land. (1) Open-space land, the title to or interest or right in which has been acquired under this chapter, may not be converted or diverted from open-space land use unless the conversion or diversion is:

(a) necessary to the public interest;

(b) not in conflict with the program of comprehensive planning for the area; and

(c) permitted by the conditions imposed at the time of the creation of the conservation easement, in the terms of the acquisition agreement, or by the governing body resolution.

(2) Other real property of at least equal fair market value and of as nearly as feasible equivalent usefulness and location for use as open-space land must be substituted within a reasonable period not exceeding 3 years for any real property converted or diverted from open-space land use. Property substituted is subject to the provisions of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-605(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 88, L. 2005.

76-6-108. Conveyance or lease of open-space lands. A grantee may convey or lease any real property it has acquired or which has been designated for the purposes of this chapter. The conveyance or lease shall be subject to contractual arrangements that will preserve the property as open-space land and which are consistent with the express terms and conditions of the grant unless the property is to be converted or diverted from open-space land use in accordance with the provisions of 76-6-107.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-605(2).

76-6-109. Powers of public bodies — county real property acquisition procedure maintained. (1) A public body has the power to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter, including the following powers in addition to others granted by this chapter:

(a) to borrow funds and make expenditures necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(b) to advance or accept advances of public funds;

(c) to apply for and accept and use grants and any other assistance from the federal government and any other public or private sources, to give security as may be required, to enter into and carry out contracts or agreements in connection with the assistance, and to include in any contract for assistance from the federal government conditions imposed pursuant to federal laws as the public body may consider reasonable and appropriate and that are not inconsistent with the purposes of this chapter;

(d) to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers under this chapter;

(e) in connection with the real property acquired or designated for the purposes of this chapter, to provide or to arrange or contract for the provision, construction, maintenance, operation, or repair by any person or agency, public or private, of services, privileges, works, streets, roads, public utilities, or other facilities or structures that may be necessary to the provision, preservation, maintenance, and management of the property as open-space land;

(f) to insure or provide for the insurance of any real or personal property or operations of the public body against any risks or hazards, including the power to pay premiums on the insurance;

(g) to demolish or dispose of any structures or facilities that may be detrimental to or inconsistent with the use of real property as open-space land; and

(h) to exercise any of its functions and powers under this chapter jointly or cooperatively with public bodies of one or more states, if they are authorized by state law, and with one or more public bodies of this state and to enter into agreements for joint or cooperative action.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, the state, a city, town, or other municipality, or a county may:

(a) appropriate funds;

(b) subject to 15-10-420, levy taxes and assessments according to existing codes and statutes;

(c) issue and sell its general obligation bonds in the manner and within the limitations prescribed by the applicable laws of the state, subject to subsection (3); and

(d) exercise its powers under this chapter through a board or commission or through the office or officers that its governing body by resolution determines or as the governor determines in the case of the state.

(3) Property taxes levied to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued by a city, town, other municipality, or county pursuant to this chapter may not be levied against the following property:

(a) agricultural land eligible for valuation, assessment, and taxation as agricultural land under 15-7-202;

(b) forest land as defined in 15-44-102;

(c) all agricultural improvements on agricultural land referred to in subsection (3)(a);

(d) all noncommercial improvements on forest land referred to in subsection (3)(b); and

(e) agricultural implements and equipment described in 15-6-138(1)(a).

(4) This chapter does not supersede the provisions of Title 7, chapter 8, parts 22 and 25.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 337, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 62-606; amd. Sec. 145, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 463, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 194, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 123, Ch. 114, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 430, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 255, L. 2017.

76-6-110. Authorization and funding for planning commission. (1) The state, counties, cities, towns, or other municipalities in an urban area, acting jointly or in cooperation, are authorized to perform comprehensive planning for the urban area and to establish and maintain a planning commission for this purpose and related planning activities.

(2) Funds may be appropriated and made available for the comprehensive planning. Financial or other assistance from the federal government and any other public or private sources may be accepted and utilized for the planning.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 337, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 62-607.

Part 2
Conservation Easements

Part Cross-References

Servitudes and easements, Title 70, ch. 17, part 1.

76-6-201. Conservation easements in general. (1) Where a public body acquires under this chapter an interest in land less than fee, this acquisition shall be by conservation easement.

(2) A conservation easement may be applied to urban or nonurban land.

History: En. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 3, 4, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-603(part), 62-604(part).

76-6-202. Duration of conservation easements. Conservation easements may be granted either in perpetuity or for a term of years. If granted for a term of years, that term may not be less than 15 years. An easement granted for a term of years may be renewed for a term of 15 or more years upon the execution of a new granting instrument by the parties.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-603(part).

76-6-203. Types of permissible easements. Easements or restrictions under this chapter may prohibit or limit any or all of the following:

(1) structures—construction or placing of buildings, camping trailers, housetrailers, mobile homes, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, utilities, or other structures on or above the ground;

(2) landfill—dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;

(3) vegetation—removal or destruction of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation;

(4) loam, gravel, etc.—excavation, dredging, or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock, or other material substance;

(5) surface use—surface use except for such purposes permitting the land or water area to remain predominantly in its existing condition;

(6) acts detrimental to conservation—activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control, soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat and preservation;

(7) subdivision of land—subdivision of land as defined in 76-3-103 and 76-3-104;

(8) other acts—other acts or uses detrimental to such retention of land or water areas in their existing conditions.

History: En. 62-610 by Sec. 7, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-610; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

76-6-204. Acquisition of conservation easements by qualified private organizations. Any qualified private organization may acquire by a conservation easement, by purchase, or by gift, devise, bequest, or grant title to any interest or interests in rights in real property, including land and water, that will provide a means for the preservation or provision of permanent significant open-space land and/or the preservation of native plants or animals, biotic communities, or geological or geographical formations of scientific, aesthetic, or educational interest.

History: En. 62-611 by Sec. 8, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-611.

76-6-205. Assignability of easements. For the purposes of this chapter, all conservation easements shall be assignable unless the instrument of conveyance or ownership expressly stipulates otherwise. No conservation easement shall be unenforceable on account of the benefit being assignable or being assigned to any other government body or private organization unless such assignment has violated the express terms of the instrument of conveyance or ownership. The assignees must be qualified under the terms of this chapter to hold a conservation easement.

History: En. 62-613 by Sec. 10, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-613.

76-6-206. Review by local planning authority. In order to minimize conflict with local comprehensive planning, all conservation easements shall be subject to review prior to recording by the appropriate local planning authority for the county within which the land lies. It shall be the responsibility of the entity acquiring the conservation easement to present the proposed conveyance of the conservation easement to the appropriate local planning authority. The local planning authority shall have 90 days from receipt of the proposed conveyance within which to review and to comment upon the relationship of the proposed conveyance to comprehensive planning for the area. Such comments will not be binding on the proposed grantor or grantee but shall be merely advisory in nature. The proposed conveyance may be recorded after comments have been received from the local planning authority or the local planning authority has indicated in writing it will have no comments or 90 days have elapsed, whichever occurs first.

History: En. 62-614 by Sec. 11, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-614.

Cross-References

Local planning and zoning, Title 76, ch. 2.

76-6-207. Recording and description of easement. (1) All conservation easements must be recorded in the county where the land lies so as to effect the land's title in the manner of other conveyances of interest in land and must describe the land subject to the conservation easement by adequate legal description or by reference to a recorded plat showing its boundaries.

(2) (a) The county clerk and recorder shall, upon recording, place a copy of the conservation easement in a separate file within the office of the county clerk and recorder.

(b) The county clerk and recorder shall provide a copy of the conservation easement to the department of revenue office in that county within 30 days of the receipt of the original conservation easement.

History: En. 62-615 by Sec. 12, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-615; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 352, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Procedure to record documents, 7-4-2617.

76-6-208. Taxation of property subject to conservation easement. (1) Assessments made for taxation on property subject to a conservation easement either in perpetuity or for a term of years, where a public body or a qualifying private organization holds the conservation easement, shall be determined on the basis of the restricted purposes for which the property may be used. The minimum assessed value for land subject to an easement conveyed under this chapter may not be less than the actual assessed value of such land in calendar year 1973. Any land subject to such easement may not be classified into a class affording a lesser assessed valuation solely by reason of the creation of the easement. The value of the interest held by a public body or qualifying private organization shall be exempt from property taxation.

(2) Expiration of an easement granted for a term of years shall not result in a reassessment of the land for property tax purposes if the easement is renewed and the granting instrument reflecting the renewed easement is executed and properly filed not later than 15 days after the date of expiration.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-608.**

Cross-References

Agricultural appraisal, Title 15, ch. 7, part 2.
Assessment procedure, Title 15, ch. 8.

76-6-209. Easements to run with the land. The provisions of 70-17-202 and 70-17-203(1) and (2) notwithstanding, for the purposes of this chapter, all conservation easements, whether held by public bodies or qualifying private organizations, shall be considered to run with the land, whether or not such fact is stipulated in the instrument of conveyance or ownership.

History: **En. 62-612 by Sec. 9, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-612(part).**

76-6-210. Enforcement. (1) Conservation easements may be enforced by injunction or proceedings in equity. Representatives of the grantee of the conservation easement shall be entitled to enter the land in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times to assure compliance.

(2) No conservation easement shall be unenforceable on account of lack of privity of estate or contract or lack of benefit to particular land or on account of such conservation easement not being an appurtenant easement or because such easement is an easement in gross.

History: **En. 62-612, 62-616 by Secs. 9, 13, Ch. 489, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 62-612(part), 62-616.**

Cross-References

Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

76-6-211. Who may enforce easement. (1) The owner of any estate in a dominant tenement or the occupant of such tenement may maintain an action for the enforcement of an easement attached thereto.

(2) Public bodies holding conservation easements shall enforce the provisions of these easements.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 1258, Civ. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 4515, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 6757, R.C.M. 1921; Cal. Civ. C. Sec. 809; Field Civ. C. Sec. 253; re-en. Sec. 6757, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 67-609, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 62-617 by Sec. 15, Ch. 489, L. 1975; Sec. 62-617, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 337, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 489, L. 1975; Sec. 62-604, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 62-604(part), 62-617.**

76-6-212. Additional reporting procedures — coordination of information collection, transfer, and accessibility. (1) A public body or qualified private organization holding a conservation easement before October 1, 2007, shall mail or electronically transfer a copy of that conservation easement to the department of revenue within 6 months of October 1, 2007.

(2) The department of revenue shall review conservation easement agreements collected pursuant to 76-6-207 and subsection (1) of this section and record the:

(a) legal description of the conservation easement as it relates to the established property boundaries identified in the conservation easement agreement;

(b) approximate acreage as identified in the conservation easement agreement;

(c) date of the conservation easement agreement;

(d) book and page or document number as provided for in 7-4-2617; and

(e) name of the conservation easement grantee.

(3) (a) The department of revenue shall transfer conservation easement information collected pursuant to 76-6-207 and subsections (1) and (2) of this section to the state library.

(b) The department of revenue shall coordinate with the state library to develop procedures regarding the collection and transfer of conservation easement information between the two agencies.

(c) The state library shall convert conservation easement information received from the department of revenue to a digital format for land information purposes authorized in Title 90, chapter 1, part 4, that can be accessed through the state library's website.

(d) The state library shall incorporate the conservation easement data into appropriate databases developed or maintained by the Montana natural heritage program for the purposes of Title 90, chapter 15.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 352, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 175, L. 2013.**

CHAPTER 7
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL EASEMENT ACT

Part 1 — General Provisions

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Part 1
General Provisions

76-7-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Environmental Control Easement Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-102. Intent, findings, and purpose. (1) The legislature, mindful of its constitutional obligations under Article II, section 3, and Article IX of the Montana constitution, has enacted the Environmental Control Easement Act. It is the legislature's intent that the requirements of this chapter provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

(2) The legislature finds that:

(a) numerous sites throughout the state contain or may contain hazardous wastes or substances that may threaten the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment if certain uses are permitted on these sites or if certain activities are not performed on these sites;

(b) at some sites, protection of the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment may be enhanced by the application and enforcement of certain restrictions on the future use of the site or requirements for performance of certain activities;

(c) the creation of an enforceable easement mechanism for imposing restrictions on the use of a site and requiring performance of operations and maintenance activities may help protect the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment by:

(i) preventing or minimizing the exposure of the public to hazardous wastes or substances;

(ii) preventing the disturbance of important features of remediation work and remedial technologies employed at the site;

(iii) ensuring that the presence of hazardous wastes or substances and the features of remediation work and remedial technologies are properly considered in the future use or development of a site; or

(iv) requiring the performance of certain activities or the prohibition or limitation of certain activities, with respect to the site; and

(d) the expenditure of public funds for the acquisition or designation of interests and rights in real property to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment is in the public's interest.

(3) It is the purpose of this chapter to authorize and enable federal public entities, other public bodies, and certain qualifying private organizations to provide for:

(a) the monitoring and protection of environmental control sites to ensure that those sites are not used for purposes that may threaten the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment;

(b) a process of reviewing the need for specialized construction, development, use, and safety measures if the owner or user of an environmental control site proposes a new use for which any contamination might present a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment; and

(c) a mechanism for prohibiting or limiting certain activities or requiring certain activities on an environmental control site to enhance protection of the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 503, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 361, L. 2003.

76-7-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(2) "Environmental control easement" or "easement" means an easement created under this chapter that burdens an environmental control site, that runs with the land, and that is binding on the owner and subsequent owners, lessees, and other users of the land. The easement may require the relinquishment of some or all rights to use the land or its surface or subsurface or the water in, upon, or under the land to the extent provided in the instrument granting the easement.

(3) "Environmental control site" or "site" means any site, including the surface and subsurface of the land and the surface and subsurface resources in, upon, or under the land, including, without limitation, minerals and water that may contain hazardous wastes or substances or that may require remediation, reclamation, or restoration pursuant to federal, state, or local law or regulation.

(4) "Federal public entity" means the United States of America, the United States environmental protection agency, or any other federal government agency or authority and its successors or assigns.

(5) "Governmental order" means a consent decree, judgment, decision, order, agreement, or other requirement authorized or imposed by or under any federal or state law affecting an environmental control site.

(6) "Hazardous wastes or substances" means those hazardous or toxic substances, wastes, materials, pollutants, or contaminants that are subject to regulation by federal, state, or local environmental protection laws or that are defined pursuant to 75-10-403, 75-10-602, and 75-10-702.

(7) "Public body" means the state, counties, cities, towns, and other municipalities.

(8) "Qualified private organization" means a private organization:

(a) competent to own interests in real property;

(b) that qualifies and holds a general tax exemption under the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c); and

(c) whose organizational purposes are designed to further the purposes of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-104. Acquisition of interests in environmental control sites. A public body may acquire by grant, title to, interests in, or rights in environmental control sites, including environmental control easements.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-105. Conversion or diversion of environmental control sites. An environmental control site in which an environmental control easement has been granted pursuant to this chapter may not be converted or diverted from purposes specified in the easement instrument or released from any restriction, limitation, or requirement specified in the easement instrument unless the conversion, diversion, or release is:

(1) protective of the public health, safety, and welfare and the environment as determined by the department or the United States environmental protection agency that initially approved the easement;

(2) permitted by the criteria for modification or termination imposed at the time of the creation of the easement; and

(3) approved in writing by the easement holder and any other person named in the easement instrument from whom approval is required.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-106. Conveyance or lease of environmental control sites. (1) A grantee of an environmental control easement acquired under this chapter may not convey or assign any of the easement rights that the grantee has acquired except to a federal public entity, a public body, or a qualified private organization authorized to hold environmental control easements under 76-7-204.

(2) A grantee of a conveyance pursuant to subsection (1) shall assume the responsibility for enforcing the environmental control easement as specified in the easement instrument and in 76-7-211.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-107. Public body powers. In connection with environmental control sites acquired or designated as environmental control easements for the purposes of this chapter, a public body may provide, arrange, or contract for the monitoring of the environmental control sites as necessary to ensure that the environmental control sites are being used only for the purposes permitted by the terms of the environmental control easement and are not being used in a manner that is prohibited or restricted by the terms of the environmental control easement.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

Part 2
Environmental Control Easements

76-7-201. Creation and approval of environmental control easements. (1) An environmental control easement may be created under this chapter only if the department or the United States environmental protection agency has approved the creation of an environmental control easement at an environmental control site to protect public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.

(2) An owner or an authorized representative of the owner of an environmental control site may apply for approval of a proposed environmental control easement to the department or the United States environmental protection agency.

(3) An owner or an authorized representative of the owner of an environmental control site that applies to the department for approval shall complete an environmental control easement application developed by the department.

(4) Upon receiving a completed application and following public notice, the department shall allow for a 30-day public comment period. Notice of the public comment period shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the proposed environmental control easement.

(5) Following the 30-day public comment period, the department shall promptly review the application and either approve the application or provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for the department's disapproval.

(6) If the application is disapproved for reasons that may be addressed by modification of the easement instrument or by changes to the proposed transaction, the applicant, in consultation with the department, may modify the proposed environmental control easement or the proposed transaction in a manner necessary to obtain department approval and resubmit the application for the department's approval.

(7) The department's approval must be evidenced by execution of the instrument creating the environmental control easement, the execution of a written statement evidencing the approval in recordable form, or any other method that reasonably substantiates the required approval.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-202. Duration of environmental control easements. An environmental control easement may be granted either in perpetuity or for a term of years. An environmental control easement may not be approved for a term of years unless it includes provisions that ensure that public health, safety, and welfare and the environment are protected beyond the expiration of the easement.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-203. Permissible easements. (1) An environmental control easement under this chapter may prohibit or limit the following activities or uses:

(a) constructing or placing of buildings, camping trailers, housetrailers, mobile homes, roads, or other structures on or above the ground;

(b) dumping or placing of soil, debris, or other wastes or substances as landfill or dumping or placing of trash, waste, or unsightly or offensive materials;

(c) removing or destroying trees, shrubs, or other vegetation or planting or allowing growth of specific types of vegetation, such as crops for human or animal consumption or undesirable vegetation;

(d) excavating, dredging, or removing of gravel, soil, rock, or other materials or substances;

(e) using the surface of the land in a particular manner, such as for agricultural, residential, commercial, or industrial uses;

(f) subdividing the land, as described in 76-3-103 and 76-3-104;

(g) disturbing soil caps, soil surfaces, berms, drainage structures, or other structures or other activities that may cause erosion or migration of hazardous wastes or substances at or from the environmental control site;

(h) drilling or using water wells for potable or nonpotable purposes;

(i) other activities or uses detrimental to or interfering with the remediation or cleanup of the environmental control site or detrimental to the preservation of remedial structures, measures, or technologies employed at the environmental control site; and

(j) other activities or uses that may result in a risk or threat to the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.

(2) An environmental control easement under this chapter may include or require the following:

(a) maintenance of environmental control site remedial structures or other remedial measures, such as soil surfaces, soil caps, berms, fences, or drainage improvements;

(b) rights in the holder of the easement or others for continuing access to the site as necessary to implement, operate, maintain, and monitor remedial work and technologies, including operation and maintenance, and to ensure implementation and enforcement of the requirements, restrictions, and limitations specified in the easement instrument;

(c) prompt notification to the holder of the easement or others of transfers of all or any portion of an environmental control site or interest in the site or of any proposed changes in land use at the site;

(d) compliance with all requirements of any applicable governmental order;

(e) arrangements for indemnification or for reimbursement of any costs and expenses of the easement holder or others or other methods of allocating costs and expenses for remedial actions, operations and maintenance, or other activities on the environmental control site or with respect to the site;

(f) other obligations that any federal public entity or other public body having jurisdiction over the property determines are necessary to implement, ensure noninterference with, or ensure the protection of remedial work performed under a governmental order; or

(g) other obligations that are necessary or advisable to reduce or eliminate risks or threats to the public health, safety, or welfare or the environment at environmental control sites.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 503, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

76-7-204. Environmental control easement conveyances. (1) The designated grantee of an environmental control easement granted under this chapter is one or more of the following entities:

(a) a federal public entity;

(b) the state of Montana, acting by and through the department or any other state agency;

(c) any other public body having jurisdiction over the environmental control site; or

(d) a qualified private organization.

(2) A grantee's acceptance of the easement interest and related obligations must be evidenced by the grantee's execution of the instrument creating the environmental control easement.

(3) Prior to or contemporaneously with the conveyance of an environmental control easement to a designated grantee, the environmental control site owner shall:

(a) obtain documents demonstrating that every person or entity holding an interest in the environmental control site or any part of the site, including without limitation each mortgagee, lienholder, lessee, and encumbrancer, irrevocably subordinates the entity's interest to the environmental control easement;

(b) record the documents required under subsection (3)(a) in the appropriate county; and

(c) submit those documents required under subsection (3)(a) to the designated grantee.

(4) An environmental control easement may not be separated from the land and survives foreclosure of a mortgage, lien, or other encumbrance, as well as tax lien sales and the issuance of a tax deed.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 503, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

76-7-205. Qualified private organizations. If the grantee or holder of an environmental control easement is a qualified private organization, then the organization has the following additional obligations:

(1) The organization shall provide to the state or federal agency that approved the environmental control easement pursuant to 76-7-201 an annual report on or before April 30 of each year providing a description of actions taken to monitor the environmental control site, the status of compliance with the environmental control easement, and any other information that the state or federal agency may require relating to compliance with the provisions of the environmental control easement.

(2) Within 15 days following the discovery of any material violation of the environmental control easement, the organization shall provide to the state or federal agency that approved the environmental control easement pursuant to 76-7-201 a written report setting forth the nature of the violation, the remedies that the grantee intends to undertake to correct the violation, and any other information that the state or federal agency may request.

(3) The organization shall notify, in writing, the state or federal agency that approved the environmental control easement pursuant to 76-7-201 of the organization's dissolution, the cessation of operations, or the occurrence of any other event that renders the organization incapable of performing its obligations under the terms of the environmental control easement.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-206. Assignability of easements. For the purpose of this chapter, an environmental control easement is assignable unless the instrument of conveyance or ownership expressly provides otherwise. An assignee must be qualified under the terms of this chapter to hold an environmental control easement. If an assignment is made in violation of the provisions of this section or in violation of the express terms of the instrument creating the easement, the assignment is void and the environmental control easement interests and obligations remain with the assignor.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-207. Coordination with local planning authority. (1) In order to minimize conflict with local comprehensive planning, the entity acquiring the environmental control easement shall provide a copy of the easement to the appropriate local planning authority for the county within which the land lies prior to or concurrently with recording.

(2) The requirement in subsection (1) to provide a copy of the environmental control easement to the local planning authority is only for the purposes of informing the authority of the easement.

(3) The failure to provide the environmental control easement to the local planning authority, as required in subsection (1), does not invalidate the easement.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-208. Recording and description of easement. (1) An environmental control easement must be recorded in the county where the property is located so as to effect the title in the manner of other conveyances of interest in the property and must describe the property subject to that easement by an adequate legal description or by reference to a recorded plat showing the property's boundaries.

(2) The county clerk and recorder shall, upon recording, place a copy of the environmental control easement in a separate file within the office of the county clerk and recorder and shall mail a copy of the easement to the department.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-209. Taxation of property subject to easement. (1) The value of the interest held by a federal public entity, a public body, or a qualifying private organization is exempt from property taxation.

(2) Expiration of an environmental control easement granted for a term of years may not result in a reassessment of the land for property tax purposes if the easement is renewed and the granting instrument reflecting the renewed easement is executed and properly filed not later than 15 days after the date of expiration.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-210. Easements to run with land. Notwithstanding 70-17-202 and 70-17-203(1) and (2), for the purposes of this chapter, an environmental control easement runs with the land, whether or not this fact is stipulated in the instrument creating the easement, and the easement binds the owner of the land and all successors and assigns.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-211. Easement enforcement. (1) Environmental control easements may be enforced by injunction, specific performance, other proceedings in equity or at law, or any other means specified in the instrument creating the easement. In addition to any right specified in the easement instrument, representatives of the holder of the environmental control easement are entitled to enter the land in a reasonable manner and at reasonable times to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the easement and to implement, operate, maintain, and monitor all remedial work and technologies.

(2) An environmental control easement is not unenforceable because of a lack of privity of estate or contract or a lack of benefit to particular land, because the easement is not an appurtenant easement, or because the easement is an easement in gross.

(3) An environmental control easement is enforceable against the owner of the fee and any persons or entities holding or claiming an interest in the property regardless of whether the interest is equal to or less than the whole fee estate.

(4) A delay or failure to enforce in any specific instance any violation of an environmental control easement does not preclude or waive the right to enforce against that violation or any other breach.

(5) The easement holder may waive, in a writing executed by the easement holder, any single violation of the terms of the environmental control easement without waiving any other prior or subsequent violation whether of the same or different nature. The easement holder may remedy a violation without waiving the violation remedied and is entitled to recover from the environmental control site owner all costs, including but not limited to direct and indirect costs of remedying the violation and costs of any other remedies provided by law or in the easement instrument.

(6) A claim or cause of action arising out of or relating to a violation of a term or provision of an environmental control easement must be filed in a court of appropriate jurisdiction within 10 years from the date upon which the party alleging violation of the easement had actual knowledge of the violation.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-212. Who may enforce easement. (1) The owner of any real property designated as a benefited property in the instrument creating the environmental control easement or the occupant of the benefited real property may maintain an action for enforcement of the easement.

(2) A public body or a qualified private organization holding an environmental control easement shall enforce the provisions of the easement.

(3) A person or entity specifically named as a beneficiary in the instrument creating the environmental control easement may enforce the provisions of the easement to the extent provided in the instrument.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

76-7-213. Liability. (1) The creation and approval of an environmental control easement do not waive or release any statutory liability or other obligation of a person for hazardous wastes or substances at an environmental control site. A federal public entity or public body may enforce any applicable law or obligation without regard to any allocation of liability in an easement instrument and without regard to exhaustion of remedies against any party to an easement instrument.

(2) An owner of a site to which the environmental control easement applies and any lessee or licensee of the land are liable for any violation of the provisions of the easement and are liable for abating the violation and for all damages, costs, and attorney fees arising from or attributable to the violation.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the holder or other named beneficiary of an environmental control easement or other person enforcing the easement is not liable for hazardous wastes or substances at the environmental control site or for the release of a hazardous or deleterious substance from a facility at the site based upon its ownership of the easement or based upon its maintenance, monitoring, enforcement, or other actions with respect to the easement.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 503, L. 1999.

CHAPTER 8
BUILDINGS FOR LEASE OR RENT

Part 1 — Lease or Rent — General Provisions

76-8-101. Definitions.
76-8-102. Buildings for lease or rent — review procedure.
76-8-103. Buildings for lease or rent — exemptions.
76-8-104 and 76-8-105 reserved.
76-8-106. Buildings for lease or rent — three or fewer buildings — application — review procedures.
76-8-107. Buildings for lease or rent — four or more buildings — regulations.
76-8-108. Additional review criteria — four or more buildings for lease or rent.
76-8-109 through 76-8-112 reserved.
76-8-113. Actions against governing body and department.
76-8-114. Violations — penalties.

Chapter Cross-References

Local regulation of subdivisions, Title 76, ch. 3.
State regulation of subdivisions, Title 76, ch. 4.
Conservation easements preventing subdivision of land, 76-6-203.
Water use — ground Water, Title 85, ch. 2, part 5.

Part 1
Lease or Rent — General Provisions

76-8-101. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Building" means a structure or a unit of a structure with a roof supported by columns or walls for the permanent or temporary housing or enclosure of persons or property or for the operation of a business. Except as provided in 76-3-103(16) the term includes a recreational camping vehicle, mobile home, or cell tower. The term does not include a condominium or townhome.

(2) "Department" means the department of environmental quality provided for in 2-15-3501.

(3) "Governing body" means the legislative authority for a city, town, county, or consolidated city-county government.

(4) "Landowner" means an owner of a legal or equitable interest in real property. The term includes an heir, successor, or assignee of the ownership interest.

(5) "Local reviewing authority" means a local department or board of health that is approved to conduct reviews under Title 76, chapter 4.

(6) "Supermajority" means:

(a) an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the present and voting members of a city or town council;

(b) a unanimous affirmative vote of the present and voting county commissioners in counties with three county commissioners;

(c) an affirmative vote of at least four-fifths of the present and voting county commissioners in counties with five commissioners;

(d) an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the present and voting county commissioners in counties with more than five commissioners; or

(e) an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the present and voting members of the governing body of a consolidated city-county government.

(7) "Tract" means an individual parcel of land that can be identified by legal description, independent of any other parcel of land, using documents on file in the records of the county clerk and recorder's office.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 363, L. 2017.

76-8-102. Buildings for lease or rent — review procedure. (1) Unless the buildings are exempt from review as provided in 76-8-103 or subject to review as provided in 76-8-106, an application for the creation of buildings for lease or rent on a single tract must be reviewed as provided in this section.

(2) An application pursuant to this section for the creation of buildings for lease or rent must be submitted for review to:

(a) the governing body or its agent or agency in which the buildings are proposed to be located; and

(b) the department or local reviewing authority if review by the department or local reviewing authority is required by Title 76, chapter 4 or to the local board or department of health if review is required by Title 50.

(3) (a) Upon receipt of an application and any applicable fees, the governing body or its agent or agency shall within 10 working days determine whether the application contains the required materials and sufficient information for review. The governing body or its agent or agency shall notify the applicant in writing as to whether the application is complete. If the application is incomplete, the governing body shall identify any missing materials or insufficient information.

(b) After the governing body or its agent or agency has notified the applicant that the application is complete, the governing body shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the application for the creation of buildings for lease or rent pursuant to this section within 60 working days. The applicant and the governing body may agree to extend the time for review in writing.

(c) Review and approval, conditional approval, or denial of an application for the creation of buildings for lease or rent pursuant to this section must be based upon the regulations in effect at the time an application is determined to be complete. If regulations change during the period that the application is determined to be complete, the determination of whether the application is complete must be based on the new regulations.

(4) The governing body may establish a reasonable fee to be paid by the landowner commensurate with the cost of reviewing applications submitted pursuant to this section.

(5) If the governing body denies, approves, or conditionally approves the proposed creation of buildings for lease or rent pursuant to this section, the governing body shall provide written notification to the landowner within the 60 working-day period provided in this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

76-8-103. Buildings for lease or rent — exemptions. (1) A building created for lease or rent on a single tract is exempt from the provisions of this part if:

(a) the building is in conformance with applicable zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, parts 1 through 3, provided that the zoning contains the elements of 76-8-107; or

(b) when applicable zoning regulations are not in effect:

(i) the building was in existence or under construction before September 1, 2013;

(ii) the building provides accommodations as defined in 15-68-101 that are subject to the lodging facility use tax under Title 15, chapter 65, except for recreational camping vehicles or mobile home parks;

(iii) the building is created for lease or rent for farming or agricultural purposes;

(iv) the building is not served by water and wastewater and will not be leased or rented;

(v) the building is served by water and wastewater and the landowner records a notarized declaration with the clerk and recorder of the county in which the property is located stating that the proposed building will not be leased or rented. The declaration recorded pursuant to this subsection (1)(b)(v) runs with the land and is binding on the landowner and all subsequent landowners and successors in interest to the property. The declaration must include but is not limited to:

(A) the name and address of the landowner;

(B) a legal description of the tract upon which the proposed building will be located; and

(C) a specific description of the building on the tract of record.

(2) Any building that is exempt under subsection (1) from the provisions of this part and that is or will be served by water or wastewater must be in compliance with the provisions of 76-8-106.

(3) The exemption provided in subsection (1)(b)(i) is limited to the first three buildings created for lease or rent on a single tract.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 484, L. 2021.

76-8-104 and 76-8-105 reserved.

76-8-106. Buildings for lease or rent — three or fewer buildings — application — review procedures. (1) A landowner shall submit an application for the creation of the first three or fewer buildings for lease or rent on a single tract to the department or local reviewing authority for sanitation review if review is required by Title 76, chapter 4, or to the local board or department of health if review is required by Title 50.

(2) If the department or local reviewing authority approves the application, the landowner shall record the certificate of approval and any conditions for the approval of the application with the county clerk and recorder.

(3) If a building for lease or rent is created on a single tract on or after September 1, 2013, and the tract is later subdivided or an exemption from subdivision review is used pursuant to Title 76, chapter 3, any building for lease or rent on the new tract is subject to the provisions of 76-8-102, 76-8-107, and 76-8-108.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 379, L. 2013.

76-8-107. Buildings for lease or rent — four or more buildings — regulations. (1) A governing body shall adopt regulations for the administration and enforcement of the creation of four or more buildings for lease or rent on a single tract.

(2) The regulations adopted pursuant to this section must, at a minimum:

(a) list the materials that must be included in an application for the creation of four or more buildings for lease or rent;

(b) require a description of:

(i) property boundaries;

(ii) onsite and adjacent offsite streets, roads, and easements;

(iii) geographic features;

(iv) existing septic tanks and drainfields;

(v) existing wells; and

(vi) existing and proposed buildings;

(c) require adequate water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal facilities;

(d) require an assessment of potential significant impacts on the surrounding physical environment and human population in the area to be affected, including conditions, if any, that may be imposed on the proposal to avoid or minimize potential significant impacts identified;

(e) require adequate emergency medical, fire protection, and law enforcement services;

(f) require access to the site; and

(g) comply with applicable flood plain requirements.

(3) Prior to adopting regulations pursuant to this section, the governing body shall provide an opportunity for public hearing and comment on the proposed regulations. Notice of the public hearing must be published as provided in 7-1-2121 if the governing body is a county commission or as provided in 7-1-4127 if the governing body is a city commission or a town council and must be posted not less than 30 days before the public hearing in at least five public places, including but not limited to public buildings. Public comment must be addressed before the regulations are adopted.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 379, L. 2013.**

76-8-108. Additional review criteria — four or more buildings for lease or rent. (1) (a) Upon a majority vote, a governing body may increase the minimum number of buildings created for lease or rent that are subject to review by the governing body pursuant to 76-8-107. The governing body may elect to increase the minimum number subject to review by the governing body for all buildings created for lease or rent or may limit the increase to specific types or uses of buildings created for lease or rent.

(b) For purposes of subsection (1)(a), the governing body shall adopt regulations pursuant to 76-8-107 identifying the number or types of buildings created for lease or rent that are subject to review by the governing body.

(2) Upon a supermajority vote, the governing body may adopt regulations pursuant to 76-8-107 for the purpose of reviewing four or more buildings for lease or rent that are in addition to the regulations provided in 76-8-107. For purposes of this subsection, a governing body may adopt any regulations it considers necessary to protect public health, safety, or the general welfare.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 379, L. 2013.**

76-8-109 through 76-8-112 reserved.

76-8-113. Actions against governing body and department. (1) An applicant who has filed an application for the creation of buildings for lease or rent and who is aggrieved by a decision of the department or the local reviewing authority may request a hearing as provided in 76-4-126(1). For purposes of this subsection, the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, chapter 4, part 6, apply to the proceeding.

(2) An applicant who has filed an application for the creation of buildings for lease or rent or a landowner with a property boundary contiguous to the tract on which the buildings are proposed to be located who is aggrieved by a decision of the governing body may, within 30 days of the date of the decision of the governing body, appeal to the district court in the county in which the property involved is located.

(3) For purposes of this section, "aggrieved" has the meaning provided in 76-3-625.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 379, L. 2013.**

76-8-114. Violations — penalties. (1) If any building is created in violation of this part, the governing body may, in addition to assessing a fine or penalty not to exceed a maximum of $500, initiate an action to:

(a) prevent the unlawful creation of the building;

(b) restrain, correct, or abate a violation; or

(c) prevent the occupancy of the building.

(2) For the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this part, the governing body shall attempt to obtain voluntary compliance from the landowner at least 30 days prior to initiating an action for a violation of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 379, L. 2013.**

CHAPTER 9
SHOOTING RANGES

Part 1 — Protection of Shooting Range Location and Investments

76-9-101. Policy.
76-9-102. Prohibitions.
76-9-103. Planning — effect on shooting ranges.
76-9-104. Zoning — effect on shooting ranges.
76-9-105. Closure of shooting ranges — limitations — relocation cost.

Part 1
Protection of Shooting Range Location and Investments

76-9-101. Policy. It is the policy of the state of Montana to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state by promoting the safety and enjoyment of the shooting sports among the citizens of the state and by protecting the locations of and investment in shooting ranges for shotgun, archery, rifle, and pistol shooting.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 415, L. 1991.

76-9-102. Prohibitions. (1) Standards adopted by a state agency or unit of local government to limit levels of noise that may occur in the outdoor atmosphere may not apply to shooting ranges.

(2) Standards adopted by a state agency or unit of local government promulgated pursuant to Title 75 and concerning pollution by lead, copper, or brass may not limit or prohibit the operation of a shooting range because of lead, copper, or brass deposition resulting from shooting activities.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 415, L. 1991.

76-9-103. Planning — effect on shooting ranges. The laws of this state concerning planning or growth policies, as defined in 76-1-103, may not be construed to authorize an ordinance, resolution, or rule that would:

(1) prevent the operation of an existing shooting range as a nonconforming use;

(2) prohibit the establishment of new shooting ranges, but the ordinance, resolution, or rule may regulate the construction of shooting ranges to specified zones; or

(3) prevent the erection or construction of safety improvements on existing shooting ranges.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 415, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

76-9-104. Zoning — effect on shooting ranges. A planning district growth policy, recommendation, resolution, rule, or zoning designation may not:

(1) prevent the operation of an existing shooting range as a nonconforming use;

(2) prohibit the establishment of new shooting ranges, but it may regulate the construction of shooting ranges to specified zones; or

(3) prevent the erection or construction of safety improvements on existing shooting ranges.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 415, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 582, L. 1999.

76-9-105. Closure of shooting ranges — limitations — relocation cost. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), an established shooting range may not be prevented from operation by a state agency, unit of local government, or court unless the range presents a clear and provable safety hazard to the adjacent population.

(2) If a pressing public need exists because of incompatibility with nearby population or land use, an established shooting range may be relocated by an agency of state government, unit of local government, or court, but only if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) pressing public need is documented through hearings, testimony, and a clear and precise statement of need by the agency, unit of local government, or court involved;

(b) the agency or unit of local government obtaining the closure pays the appraised cost of the land together with improvements to the operators of the shooting range. In return the shooting range operators shall relinquish their interest in the property to the agency or unit of local government obtaining the closure.

(3) If a shooting range presents a clear and provable safety hazard to adjacent population, the range may be suspended from operation if:

(a) reasonable notice and opportunity to respond are afforded the range operators; and

(b) reasonable opportunity is afforded the range operators to correct any safety defects.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 415, L. 1991.

CHAPTER 10
REGULATION OF WILDCRAFTING

Part 1 — General Provisions

76-10-101. Purpose.
76-10-102. Definitions.
76-10-103. Written permission or permit to wildcraft required.
76-10-104. Exemption from written permission or permit requirement.
76-10-105. Requirements of buyer.
76-10-106. Restriction on liability of landowner.
76-10-107. Violations — penalties.

Part 1
General Provisions

76-10-101. Purpose. (1) The purpose of this part is to:

(a) encourage the growth of a statewide sustainable wildcrafting industry that encourages stewardship of the wild plant natural resources of the state by requiring a person who is wildcrafting for commercial purposes to obtain a permit or permission in a written form before the person can wildcraft and by providing enforcement procedures;

(b) require buyers to be accountable for wildcrafted plant material that they purchase by requiring recordkeeping; and

(c) establishing enforcement procedures.

(2) The state recognizes its limited jurisdiction within the Indian reservations in Montana and acknowledges and respects the government-to-government relationship between Montana and the tribes within its borders. It is the legislature's intent that this part be implemented within current jurisdictional limitations. The tribes are invited to enter into state-tribal cooperative agreements with Montana to provide for broader implementation.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 282, L. 2001.

76-10-102. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Buyer" means a person who purchases or acquires wildcrafted plant material, other than materials acquired directly from the property owner, for the purposes of resale.

(2) "Commercial purposes" means the harvest of wildcrafted plant material for the purpose of selling, trading, or otherwise exchanging the material for profit.

(3) "Landowner" means a person or entity of any nature, whether private, governmental, or quasi-governmental, and includes the landowner's agent, tenant, lessee, or occupant, a grantee of a conservation easement, a water users' association, an irrigation district, a drainage district, or persons or entities in control of property or with an agreement to use or occupy property.

(4) "Other jurisdictional entity" means the federal government or a tribal government.

(5) "Person" includes an individual, partnership, association, corporation, and any other body or group of persons, whether incorporated or not and regardless of the degree of formal organization.

(6) "Property" means land, roads, water, watercourses, and private ways. The term includes any improvements, buildings, structures, machinery, and equipment on property.

(7) "Seller" means a person who sells wildcrafted plant material.

(8) "Transport" means the physical conveyance of wildcrafted plant material away from the site of wildcrafting and includes but is not limited to transportation by:

(a) a motor vehicle designed for use on improved roadways;

(b) a boat, barge, raft, or other water vessel; or

(c) an airplane, helicopter, balloon, or other aircraft.

(9) (a) "Wildcraft" means to collect, harvest, or separate by cutting, prying, picking, peeling, breaking, pulling, digging, splitting, or otherwise removing uncultivated plants or plant parts from their physical connection or point of contact with the ground or vegetation upon which they are growing or from the place or position where they lay for commercial purposes.

(b) The term does not include the collection of:

(i) plant material used for a campfire; or

(ii) amounts intended for personal consumption.

(10) "Wildcrafted plant material" means any plant or part of any plant species that is not cultivated and that is growing wild on any lands in Montana.

(11) "Wildcrafter" means a person who wildcrafts plants.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 282, L. 2001.**

76-10-103. Written permission or permit to wildcraft required. (1) It is unlawful for any person to wildcraft or transport wildcrafted plant material without having in the person's possession a bill of sale, a signed, written permission form, or a permit from a landowner to wildcraft from the property from which the material is wildcrafted. The written permission or permit must include the following:

(a) the date the permission is given or the permit is issued;

(b) the name, address, telephone number, and signature of the person granting the permission or issuing the permit;

(c) the name, address, and telephone number of the person that is granted the permission or issued the permit;

(d) the common name or scientific name of the plant to be wildcrafted;

(e) the amount and specified part of the plant material to be wildcrafted;

(f) a description of the location on the property from which plant material may be wildcrafted;

(g) the expiration date of the permission or permit; and

(h) the license plate number of the vehicle to be used for the purposes of wildcrafting.

(2) Written permission given or a permit issued to the person supervising a crew of wildcrafters is an acceptable substitute for individual permission or permits.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 282, L. 2001.**

76-10-104. Exemption from written permission or permit requirement. The following are exemptions to the requirements of 76-10-103:

(1) A permit issued by a land management agency, another government agency, or any other jurisdictional entity in the state is acceptable in lieu of the written permission if the wildcrafting occurs on land managed by the entity issuing the permit.

(2) A landowner or other jurisdictional entity does not need written permission or a permit to wildcraft on property that the landowner or other jurisdictional entity owns.

(3) Written permission or a permit is not required for the amount of wildcrafted plant material that the landowner or other jurisdictional entity determines is for personal or incidental use.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 282, L. 2001.**

76-10-105. Requirements of buyer. (1) A buyer of wildcrafted plant material shall keep records of purchases or acquisitions of wildcrafted plant material for a period of 3 years from the date of purchase or acquisition.

(2) Copies of the records must be made available to a law enforcement officer upon request.

(3) The records must include:

(a) the date of purchase or acquisition;

(b) the common name or scientific name of the wildcrafted plant material;

(c) the number of the permit, if a number exists, or a copy of the permit or the written permission authorizing the wildcrafting, unless the material came from property owned by the seller;

(d) the name, address, telephone number, and signature of the person from whom the wildcrafted plant material was obtained;

(e) the license plate number of the vehicle that was used to deliver the wildcrafted plant material to the buyer;

(f) the quantity and plant part of wildcrafted plant material purchased or acquired; and

(g) the name, address, and telephone number of the landowner from whose land the wildcrafted plant material was harvested.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 282, L. 2001.**

76-10-106. Restriction on liability of landowner. (1) A person who uses private property for wildcrafting purposes, with or without permission, does so without any assurance from the landowner that the property is safe for any purpose. The landowner owes the person no duty of care with respect to the condition of the property, except that the landowner is liable to the person for any injury to person or property for an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

(2) A person who uses public property for wildcrafting purposes, with or without permission, does so without any assurance from the landowner that the property is safe for any purpose. The landowner owes the person no duty of care with respect to the condition of the property, except that the landowner is liable to the person for any injury to person or property for an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 282, L. 2001.

76-10-107. Violations — penalties. (1) It is unlawful for a person to:

(a) fail to obtain permission from a landowner to enter property for purposes of wildcrafting;

(b) transport wildcrafted plant material without a bill of sale, a signed, written permission form, or a permit from a landowner as provided in 76-10-103;

(c) have in the person's possession an amount of wildcrafted plant material that is in excess of the amount granted in the bill of sale, written permission, or permit.

(2) A person who is found to have violated subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine in an amount not less than $100 or more than $1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months or not less than 24 hours, or both, for a first offense. An offender convicted of a second offense under this section shall be fined not less than $500 or more than $1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year or not less than 6 months, or both.

(3) All wildcrafted plant material that is illegally wildcrafted, transported, or in the possession of a person convicted under this section must be impounded.

(4) The incidental disturbance of plants by a lessee or permittee who is lawfully exercising rights granted under the lease or permit is not considered to be in violation of this part.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 282, L. 2001.

CHAPTER 11
NATURAL RESOURCES IN GENERAL

Part 1 — Protection From Fire (Renumbered and Repealed)

Part 2 — Soil Survey and Mapping Program

76-11-201. Short title.
76-11-202. Purpose.
76-11-203. Repealed.
76-11-204. Repealed.

Chapter Cross-References

Natural resource information system, Title 90, ch. 15.

Part 1
Protection From Fire
(Renumbered and Repealed)

76-11-101. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1836, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1836, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 220, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1415; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 259, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 27, L. 1997.

76-11-102. Renumbered 76-13-136. Sec. 32(2), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

Part 2
Soil Survey and Mapping Program

76-11-201. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Montana Soil Survey Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1979.

76-11-202. Purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the soils of the state of Montana are one of its most basic and precious natural resources and that detailed knowledge of soil capabilities and adaptability is essential for:

(a) making wise land use decisions;

(b) preparing plans for cities, towns, counties, planning boards, farmers, foresters, industrial developers, and residential developers;

(c) locating and designing buildings, highways, reservoirs, and recreation areas; and

(d) protecting our forest, range, and agricultural lands.

(2) Pursuant to these findings, it is the intention of the legislature to accelerate the survey and mapping of the state's soil resources, to set a goal of completing the soil survey and mapping program.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1979.

76-11-203. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

76-11-204. Repealed. Sec. 500, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 1979.

CHAPTER 12
WILD AND SCENIC RESOURCES

Part 1 — Natural Areas

76-12-101. Short title.
76-12-102. Legislative findings.
76-12-103. Statement of policy.
76-12-104. Definitions.
76-12-105. Repealed.
76-12-106. Repealed.
76-12-107. Methods of bringing land under part.
76-12-108. Acquisition of lands.
76-12-109. Report to legislature.
76-12-110. Restriction on condemnation or development of natural areas.
76-12-111. Continuation of existing uses.
76-12-112. Duties of board — administrative rules and hearing requirements.
76-12-113. Repealed.
76-12-114. Repealed.
76-12-115. Consultation with interested parties.
76-12-116. Files and proceedings open to public.
76-12-117. Application of more restrictive provisions.
76-12-118 through 76-12-120 reserved.
76-12-121. Duties of department — plan for natural areas system.
76-12-122. Terminated.
76-12-123. Natural areas account.

Part 1
Natural Areas

Part Cross-References

State forest lands — deferral of management prohibited, 77-5-116.

76-12-101. Short title. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Montana Natural Areas Act of 1974".

History: En. 81-2701 by Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2701.

76-12-102. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that:

(1) in the expanses of Montana there are natural areas possessing significant scenic, educational, scientific, biological, and/or geological values or areas possessing these characteristics to a degree promising their restoration to a natural state;

(2) since the development of these areas is an irreversible commitment of a finite and diminishing resource of fundamental importance, selected areas should be preserved for the benefit of this and future generations;

(3) currently there are no regulations promulgated by the state or local governments to insure adequate protection for natural areas;

(4) it is necessary to establish a process for developing a system of natural areas and to encourage public and private participation in the establishment of a natural areas system for the benefit of the citizens of the state; and

(5) designations of natural areas should first consider protected natural features in publicly owned and privately dedicated lands, such as nature preserves, natural areas, parks, and wilderness areas, and should avoid duplication of these features.

History: En. 81-2702 by Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2702(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

76-12-103. Statement of policy. (1) It is the intention of the legislature to establish a system for the protection of natural or potentially natural areas in order to preserve their natural ecosystem integrity in perpetuity.

(2) In this connection, the legislature recognizes the fact that the school trust lands are held in trust for the support of education and for the attainment of other worthy objects helpful to the well-being of the people of the state; that it is the duty of the board of land commissioners to administer this trust so as to secure the largest measure of legitimate and reasonable advantage to the state; and hereby declares the preservation of natural areas, whether trust or other lands, for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations to be an object worthy of legislative action helpful to the well-being of the people of the state and also declares that the preservation of natural areas on state trust land has sufficient value to present and future education to meet the state's obligation for the disposition and utilization of trust lands as specified in The Enabling Act.

History: En. 81-2702 by Sec. 2, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2702(part).

76-12-104. Definitions. (1) "Board" means the board of land commissioners.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation.

(3) "Natural area" means an area of land that must generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the visual aspects of human intrusion not dominant and also must have one or more of the following characteristics:

(a) an outstanding mixture or variety of vegetation, wildlife, water resource, landscape, and scenic values;

(b) an important or rare ecological or geological feature or other rare or significant natural feature worthy of preservation for scientific, educational, or ecological purposes.

(4) "Natural areas system" means the composite of lands in the state that exhibit the characteristics of natural areas and that have been designated by the board or dedicated or otherwise protected and managed as natural areas.

(5) "Register" means the Montana register of natural areas established under 76-12-121.

History: En. 81-2703 by Sec. 3, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2703; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 460, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 261, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-12-105. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. 81-2705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2705(part).

76-12-106. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. 81-2705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2705(part).

76-12-107. Methods of bringing land under part. A natural area, as defined in 76-12-104, may become subject to the provisions of this part in any of the following ways:

(1) designation by the board on lands controlled by the board;

(2) designation by the legislature on lands owned by the state of Montana;

(3) acquisition by the board by purchase with consent of the property owner of sufficient interests in private property to protect the natural area; provided, however, that transfer of surface property or development rights shall not alter the rights attending the subsurface estate if owned by another party;

(4) gift accepted by the board under the authority of 77-1-213, including conservation easements, provided that lands accepted must be protected and managed as natural areas and money accepted must be used in accordance with the purposes of this part;

(5) trade of state-owned trust land for a natural area on federal, county, or private land, provided, however, that lands received in exchange for trust lands should be equal in value to the exchanged trust land and as closely as possible equal in area; or

(6) registration of land by the department, following appropriate documentation and owner consent, that has been designated, dedicated, or otherwise protected as a natural area by the owner, including a private landowner, public interest group, or other land management agency.

History: En. 81-2704 by Sec. 4, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2704; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Exchanges of land, Title 77, ch. 2, part 2.

76-12-108. Acquisition of lands. Subject to the limits of available appropriations, the board is authorized to acquire interests in land by purchase, grant, deed, gift, or devise for the purpose of designating natural areas.

History: En. 81-2707 by Sec. 7, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2707; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 125, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 238, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 238, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 24, 2023.

Applicability: Section 7, Ch. 238, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] does not apply to condemnation proceedings commenced pursuant to 70-30-206 before [the effective date of this act]." Effective April 24, 2023.

Cross-References

Preservation of cultural resources, Art. IX, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.

76-12-109. Report to legislature. The board may, as provided in 5-11-210, submit to each legislature a report on its designation and acquisition activities.

History: En. 81-2705 by Sec. 5, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2705(part); amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 112, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 349, L. 1993.

76-12-110. Restriction on condemnation or development of natural areas. Natural areas acquired or designated in accordance with the provisions of this part are protected from condemnation or other development adversely affecting the integrity of the natural area until legislative action is taken specifically authorizing the development or condemnation, as provided in Title 70, chapter 30.

History: En. 81-2708 by Sec. 8, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2708(1); amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 125, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Eminent domain, Title 70, ch. 30.

Signs prohibited near natural areas, 75-15-113(8).

76-12-111. Continuation of existing uses. Land uses on the designated or acquired natural area in existence at the time of designation or acquisition by the board may continue under appropriate leases or agreements. All such land uses shall be controlled under regulations established by the board under 76-12-112.

History: En. 81-2708 by Sec. 8, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2708(2).

76-12-112. Duties of board — administrative rules and hearing requirements. (1) The board shall, after at least one public hearing, promulgate comprehensive regulations for the protection of acquired and designated natural areas within its jurisdiction. Such regulations shall be consistent with the intent of this part and shall be promulgated and enforced so as to protect the qualities of the natural areas. Special attention shall be given to protecting areas from recreational overuse.

(2) The regulations shall provide for meetings by the board for the receipt of testimony on the department's proposed designation of natural areas. No area shall be designated by the board unless the opportunity for public testimony has been afforded at meetings provided for in the regulations and positive notification of all involved landowners and lessees has been made.

(3) The board shall consider the department's recommendations as provided in 76-12-121(4) and issue a statement of its decision.

History: En. 81-2709 by Sec. 9, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2709; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

Cross-References

Application of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

76-12-113. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. 81-2710 by Sec. 10, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2710(part).

76-12-114. Repealed. Sec. 11, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. 81-2710 by Sec. 10, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2710(part).

76-12-115. Consultation with interested parties. The department shall consult with citizen organizations, organizations representing Montana's basic resource industries, and other interested state agencies in the administration of this part.

History: En. 81-2711 by Sec. 11, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2711(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

76-12-116. Files and proceedings open to public. All files and proceedings under this part shall be open to the public.

History: En. 81-2711 by Sec. 11, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2711(part).

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

76-12-117. Application of more restrictive provisions. A designated natural area that is or shall become a part of a state park, wildlife refuge, or similar area shall be subject to the provisions of this part and the laws under which the other areas may be administered, and in the case of conflict between the provisions of these laws, the more restrictive provisions shall apply.

History: En. 81-2712 by Sec. 12, Ch. 254, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2712.

76-12-118 through 76-12-120 reserved.

76-12-121. Duties of department — plan for natural areas system. The department may:

(1) identify the existing and potential natural areas on lands under its jurisdiction and annually prepare a register listing the existing natural areas on private, county, state, and federal land;

(2) prepare and implement a biennial administrative plan for a natural areas system that will:

(a) assure equitable representation of the diversity of natural area types that are found to occur on private, county, state, and federal lands; and

(b) include identification of important natural area needs, viable methods to make eligible lands a part of the natural areas system, responsible management entities, goals for establishing natural areas, obligations of cooperating agencies, organizations, and individuals, and administrative procedures for registering natural areas with the department;

(3) consider the concerns and comments of the board and the public in preparing and implementing the administrative plan described in subsection (2);

(4) make recommendations to the board for designation of natural areas on state lands and for acquisition of interests in other lands for the preservation of natural areas;

(5) provide that designated natural areas on state lands are available for multiple uses, including but not limited to grazing, recreation, and snowmobiling, if such uses are consistent with the state's obligations under The Enabling Act and do not interfere with the management or integrity of the natural area; and

(6) provide that the management of natural areas on state lands includes provisions for weed control consistent with 7-22-2151. The department assumes any levy under 7-22-2142 in natural areas; the lessee is not responsible for fire suppression costs in natural areas, and the lessee is not responsible for keeping natural areas free of garbage and debris.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

76-12-122. Terminated. Sec. 15, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 460, L. 1987.

76-12-123. Natural areas account. (1) There is a natural areas special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) The natural areas account may receive funds from any source as gifts.

(3) The department may spend funds accepted as gifts in accordance with the purposes of this part, including administration of a natural areas program.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 460, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 628, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

CHAPTER 13
TIMBER RESOURCES

Part 1 — Protection of Forest Resources

76-13-101. Purpose.
76-13-102. Definitions.
76-13-103. Applicability.
76-13-104. Functions of department — rulemaking.
76-13-105. Protection of lands and improvements from fire.
76-13-106. Repealed.
76-13-107. Classification of forest lands.
76-13-108. Person responsible for performance of duties.
76-13-109. Repealed.
76-13-110. Owner's right to department hearing.
76-13-111. Permissible expenditures.
76-13-112. Penalty for violation.
76-13-113. Destruction of signs.
76-13-114. Disposition of fines.
76-13-115. State fire policy.
76-13-116. Duties of firewardens — liability.
76-13-117. Terminated.
76-13-118. Terminated.
76-13-119. Exemption from environmental review.
76-13-120 reserved.
76-13-121. Permit for burning required.
76-13-122. Failure to comply with permit.
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76-13-124. Throwing lighted materials.
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76-13-126. Restrictions on mill waste.
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76-13-131. Renumbered 76-13-420.
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76-13-135. Renumbered 76-13-424.
76-13-136. Cooperative agreements with owners and lessees of land for fire protection and conservation.
76-13-137 through 76-13-139 reserved.
76-13-140. Legal representation for state firefighters.
76-13-141 through 76-13-144 reserved.
76-13-145. Designation of wildland-urban interface parcels.
76-13-146 through 76-13-149 reserved.
76-13-150. Fire suppression account — fund transfer.
76-13-151. Good neighbor forestry accounts — uses.
76-13-152 and 76-13-153 reserved.
76-13-154. Federal forest management projects — attorney general authority to intervene.

Part 2 — Provision of Fire Protection Services

76-13-201. Costs for protection from fire.
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76-13-423. When additional notification required.
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Part 5 — Portable Sawmills on Forest Lands (Repealed)

Part 6 — Transportation of Coniferous Trees

76-13-601. Unlawful transportation of trees and boughs.

Part 7 — Sustainable Management of Public Forests

76-13-701. Findings and policy.
76-13-702. Duties — authority.

Part 8 — Mechanized Fuels Reduction and Fire Suppression (Terminated)

Chapter Cross-References

County forests, Title 7, ch. 8, part 26.
Timber trespass — treble damages, 70-16-107.
Timber resources on state lands, Title 77, ch. 5.
Functions of Department of Commerce respecting forestry, 90-1-102.

Part 1
Protection of Forest Resources

76-13-101. Purpose. (1) (a) It is the purpose of part 2 and this part to provide for:

(i) the protection and conservation of natural resources, range, and water; and

(ii) the prevention of soil erosion.

(b) It is further the purpose of part 2 and this part to more adequately promote and facilitate the cooperation, financial and otherwise, between the state and public and private agencies that are associated in the work.

(2) To achieve the conservation of natural and watershed resources, the legislature encourages the use of best management practices in timber sale planning, associated road construction and reconstruction, timber harvesting, site preparation, and related activities and establishes a process to ensure that information on best management practices is provided to owners and operators engaged in forest practices on private land.

History: En. 28-101.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-101.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 423, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in part 2 and this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Conservation" means the protection and wise use of forest, range, water, and soil resources in keeping with the common welfare of the people of this state.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(3) "Forest land" means land that has enough timber, standing or down, slash, or brush to constitute in the judgment of the department a fire menace to life or property. Grassland and agricultural areas are included when those areas are intermingled with or contiguous to and no further than one-half mile from areas of forest land.

(4) (a) "Forest practices" means the harvesting of trees, road construction or reconstruction associated with harvesting and accessing trees, site preparation for regeneration of a timber stand, reforestation, and the management of logging slash.

(b) The term does not include activities for the purpose of:

(i) the operation of a nursery or Christmas tree farm;

(ii) the harvest of Christmas trees;

(iii) the harvest of firewood; or

(iv) the cutting of trees for personal use by an owner or operator.

(5) "Operator" means a person responsible for conducting forest practices. An operator may be the owner, the owner's agent, or a person who, through contractual agreement with the landowner, is obligated to or entitled to conduct forest practices or to carry out a timber sale.

(6) "Owner" means the person, firm, association, or corporation having the actual, beneficial ownership of forest land or timber other than an easement, right-of-way, or mineral reservation.

(7) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, or association of any kind.

(8) "Recognized agency" means an agency organized for the purpose of providing fire protection and recognized by the department as giving adequate fire protection to lands in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

(9) "Timber sale" means a series of forest practices designed to access, harvest, and regenerate trees on a defined land area.

(10) "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means an aircraft that is operated without direct human intervention from, on, or within the aircraft.

(11) "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" means the entire system used to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle, including:

(a) the unmanned aerial vehicle;

(b) communications equipment;

(c) navigation equipment;

(d) controllers;

(e) support equipment; and

(f) autopilot functionality.

(12) "Wildfire" means an unplanned, unwanted fire burning uncontrolled on wildland and consuming vegetative fuels.

(13) "Wildfire season" means the period of each year beginning May 1 and ending September 30, inclusive.

(14) "Wildfire suppression activities" means any action, response, or effort by a recognized agency to contain, extinguish, or suppress a wildfire.

(15) "Wildland" means an area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar facilities, and in which structures, if any, are widely scattered.

(16) "Wildland fire" means a fire burning uncontrolled on forest lands.

(17) "Wildland fire protection" means the work of prevention, detection, and suppression of wildland fires and includes training required to perform those functions.

(18) "Wildland fire protection district" means a definite land area, the boundaries of which are fixed and in which wildland fire protection is provided through the medium of an agency recognized by the department.

(19) "Wildland-urban interface" means the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-103(part); amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 423, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 262, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 662, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 662, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

76-13-103. Applicability. Part 2 and this part apply to all state and private lands within this state that are susceptible to wildfire, as determined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-104(2); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-104. Functions of department — rulemaking. (1) (a) The department has the duty to ensure the protection of land under state and private ownership and to suppress wildfires on land under state and private ownership. Fees may not be collected for this purpose except fees provided for in 76-13-201.

(b) The department may engage in wildfire initial attack on all lands if the fire threatens to move onto state or private land.

(2) (a) The department shall adopt rules to protect the natural resources of the state, especially the natural resources owned by the state, from destruction by fire and for that purpose, in declared emergencies, may employ personnel and incur other expenses when necessary.

(b) The department may adopt and enforce reasonable rules for the purpose of enforcing and accomplishing the provisions and purposes of part 2 and this part.

(3) The duty imposed on the department under this section is not exclusive to the department and does not absolve private property owners or local governmental fire agencies organized under Title 7, chapter 33, from any fire protection or suppression responsibilities.

(4) The department may give technical and practical advice concerning forest, range, water, and soil conservation and the establishment and maintenance of woodlots, windbreaks, shelterbelts, and fire protection.

(5) The department shall cooperate with all public and other agencies in the development, protection, and conservation of the forest, range, and water resources in this state.

(6) The department shall establish and maintain wildland fire control training programs.

(7) The department shall appoint firewardens in the number and localities that it considers necessary and shall adopt rules prescribing the qualifications and duties of firewardens that are in addition to those provided in 76-13-116.

(8) The department shall adopt rules addressing development within the wildland-urban interface, including but not limited to:

(a) best practices for development within the wildland-urban interface; and

(b) criteria for providing grant and loan assistance to local government entities to encourage adoption of best practices for development within the wildland-urban interface.

(9) (a) The department shall establish a good neighbor policy that would allow the department to enter into a cooperating and coordinating agreement or contract that authorizes the state forester to engage in forest management and education activities to:

(i) reduce wildland fire risk and intensity on federal land designated as wildland-urban interface under 76-13-145; and

(ii) take advantage of federal authority that promotes sustainable forest management.

(b) Forest management activities to reduce wildland fire risk and intensity included in the good neighbor policy must include the authority to:

(i) treat insect-infested trees;

(ii) reduce hazardous fuels; and

(iii) conduct any other activities to improve the overall diversity and vigor of forested landscapes.

(10) The department has the authority to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects that involve reduction of hazardous fuels or other activities to mitigate the risk of wildland fire in the wildland-urban interface.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-106(1), (4), (6); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 423, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 172, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 206, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 437, L. 2017.

Cross-References

Exchange of timbered, cut-over, or burned-over lands, 77-2-211.

76-13-105. Protection of lands and improvements from fire. (1) Nonforest lands and improvements may be protected by the department when requested by the landowner at rates determined by the department in those areas where a recognized agency is available.

(2) Land classified as forest land under 76-13-107 that is within a wildland fire protection district, as provided in 76-13-204, or that is otherwise under contract for fire protection by a recognized agency must be protected as provided in 76-13-201 and 76-13-207.

(3) Private and public land, whether classified as forest land or otherwise, that is not within a wildland fire protection district or under the protection of a recognized agency or a municipality must be protected by a county as provided in 7-33-2202. The county governing body shall either provide direct protection, as provided in 7-33-2202(4), or it shall enter into an agreement for protection with a recognized agency.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-106(5); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-106. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-122; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 529, L. 1981.

76-13-107. Classification of forest lands. The department may classify the forest land areas of the state for which conservation and fire protection measures are reasonably required and change or modify the classification from time to time as in its judgment is proper.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-106(3).

76-13-108. Person responsible for performance of duties. (1) If the owner does not appear upon the public records as the holder of the legal title to the land or timber, the owner is nevertheless primarily responsible for the performance of the acts and duties imposed upon the owner by part 2 and this part.

(2) When the owner of the timber is not the owner of the land, the primary responsibility for the performance of the acts and duties imposed by part 2 and this part is upon the owner of the timber.

(3) When the state has title to forest lands within an organized forest protection district, it must be considered as an owner and it shall list its lands and pay the assessments to the recognized agencies responsible for lands in organized forest protection districts.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 28-104, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 128, L. 1939; Sec. 28-108, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 28-104(1), 28-108; amd. Sec. 2521, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-13-109. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-105(2); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 27, L. 1997.

76-13-110. Owner's right to department hearing. (1) An owner of forest land is entitled to a hearing before the department, after a request for a hearing, on any subject pertaining to the activities of the department or any recognized agency as agent of the department affecting the owner's property. A request for a hearing before the department may not have the effect of suspending the operations of the department or any agent of the department undertaken pursuant to this chapter, but upon the hearing, the department may terminate those operations if found unreasonable.

(2) A hearing pertaining to costs charged against the forest land of an owner for protection, as provided in 76-13-201, must be requested on or before August 15 each year.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 141, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-129; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-111. Permissible expenditures. (1) The following funds may be expended as directed by the department for fire prevention, detection, and suppression and for forest range, water, and soil conservation:

(a) all moneys collected by county treasurers as assessments on forest lands for forest protection;

(b) moneys collected for the abatement of public nuisances;

(c) all fines collected, except those collected in a justice's court, for violations of this part or part 2;

(d) the state's share of the cooperative fire protection funds allocated by the federal government;

(e) any other funds provided for the purposes herein indicated.

(2) All other cooperative funds collected, appropriated, or allocated for the use of the department, including funds for the removal of slash hazards resulting from logging or other wood operations on state and private forest lands, those provided for the purpose of helping to maintain the maximum productivity of the forests of the state, those provided for purposes designed to assist the farmers of the state in the establishment of windbreaks and woodlots in localities where those forest plantings are helpful, and funds for other cooperative work, may not be expended except for the specific purposes for which they were collected, appropriated, or allocated.

History: **En. Sec. 23, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 217, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 30, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-123; amd. Sec. 47, Ch. 557, L. 1987.**

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

76-13-112. Penalty for violation. (1) Unless otherwise provided by this part or part 2, a person who violates this part or part 2 or any rule adopted pursuant to this part or part 2 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or imprisonment in a county jail for not more than 6 months or both.

(2) Actions to prosecute criminal violations of this part or part 2 or any rule adopted pursuant to this part or part 2 must be conducted by the city attorney, county attorney, or attorney general.

History: **En. Sec. 27, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-127; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 662, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 662, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

76-13-113. Destruction of signs. Any person who shall destroy, deface, remove, injure, or disfigure any sign, placard, proclamation, order, warning, or notice issued by any federal, state, or forest protection agency under the provisions of this part or part 2 and erected or posted at any point in the state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: **En. Sec. 20, Ch. 128, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 28-120.**

76-13-114. Disposition of fines. Fines collected in a court of the state under part 2 or this part, except those collected in a justice's court, must be transferred to the department of revenue for deposit in the state special revenue fund. When a person is convicted in any court of a violation of part 2 or this part, the court may levy and collect as costs in the case the amount necessary to compensate the county for the expenditures made in and for the prosecution of the offender. These costs when collected, except those collected in a justice's court, must be deposited by the court with the proper county treasurer for the benefit of the county.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-121; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 532, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 257, L. 2001.**

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.

76-13-115. State fire policy. The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) the safety of the public and of firefighters is paramount in all wildfire suppression activities;

(2) it is a priority to minimize property and resource loss resulting from wildfire and to minimize expense to Montana taxpayers, which is generally accomplished through an aggressive and rapid initial attack effort;

(3) interagency cooperation and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies are intended and encouraged, including cooperation when restricting activity or closing areas to access becomes necessary;

(4) fire prevention, hazard reduction, and loss mitigation are fundamental components of this policy;

(5) all property in Montana has wildfire protection from a recognized fire protection entity;

(6) all private property owners and federal and state public land management agencies have a responsibility to manage resources, mitigate fire hazards, and otherwise prevent fires on their property;

(7) sound forest management activities to reduce fire risk, such as thinning, prescribed burning, and insect and disease treatments, improve the overall diversity and vigor of forested landscapes and improve the condition of related water, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic resources;

(8) development of fire protection guidelines for the wildland-urban interface is critical to improving public safety and for reducing risk and loss; and

(9) catastrophic wildland fire in wildland-urban interface areas resulting from inadequate federal land management activities to reduce fire risk has the potential to jeopardize Montanans' inalienable right to a clean and healthful environment guaranteed in Article II, section 3, of the Montana constitution.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 401, L. 2013.

76-13-116. Duties of firewardens — liability. (1) In addition to the duties prescribed by rule pursuant to 76-13-104(7), a firewarden appointed by the department shall promptly report all fires to the department, take immediate and active steps toward their extinguishment, report any violation of the provisions of Title 76, chapter 13, parts 1 and 2, and assist in apprehending and convicting offenders.

(2) A firewarden is not liable for civil action for trespass committed in the discharge of the firewarden's duties, and the provisions of 45-6-203 do not apply to a firewarden acting within the course and scope of the firewarden's duties.

(3) A firewarden who has information that shows, with reasonable certainty, that a person has violated any provision of Title 76, chapter 13, parts 1 and 2, shall immediately take action against the offender by making a complaint before the appropriate authority or by providing information to the appropriate county attorney and shall obtain all possible evidence pertaining to the violation.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-117. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 425, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 425, L. 2015.

76-13-118. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 425, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 425, L. 2015.

76-13-119. Exemption from environmental review. The department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when granting federal, state, or private funds for authorized grant activities on private, county, or municipal lands to conserve habitat, reduce wildfire risk, or improve forest health.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 169, L. 2021.

76-13-120 reserved.

76-13-121. Permit for burning required. (1) During the wildfire season or an expansion of the wildfire season, a person may not ignite or set a fire, including a slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire, or, except as provided in subsection (2), an open fire without an official written permit to ignite or set the fire from the recognized agency for that protection area.

(2) (a) If no restrictions are in place, a permit is not needed for recreational fires measuring less than 48 inches in diameter that are surrounded by a nonflammable area or structure and for which a suitable source of extinguishing the fire is available.

(b) A recreational fire may not be ignited if special restrictions prohibiting recreational fires have been established by an authority having jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-114; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-122. Failure to comply with permit. A person to whom a written permit is issued to set or ignite a fire shall comply strictly with the permit. A person who fails to comply with the permit, leaves the fire unattended, leaves the fire before it is totally extinguished, or negligently allows the fire to spread from or beyond the burning area defined by the permit is subject to the penalty provided in 50-63-102 and is subject to the provisions of 50-63-103. The department shall prescribe the form and substance of the permit.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-116; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

Cross-References

Penalty for misdemeanor, 46-18-212.

76-13-123. Failure to extinguish recreational fire. A person who fails to extinguish a recreational fire that the person has set or ignited or in which the person has been left in charge or who negligently allows the fire to spread from the area described in 76-13-121 is subject to the penalty provided in 50-63-102 and is subject to the provisions of 50-63-103.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 128, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 28-115; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Penalty for misdemeanor, 46-18-212.
Penalty for setting or leaving fire causing damage, 50-63-102.
Liability of offender for damages and costs, 50-63-103.

76-13-124. Throwing lighted materials. A person who throws or places any lighted material or flaming or glowing substance that may start a fire is subject to the penalty provided in 50-63-102 and is subject to the provisions of 50-63-103.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-117; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

76-13-125. Spark arresters required. A person may not use, drive, or operate within any wildland an internal combustion engine that is not equipped with a modern, efficient, and adequate spark arrester to prevent the escape of sparks, coals, cinders, and other burning material from the exhaust of the engine.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-118; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

76-13-126. Restrictions on mill waste. (1) Before each wildfire season, all persons, firms, or corporations creating or responsible for mill waste within forest areas shall treat, dispose of, remove, or reduce the hazards created so that the accumulation of the waste does not constitute a fire hazard.

(2) A sawmill located within or contiguous to forest lands may not accumulate in one pile sawdust in excess of an amount resulting from the sawing of 500,000 feet log scale of sawlogs. However, a larger sawdust pile may be accumulated when there is no reasonable danger of fire from the sawdust pile and a permit for the additional accumulation is granted by the department. If burning is the disposal method elected, each sawdust pile must be prepared for burning by cribbing the base of each pile with slabs and must be burned in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-119; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

76-13-127 through 76-13-130 reserved.

76-13-131. Renumbered 76-13-420. Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-132. Renumbered 76-13-421. Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-133. Renumbered 76-13-422. Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-134. Renumbered 76-13-423. Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-135. Renumbered 76-13-424. Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-136. Cooperative agreements with owners and lessees of land for fire protection and conservation. (1) For the purpose of more adequately promoting and facilitating cooperation, financial and otherwise, between the state and all of the public and private agencies, the department of natural resources and conservation may cooperate with owners or lessees of farm, range, forest, watershed, or other uncultivated lands in private and public ownership for the protection from fire of the cultivated agricultural crops or natural resources existing or growing on the land and also in the conservation and perpetuation of the lands and resources, including the prevention of soil erosion and the regulation of stream flow.

(2) The state treasurer may receive money that may be appropriated or allotted for the purposes listed in subsection (1) by the state, counties, municipalities, the United States government or any department of the federal government, or other organization or individual.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.9, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 81-1409, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.10, R.C.M. 1935; amd; Sec. 216, Ch. 147, L. 1963; Sec. 81-1410, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1409, 81-1410; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 260, Ch. 418, L. 1995; Sec. 76-11-102, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-136 by Sec. 32(2), Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

76-13-137 through 76-13-139 reserved.

76-13-140. Legal representation for state firefighters. (1) The department shall pay reasonable attorney fees and costs for outside legal counsel to defend a firefighter employed by the department against a criminal prosecution for a good faith act or omission by the firefighter arising from the firefighter's performance of duties during a wildfire. The department may determine whether the firefighter's act or omission was in good faith and arising from the performance of the firefighter's duties during a wildfire. The requirement to pay attorney fees and costs does not apply to any postconviction legal proceedings.

(2) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 464, L. 2007.**

76-13-141 through 76-13-144 reserved.

76-13-145. Designation of wildland-urban interface parcels. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the department shall identify the parcels of property in the state that are considered to be wildland-urban interface parcels, delineate those parcels on maps, and ensure that the maps and information on the maps are available to the public, local governing bodies, and governmental fire agencies organized under Title 7, chapter 33.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the department shall identify a county's wildland-urban interface parcels based on the wildland-urban interface designation developed as part of the county's completion of a community wildfire protection plan under 16 U.S.C. 6501, et seq., the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

(b) If a community wildfire protection plan has not been adopted, the department shall:

(i) provide notice to the county governing body that the department intends to designate the wildland-urban interface within the county's jurisdictional boundary;

(ii) allow up to 18 months for the county to complete and adopt a community wildfire protection plan if a county had begun the process of developing a plan prior to receiving the notice from the department under subsection (2)(b)(i);

(iii) review and consider the analysis of the potential for fire and wildland fire in the county's growth policy, as required in 76-1-601(3)(j) if a growth policy has been adopted;

(iv) consult with the county governing body and governmental fire agencies organized under Title 7, chapter 33, regarding appropriate parcels to designate as wildland-urban interface parcels; and

(v) clearly identify and make available to the county governing body and governmental fire agencies the criteria the department intends to use in designating parcels.

(3) Location of a property within the wildland-urban interface designated under this section may not be the sole reason for assessing additional fire protection fees, impact fees, or other fees against the property.

(4) The department shall review each county's wildland-urban interface designation every 5 years, make changes as necessary, and maintain accurate maps and other identifying information.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Fire protection, Title 7, ch. 33.

Growth policy — contents, 76-1-601.

76-13-146 through 76-13-149 reserved.

76-13-150. Fire suppression account — fund transfer. (1) There is a fire suppression account in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(2) The legislature may transfer money from other funds to the account, and the money in the account is subject to legislative fund transfers.

(3) Funds received for restitution by private parties must be deposited in the account.

(4) Money in the account may be used only for:

(a) fire suppression costs;

(b) fuel reduction and mitigation;

(c) forest restoration;

(d) grants for the purchase of fire suppression equipment for county cooperatives;

(e) forest management projects on federal land;

(f) support for collaborative groups that include at least one representative of an affected county commission that is engaged with a federal forest project and for local governments engaged in litigation related to federal forest projects;

(g) road maintenance on federal lands; and

(h) fire preparedness.

(5) In an even-numbered calendar year, after the transfers made pursuant to 17-7-130, if the preliminary general fund ending balance at fiscal yearend was greater than 8.3% of all general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium, then the state treasurer shall transfer from the general fund to the fire suppression account funds sufficient to bring the fire suppression account fund balance to 6% of the general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium. The transfer may not cause the general fund ending fund balance to have a balance of less than 8.3% of all general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium.

(6) The provisions of subsection (5) do not apply in a fiscal year in which reductions required by 17-7-140 occur or if a transfer pursuant to subsection (5) would require reductions pursuant to 17-7-140.

(7) If the balance in the account at the end of the most recently completed odd-numbered fiscal year exceeds 3% of all general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium, then up to 1% of all general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium may be used and is statutorily appropriated from the fire suppression account for the purposes in subsections (4)(b) through (4)(g). Of that amount, no more than 5% may be used for the purposes of subsection (4)(f).

(8) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, up to 0.5% of all general revenue appropriations in the second year of the biennium is statutorily appropriated from the fire suppression account each year and may be used each year to the department for the item in subsection (4)(h).

(9) Money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for the purposes described in subsection (4).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 2, Sp. L. September 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 441, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 312, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 368, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 115, L. 2017; amd. Secs. 29, 30, Ch. 429, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 740, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment — Coordination: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 740, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 22, 2023.

The amendment to this section made by sec. 1, Ch. 740, L. 2023, was replaced by sec. 4, Ch. 740, L. 2023, a coordination section.

76-13-151. Good neighbor forestry accounts — uses. (1) There are good neighbor forestry special revenue accounts administered by the department within the state special revenue fund and the federal special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) (a) All state proceeds allocated or budgeted for the purposes of the good neighbor policy established pursuant to 76-13-104 must be deposited in the state special revenue account provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

(b) Money received by the state in the form of gifts, grants, reimbursements, or allocations from any source intended to be used for the purposes of the good neighbor policy established pursuant to 76-13-104 must be deposited in the appropriate account provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

(c) Federal funds received by the state through good neighbor agreements with the federal government must be deposited in the federal special revenue account provided for in subsection (1) to be used for the purposes of the good neighbor policy established pursuant to 76-13-104.

(3) Funds in the accounts are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department only to carry out the provisions of the good neighbor policy established pursuant to 76-13-104.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 376, L. 2019.**

76-13-152 and 76-13-153 reserved.

76-13-154. Federal forest management projects — attorney general authority to intervene. (1) The attorney general has the authority to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects.

(2) The authority provided in subsection (1) includes the authority to:

(a) fulfill the purposes of Title 76, chapter 13, to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects that could affect watershed protection or restoration; and

(b) intervene in litigation involving projects that lie within a landscape-scale insect and disease area designated by the U.S. department of agriculture pursuant to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Agricultural Act of 2014.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 401, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 278, L. 2015.**

Part 2
Provision of Fire Protection Services

76-13-201. Costs for protection from fire. (1) An owner of land classified as forest land that is within a wildland fire protection district or that is otherwise under contract for fire protection by a recognized agency is subject to the fees for fire protection provided in this section.

(2) The department shall provide fire protection to the land described in subsection (1) at a cost to the landowner of not more than $50 for each landowner in the protection district and of not more than an additional 30 cents per acre per year for each acre in excess of 20 acres owned by each landowner in each protection district, as necessary to yield the amount of money provided for in 76-13-207. Assessment, payment, and collection of the fire protection costs must be in accordance with 76-13-207.

(3) Other charges may not be assessed to a participating landowner except in cases of proved negligence on the part of the landowner or the landowner's agent or in the event of a violation of 50-63-103.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 188, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-109; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 643, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 360, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 195, Ch. 574, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 2015.**

76-13-202. Means by which department may provide protection. The department may provide for wildfire protection of any wildlands through the department or by contract or any other feasible means, in cooperation with any federal, state, or other recognized agency.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-106(2); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 336, L. 2007.**

76-13-203. Extension of wildfire season. In the event of excessive or great fire danger, the wildfire season defined in 76-13-102 may be expanded when in the judgment of the department dangerous fire conditions exist. When expanded, the department shall give public notice.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 216, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 93, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 30, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-103(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 662, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 662, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

76-13-204. Creation, annexation of land into, and dissolution of wildland fire protection districts. (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsections (2) and (3), the department may create, annex land to, or dissolve wildland fire protection districts.

(2) Before a district is created, land is annexed into a district, or a district is dissolved, the department shall hold a hearing in any county in which land affected by the proposed change is located.

(a) The department shall give notice at least 20 days in advance of the hearing to all property owners to be affected by the proposed change. Service of the notice must be made by certified mail to each affected property owner and by publication of the notice in a newspaper published or generally circulated in the county in which the hearing is to be held.

(b) The department shall consider the arguments made for and against the proposed change in making a determination under this section.

(3) (a) A wildland fire protection district may not be created or dissolved unless approved in writing by a vote of not less than 51% of the owners representing at least 51% of the acreage to be involved in the affected wildland fire protection district.

(b) Land may not be annexed into a district unless approved by 51% of the owners representing at least 51% of the acreage to be annexed.

(4) Land annexed into a district may not be removed from that district unless that district is dissolved.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 83, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-105(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-205. Determination of boundaries of district. In establishing boundaries of organized wildland fire protection districts, the department may for the purpose of administrative convenience designate recognizable landmarks as boundaries.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-110(2); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-206. What constitutes compliance with duty to protect against fire. An owner of land within an organized wildland fire protection district while a member of or while participating in a recognized agency for wildland fire protection or within areas protected by a county must be considered to have fully complied with the requirements of 76-13-212.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 92, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-110(1); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-207. Determination and collection of costs of fire protection. (1) The department shall prepare an annual operation assessment plan in which fire protection costs are determined. The department shall request the legislature to appropriate the state's portion of the cost. After the appropriation is made by the legislature, the department shall cause an assessment to be made on the owners of land, as specified in 76-13-105 and 76-13-201, sufficient to bring the total amount received from the landowners to no greater than one-third of the amount specified in the appropriation.

(2) On or before the first Tuesday in September of each year, the department shall certify in writing to the department of revenue the names of these owners of lands in each county, together with a description of their lands and a statement of the amount found to be due and owing by each of the owners to the department for wildland fire protection.

(3) Upon receiving the certificate from the department showing the amount due, the department of revenue shall extend the amounts upon the county tax rolls covering the lands, and the sums become obligations of the owner, to be paid and collected in the same manner and at the same time and subject to the same penalties as general state and county taxes upon the same property are collected.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 95, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-111(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 643, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 138, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-208. Nature of assessments for wildland fire protection. All payments required of landowners by part 1 and this part are assessments for benefits actually received by those owners in the protection of their lands and are not a tax upon the property of the owners.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. l, Ch. 95, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-111(3); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-209. Disposition of assessments. Money collected by the county treasurer pursuant to 76-13-207 must be remitted to the state for deposit in the state special revenue fund.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 215, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 28-111(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 700, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-210. Payment under protest. An owner who is required to pay to the county treasurer any sum for wildland fire protection as required by part 1 or this part and who contends that the owner is not legally obligated to pay the sum or a part of the sum shall pay it to the county treasurer under written protest, stating the reasons for the protest. The payment under protest and all proceedings subsequent to the payment must conform with the law of this state providing for the payment of taxes under protest and action to recover the payment. In the hearing and determination of any action to recover the payment under protest, all questions of the legality and reasonableness of the proceedings of the department may be reviewed and decided.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-112; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Protest payments, actions to recover, and alternative remedies, Title 15, ch. 1, part 4.

76-13-211. Amount due for protection treated as lien. (1) Whenever the department provides wildland fire protection for any wildland or timber not protected by the owner of the wildland or timber as required by part 1 or this part, the amount due for the protection is a lien upon the wildland or timber that continues until the amount due is paid.

(2) The lien has the same force, effect, and priority as general tax liens under the laws of the state and is subject and inferior only to tax liens on the wildland or timber. The county attorney of the county in which the wildland or timber is situated shall on request of the department foreclose the lien in the name of the state and in the manner provided by law, or the county attorney upon the request of the department shall institute an action against the landowner in the name of the state in any district or justice court having jurisdiction to recover the debt. The state in the action is not required to pay any fees or costs to the clerk of the court or justice of the peace.

(3) The remedies provided by this section are cumulative and do not affect the other provisions of part 1 or this part for the payment and collection of amounts due to the department.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 128, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-113; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 587, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

76-13-212. Duty of landowner to protect against fire. (1) An owner of land shall protect against the starting or existence of fire and shall suppress the spread of fire on that land. This protection and suppression must be in conformity with reasonable rules and standards for adequate fire protection adopted by the department.

(2) (a) The provisions of 76-13-201 apply to an owner of land that is classified as forest land under 76-13-107 and that is within a wildland fire protection district.

(b) If an owner of land does not provide for protection against the starting or existence of fire and for fire suppression and the land does not meet the criteria in subsection (2)(a), the owner may request that the department provide protection as provided in 76-13-105.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-213. Formula to set landowner assessments for fire protection. (1) The department shall, pursuant to 76-13-207, set the annual fire assessment fee due from landowners pursuant to Title 76, chapter 13, parts 1 and 2. The total of all statewide landowner assessments may be no greater than one-third of the amount appropriated by the legislature to fund the protection costs.

(2) The individual assessments must be established using the following criteria:

(a) Each person or corporation who is responsible for fire protection pursuant to 76-13-108 and 76-13-201 and for whom the department provides fire protection must be assessed a per capita landowner fee. The total per capita landowner assessments statewide from persons or corporations who own 20 acres or less of land for which the department provides protection must be as close as administratively possible to 60% of the total private landowner assessments.

(b) A person or corporation who owns more than 20 acres of land for which the department provides protection shall, in addition to the fee assessed pursuant to subsection (2)(a), pay a per-acre fee for each whole acre that the person owns in excess of 20 acres. The total of all assessments statewide from persons or corporations that own more than 20 acres must be as close as administratively possible to 40% of the total private landowner assessments.

(c) A person who owns a share of property and has full ownership of a unit on the property must be assessed an amount not less than one-half of the amount established to be assessed for the property under subsection (2)(a).

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), the per capita and per-acre fees must remain in effect for subsequent years.

(b) The department shall reset the per capita and per-acre fees whenever it is necessary to obtain up to one-third of the amount appropriated by the legislature.

(c) Whenever the department resets the fees pursuant to subsection (3)(b), it shall do so in accordance with 76-13-201(2).

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 2009.

76-13-214. Obstruction of aerial wildfire suppression activities — penalty — exceptions. (1) A person may not obstruct, impede, prevent, or otherwise interfere with lawful aerial wildfire suppression activities by any means, including by the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle system.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than $1,500.

(3) (a) Subsection (1) does not apply to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle system conducted by a unit or agency of the United States government or of a state, tribal, or local government, including any individual conducting an operation pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into with the unit or agency, for the purpose of protecting the public safety and welfare, including firefighting, law enforcement, or emergency response.

(b) Subsection (2) does not limit other remedies available for damages to any person or property or the recovery of wildfire suppression costs caused by a person who violates subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 274, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 662, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 662, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 19, 2023.

Part 3
Control of Forest Diseases and Insect Pests

76-13-301. Policy. (1) It is the public policy of the state to:

(a) protect and preserve forest resources from destruction by forest insect pests and tree diseases;

(b) protect the forests and watersheds of Montana and restore those watersheds that are most affected by insect pests and tree diseases and are critical to water supplies;

(c) enhance the production of forests;

(d) promote the stability of forest industry; and

(e) protect the recreational values of the forest.

(2) It is further the public policy of the state to independently and through cooperation with the federal government and private forest landowners adopt measures to control, suppress, and eradicate outbreaks of forest insect pests and tree diseases.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 25, L. 1953; Sec. 28-130, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-204 by Sec. 21, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-204; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 403, L. 2013.

76-13-302. Definitions. In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(2) "Forest land" means any land that has enough forest growth, standing or down, to constitute in the judgment of the department an insect or disease infestation breeding ground of

a nature to constitute a menace, injurious and dangerous to the forest resources in the district or zone of infestation.

(3) "Forest landowner" means the person, firm, association, or corporation having the actual, beneficial ownership of forest land or timber, other than an easement, right-of-way, or mineral reservation.

(4) "Salvage" means the timely removal of dead and dying timber or timber that is threatened by insects, disease, fire, or windthrow when the removal of timber will help contain insect or disease outbreaks, aid in the prevention of wildfire, or provide long-range protection for such forest resources as wildlife, water, soils, or air quality.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 25, L. 1953; Sec. 28-131, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-205 by Sec. 22, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-205; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 285, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 264, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-13-303. Creation of zone of infestation. (1) The department shall annually produce a list of areas where:

(a) there exists an infestation of forest insect pests or forest tree diseases injurious to the timber or forest growth on forest lands within the state and where the infestation is of such a character as to be a menace to the timber or forest growth of this state; and

(b) an infestation of forest insect pests or forest tree diseases in a watershed makes the watershed at risk for wildfire, places the functionality of the watershed at risk, or creates other conditions that threaten the watershed.

(2) The department shall present the list annually to the board of land commissioners to determine if a zone of infestation exists and, if so, shall fix the boundaries to definitely describe and identify each zone.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 1953; Sec. 28-133, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-206 by Sec. 23, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-206(1); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 403, L. 2013.

76-13-304. Suppression and eradication of infestation. (1) The department may enter upon the land within the zone and cause the forest insect pest infestation or forest tree disease to be suppressed, eradicated, and destroyed in the manner approved by it.

(2) In order to accomplish the suppression, eradication, and destruction of the infestation, the department may enter into cooperative agreements with the federal government or other public or private agencies and with forest landowners, using such funds as are made available for those purposes.

(3) The department may consider controlled burning or logging as methods to suppress or eradicate forest insect pest infestation or forest tree disease.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 25, L. 1953; Sec. 28-133, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-206 by Sec. 23, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-206(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2007.

76-13-305. Termination of zone of infestation. When the department determines that forest insect or disease control work within the designated zone of infestation is no longer necessary or feasible, it shall abolish the zone.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 25, L. 1953; Sec. 28-134, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-207 by Sec. 24, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-207.

Part 4
Control of Timber Slash and Debris

Part Cross-References

Brush disposal requirements, 77-5-204.

76-13-401. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Certificate of clearance" means a certificate issued by the department acknowledging that the fire hazard has been reduced or managed in accordance with this part and the fire hazard reduction agreement or agreements.

(2) "Contractor" means the person who executes the fire hazard reduction agreement and is responsible to fulfill the obligations established by the agreement.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(4) "Exemption certificate" means an exemption from the provisions of this part that must be granted by the department for the harvest of merchantable trees within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town.

(5) "Fire hazard" means slash and debris resulting from timber cutting, timber stand improvement, or right-of-way clearing operations that produce a cover of flammable material in which fire could spread through a cutting or adjacent area.

(6) "Fire hazard reduction agreement" means a contract made to ensure compliance with this part and with the rules adopted under 76-13-403 for fire hazard reduction or management on private forest lands.

(7) "Fire hazard reduction or management" means the abatement of a fire hazard on private forest lands by methods that include but are not limited to separation, removal, scattering, lopping, crushing, piling and burning, broadcast burning, burying, or chipping.

(8) "Forest product" means trees or their component parts, including but not limited to logs, poles, branches, or bark.

(9) "Master fire hazard reduction agreement" means a fire hazard reduction agreement between the department and persons engaged in continuing cutting operations of sufficient number and size to warrant covering these operations under a single agreement and a single bond.

(10) "Minimum slash hazard" means an amount of slash and debris generated by noncommercial activities, which may include but are not limited to weeding, pruning, or clearing on private land within the state.

(11) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, estate, or any other entity.

(12) "Private forest lands" means all lands of whatever character containing merchantable timber that are not owned by the state, a political subdivision of the state, the United States, any agency of the United States, or an Indian tribe.

(13) "Purchaser" means a person who purchases or contracts to purchase any forest products cut from private forest lands within the state. The term includes persons who purchase products manufactured on the cutting area.

History: En. 28-403.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-403.1; amd. Secs. 1, 2, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 265, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 279, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 234, L. 2001.

76-13-402. Basis for management of fire hazards. The fire hazard reduction or management referred to in this part must be carried on by the department in keeping with modern and progressive forest practices and effective fire protection and may include but is not limited to the taking of protective measures to prevent injury or the destruction of forest resources without actual abatement of the hazard.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 522, L. 1975; Sec. 28-408, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 8, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 28-411, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 28-408(2), 28-411(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

76-13-403. Supervision by department. The department shall adopt and enforce rules by October 1, 2000, to supervise and inspect the fire hazard reduction or management of all fire hazards created by forest products harvesting, timber stand improvement, and right-of-way clearing on private forest lands in the state, recognizing the benefits of slash retention.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-408(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 279, L. 1999.

76-13-404. Repealed. Sec. 13, Ch. 513, L. 1989.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 147, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-410; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 670, L. 1979.

76-13-405. Contracts with fire protection agencies. The department is authorized to enter into contracts with fire protection agencies, including agencies of the United States, for fire hazard reduction or management when in its opinion the work can best be accomplished in that manner.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-411(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

76-13-406. Limitation on liability. The department and other recognized fire protection agencies, including any agency of the United States, with which the department has entered into an agreement for fire hazard reduction or management as provided in 76-13-405 and any officer, official, or employee of the department or other recognized fire protection agency is not liable for any damage to the land, product, improvement, or other things of value upon the lands on which the fire hazards are being managed or reduced in accordance with provisions of this part, the rules adopted under 76-13-403, and the fire hazard reduction agreement when reasonable care and caution has been used and the work is being or has been performed in compliance with the rules provided in 76-13-403.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-411(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 113, Ch. 2, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Liability exposure, Title 2, ch. 9, part 1.

76-13-407. Reduction of slash and debris along right-of-way. (1) A person clearing right-of-way for any railroad, public highway, public trail, private road, trail, ditch, dike, pipeline or wire lines, or any other transmission or transportation utility right-of-way, except temporary roads located within the boundaries of the cutting area and which are used in the actual logging operations, shall reduce the hazard resulting from the clearing or from the cutting of material for the construction of the public or private utility unless exempted by the department. At least 10 days before commencement of the clearing, the person conducting the clearing shall notify the department of commencement of the clearing in the form and manner the department provides.

(2) Hazard reduction, excluding burning where this method is used, shall be done as rapidly as cutting or clearing progresses.

(3) This section applies to all clearing of rights-of-way across private land and on behalf of the state, county, highway districts, and road districts, whether the work is done by day labor or by contract, and unless unavoidable emergency prevents, provision shall be made by the proper officials conducting, directing, or letting the work for withholding until it is complete a sufficient portion of the payment to assure compliance with this part.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-405; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 670, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 513, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Control of fire hazard along railroad right-of-way, 69-14-721.

76-13-408. Fire hazard reduction agreement and bond — bond release and penalty — exemption. (1) Before cutting any forest product, constructing or reconstructing any road in contemplation of cutting any forest product, or conducting timber stand improvement, such as but not limited to precommercial thinning, weeding, or pruning, upon private forest lands within the state, the person conducting the work must be issued an exemption certificate by the department or shall provide for the reduction or management of the fire hazard to be created, except where a minimum slash hazard would exist, by entering into a fire hazard reduction agreement or a master fire hazard reduction agreement with the department, providing for the full and faithful compliance with all requirements under this part and the faithful reduction or management of the fire hazard in the manner prescribed by law and by rules adopted under this part.

(2) Either the person conducting the work or the purchaser, as provided in 76-13-409(2), shall post a bond to the state in a form and for an amount prescribed by the department, but the amount may not exceed $6 for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) or the equivalent if forest products other than logs are cut. Bond amounts for master fire hazard reduction agreements are calculated to cover the potential cost to the department for fire hazard abatement in case of default and are based on the average annual volume of uncompleted abatement. Master fire hazard reduction agreement bonds are to be administered as nonsite-specific umbrella bonds, for which the entire bond or any portion of the bond may be collected to pay for unabated fire hazards on all sites covered by the bond. The department shall review master fire hazard reduction agreement bond amounts at least annually. The bonds must be adjusted according to the volume of timber harvested and the level of compliance of the bond provider.

(3) The agreement must provide that:

(a) all fire hazard reduction or management work comprising nonburning methods and preparations for burning must be completed within 18 months of commencement of cutting in the area covered by the agreement; and

(b) all burning work must be completed as specified in the agreement and in compliance with rules adopted under this part.

(4) The bond must be released upon the issuance of the certificate of clearance. At the request of the fire hazard reduction agreement holder, cash bonds for fire hazard reduction agreements exceeding 200,000 board feet, or the equivalent, must be partially released upon satisfactory completion of slash piling if the fire hazard reduction agreement holder has a record of compliance with the provisions of 76-13-407 or this section. The department may inspect the sites for which release or partial release is being requested, or it may rely on the submittal of a signed affidavit provided by the person posting the bond. A person that submits a fraudulent affidavit is subject to the penalty provisions of 45-7-202, may have other fire hazard reduction agreements revoked, or may be denied the issuance of fire hazard reduction agreements in the future.

(5) If a minimum slash hazard will be created, the activity is exempt from the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-404; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 423, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 577, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 279, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 234, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 242, L. 2003.

76-13-409. Duty of purchaser to ensure compliance — statement — bond. (1) The initial purchaser of forest products that have been cut or are about to be cut from any private forest lands within the state shall, before making the purchase or contract to purchase, determine that the person engaged or about to engage in the cutting of these forest products has provided for the reduction or management of the fire hazard by entering into a fire hazard reduction agreement or that the person has been issued an exemption certificate as provided in 76-13-408.

(2) The purchaser shall withhold sufficient money to meet the requirements of the bond provided for in 76-13-408 plus the fees for administration, inspection, and enforcement by the department as provided in the fire hazard reduction agreement. The purchaser shall transmit all money and fees that are withheld and a report of volumes of products purchased to the department on or before the 15th day of the following month, clearly identifying by number the fire hazard reduction agreement to which the withheld money, fees, and product volumes pertain. The purchaser shall keep accurate records of the purchase and the amounts withheld, which may be inspected by the department at any reasonable time.

(3) If forest products are not received or purchased in a given month, a report showing a zero balance and stating that products were not purchased must be submitted to the department.

(4) The department may require the purchaser to post a bond to the state in a form and for an amount as may be prescribed by the department to ensure faithful compliance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-406; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 670, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 279, L. 1999.

76-13-410. Failure to comply. (1) If a person fails, refuses, or neglects to properly reduce or manage the fire hazard in accordance with the requirements of 76-13-407 and 76-13-408, the person may be enjoined from further cutting, clearing, and construction operations until the department has found the person to be in compliance with 76-13-407 and 76-13-408. The department may initiate the proceedings and may obtain a temporary restraining order, injunction, or writ of mandate. The proceedings must be conducted in the district court of the county where the land is located.

(2) If a person claims to have a minimum slash hazard but the department's inspection determines otherwise, the hazard reduction requirements of this part apply.

(3) If a person fails to comply with 76-13-407 or 76-13-408 and fails to comply within 30 days after being notified to do so by the department, the department may complete, direct, or authorize the fire hazard reduction or management at the expense of the contractor or of the owner of the timber or other forest products cut or produced from the land upon which the unabated fire hazard remains.

(4) (a) The cost and expense of the fire hazard reduction or management work, plus 20% of the cost and expense of the work as a penalty, constitute a lien upon the forest products cut or produced from the land and upon the real and personal property of the contractor. If payment of the sum demanded is not made to the department within 15 days of its written demand,

the performance bond required by 76-13-408 and 76-13-409, upon notice to the contractor, must be automatically forfeited to the extent needed to cover the cost and expenses of reducing or managing the fire hazard, plus a penalty of 20% of the cost and expenses. If the bond is insufficient to cover the cost, expenses, and penalty, the department may bring legal action on behalf of the state to recover the cost, expenses, and penalty.

(b) Revenue from forfeited performance bonds required by 76-13-408 and 76-13-409 must be deposited into the fire hazard reduction fund established in 76-13-417.

(5) In addition to other remedies provided in this part, the department may, after notice, require a person to show cause why the department should not withhold the issuance of any further fire hazard reduction agreement or exemption certificate to a person that:

(a) harvests timber without a valid fire hazard reduction agreement; or

(b) has forfeited the performance bond on a fire hazard reduction agreement within the 2 preceding years and fails, refuses, or neglects to properly reduce or manage the fire hazard in accordance with 76-13-407 or 76-13-408 within 30 days after being notified by the department.

(6) If the person fails to show sufficient cause as required by subsection (5), the department may withhold the issuance of any further fire hazard reduction agreement or exemption certificate for a period not to exceed 3 years.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-407(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 670, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 279, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 234, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 61, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 193, L. 2021.

76-13-411. Certificate of clearance. When the department makes a determination of faithful compliance by the contractor with this part, the rules adopted under 76-13-403, and the fire hazard reduction agreement, the contractor must be issued a certificate of clearance by the department and be relieved of any further liability or responsibility for fire hazard reduction or management under the fire hazard reduction agreement.

History: (1)En. Sec. 9, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 147, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 522, L. 1975; Sec. 28-412, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 522, L. 1975; Sec. 28-407, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 28-407(4), 28-412; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 279, L. 1999.

76-13-412. Violations. A person convicted of violating this part, except 76-13-408(4), is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than $100 or more than $1,000.

History: En. 28-413 by Sec. 9, Ch. 522, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 28-413; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 279, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Definition of misdemeanor, 45-2-101.

76-13-413. Failure to submit withholding — remedy. (1) If a purchaser does not submit withheld money and required reports on or before the 15th day of the following month as provided in 76-13-409, the purchaser must be notified by certified mail that the purchaser is in noncompliance and be given 15 days to submit all money and reports then due. If the purchaser fails to submit all money due within the required time, the department may initiate a lien upon the real property of the purchaser and may initiate proceedings to enjoin further processing of all wood products until all money due is paid in full and all required reports are submitted.

(2) If payment and reports are not received by the department within the 15-day period after notification as provided in subsection (1), a penalty of 5% of the payment amount due must be assessed. The department may abate the penalty if the purchaser establishes that the failure to submit the amount due or the reports as required was due to reasonable cause and was not due to neglect on the purchaser's part. The department, in addition to the penalty, may impose interest at the rate of 10% a year on any balance remaining unpaid.

(3) All money withheld by a purchaser for the contractor's bond and for department fees is considered to be excise taxes withheld for the benefit of the state within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. 507.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 670, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2522, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-13-414. Fees. (1) In addition to any bond, the department shall charge the contractor fees for administration, inspections, and enforcement work conducted in the exercise of its duties under this part. The fees must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department.

(2) (a) The fee for a fire hazard reduction agreement is $25 and must be collected by the department upon issuance of the agreement.

(b) In addition, a fee of 85 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) must be charged or an equivalent fee must be charged if products other than logs are cut. This fee must be withheld by the purchaser as provided in 76-13-409(2), except that any fee money withheld for product volumes exceeding 500,000 board feet for each agreement in a calendar year must be returned to the contractor by the department.

(c) Either the person conducting the work or the purchaser, as described in 76-13-409, shall pay 30 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) or the equivalent measure if forest products other than logs are cut. The assessment may not exceed $20,000 a year. The full amount of this money must be deposited in the forestry extension service account provided for in 76-13-415.

(3) (a) The fee for master fire hazard reduction agreements must be equal to 100% of the department's actual costs incurred in the direct administration, inspection, and enforcement of each agreement, and the department shall submit a detailed bill to the contractor annually to collect the fees.

(b) In addition, each contractor with a master fire hazard reduction agreement shall pay to the department 15 cents for each 1,000 board feet (log scale) or equivalent measure if forest products other than logs are cut. The assessment may not exceed $20,000 a year for each master fire hazard agreement. The full amount of this money must be deposited in the forestry extension service account provided for in 76-13-415.

(c) The fee required under subsection (3)(b) must be paid annually in conjunction with the fee paid under subsection (3)(a). The department may, in its discretion, conduct an audit to determine the volume of forest products harvested by a contractor. If the department conducts an audit, the contractor shall cooperate and make available to the department all requested records, inventories, and other information relevant to the audit.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 513, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 577, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 27, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 279, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 2019.

76-13-415. Forestry extension service account — purpose — appropriation. (1) There is a forestry extension service account in the current restricted fund provided for in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be deposited in the account:

(a) all revenue from the fire hazard reduction agreement provided for in 76-13-414(2)(c);

(b) all revenue from the master fire hazard reduction agreement provided for in 76-13-414(3)(b); and

(c) money received by the department in the form of legislative appropriations, reimbursements, gifts, federal funds, or appropriations from any source intended to be used for the purposes of this account.

(3) Money in the account is available to the Montana university system by appropriation for the uses set forth in subsection (4). Any unencumbered and unexpended balance remaining in this account at the end of a fiscal year does not lapse but must be carried forward for the purposes of this section until expended or appropriated.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5), money in the account may be used by the university system only to fund forestry services through the Montana cooperative extension service of Montana state university-Bozeman. The forestry services must be conducted at Montana state university-Bozeman, the university of Montana-Missoula, and Flathead Valley community college.

(5) The use of money in this account by the Montana university system is contingent upon the university system funding the extension service's forestry and natural resources program at a biennial level of at least $108,000 from sources other than the account.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 577, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 266, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. sec. 36, Ch. 308, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 279, L. 1999.

76-13-416. Terminated. Sec. 6, Ch. 61, L. 2011.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 61, L. 2011.

76-13-417. Fire hazard reduction fund. (1) There is a fire hazard reduction fund in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There is deposited in the fund all revenue from forfeited performance bonds provided for in 76-13-410.

(3) The fund is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department of natural resources and conservation for the purposes of authorizing, managing, and completing fire hazard reduction activities pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 2021.

76-13-418. Fire hazard reduction agreement — slash burning. (1) Slash burning as part of [fire] hazard reduction agreements must be conducted under rules adopted pursuant to this part and burning notification requirements adopted pursuant to 7-33-2205.

(2) Immediate or continuous presence is not required for slash burning conducted under this section provided that:

(a) significant precipitation, the presence of persistent snow cover, fuel moisture conditions, or a combination of those factors sufficiently inhibits the chance of fire spreading under current and foreseeable weather conditions;

(b) there is an absence of high wind events or warnings for the slash burning period that would cause the fire or embers to spread beyond the intended location; and

(c) the slash burn location is sufficiently monitored, patrolled, or both until the risk of fire spread subsides. This includes at least one site visit to ensure containment.

(3) Nothing in this section absolves the holder of a fire hazard reduction agreement from operating with reasonable care and caution or the provisions of 50-63-102 and 50-63-103.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 3, Ch. 478, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 8, 2023.

2023 Code Commissioner Correction: In (1) the Code Commissioner inserted the bracketed reference to fire to reflect the defined term "fire hazard reduction agreement" in 76-13-401.

76-13-419 reserved.

76-13-420. Notification prior to forest practices — department response. (1) An operator or, pursuant to subsection (3), an owner shall notify the department prior to conducting forest practices. The notification may be provided as part of the notification made with respect to an agreement under 76-13-408.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), within 5 working days, but not exceeding 7 calendar days, of receiving notification of forest practices, the department shall mail to the operator and, if an address has been provided, to the owner:

(i) a receipt of notification;

(ii) information on best management practices for forestry;

(iii) information on conservation district permit requirements related to stream crossings; and

(iv) any other information the department believes would assist the operator or the owner with conducting forest practices.

(b) The receipt of notification must include a statement that:

(i) forest practices may proceed; or

(ii) an onsite consultation is required prior to conducting forest practices.

(3) (a) An owner may submit to the department a notice providing an annual, semiannual, or quarterly operating plan that indicates the estimated starting date of forest practices for each timber sale planned by the owner during the operating period. The plan must be submitted no less than 15 days before the beginning of the operating period covered.

(b) Upon receipt of an operating plan, the department may:

(i) meet with the owner to review the proposed timber sales, discuss watershed concerns, and schedule onsite consultations at appropriate sites; or

(ii) provide a receipt of notification, as described in subsection (2)(b), for individual timber sales.

(c) If the department requires an onsite consultation for any of the timber sales, it shall notify the owner of this requirement as soon as possible but no less than 10 calendar days prior to the estimated starting date of forest practices associated with the timber sale. The onsite consultation must then be scheduled according to the provisions of 76-13-421(2) through (4).

History: En. Sec. 4(1) thru (3), Ch. 423, L. 1989; Sec. 76-13-131, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-420 by Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Fire hazard reduction agreement and bond, 76-13-408.

76-13-421. Onsite consultation. (1) The department shall make its decision on whether or not to require an onsite consultation based on whether:

(a) the proposed timber sale is in a high-priority location for watershed resources;

(b) a consultation could contribute to improved watershed management; and

(c) the department has sufficient resources to conduct the consultation.

(2) The department shall schedule an onsite consultation at a time mutually agreeable to the operator, the owner (if the owner can be contacted and wishes to participate), and the department. Unless otherwise agreeable to the operator and a participating owner, a consultation must be held no later than:

(a) 10 calendar days after the mailing of the notice by the department, if the site is accessible; or

(b) if the site is temporarily inaccessible due to road conditions, weather conditions, or other factors, 10 calendar days after the operator indicates that the site is accessible.

(3) The onsite consultation must include representatives of the department, the operator, and, if the owner desires representation, the owner. Representatives of the department of environmental quality, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, and the local conservation district may also participate but shall meet the consultation schedule established under 76-13-420(3)(c) or subsection (2) of this section.

(4) If the department and the operator are not able to schedule an onsite consultation within the time limits provided in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) or at another mutually agreeable time, the requirement for a consultation is terminated. The operator may then proceed with forest practices immediately upon the expiration of the time limits provided in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).

History: En. Sec. 4(4) thru (7), Ch. 423, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 263, Ch. 418, L. 1995; Sec. 76-13-132, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-421 by Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-422. Purpose of onsite consultation — department responsibility. (1) The onsite consultation provided for in 76-13-421 is intended only for the purpose of providing information to owners and operators and does not confer upon the department or any other agency of state or local government authority to compel an owner or operator to undertake or refrain from undertaking specific management practices that are not otherwise regulated by law or rule.

(2) The department does not incur any obligation or liability by virtue of a decision to conduct or not conduct an onsite consultation.

(3) To the extent practicable, the department shall evaluate the application of forest practices as part of an onsite inspection, relating to the control of timber slash and debris, conducted under the provisions of Title 76, chapter 13, part 4.

History: En. Sec. 4(8), (9), (12), Ch. 423, L. 1989; Sec. 76-13-133, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-422 by Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

76-13-423. When additional notification required. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department may require only one notification for each timber sale, even though multiple forest practices may be conducted.

(2) If an operator modifies the operator's proposed forest practices in a manner that substantially alters the potential watershed disturbance, the operator shall submit a revised notification to the department.

History: En. Sec. 4(10), Ch. 423, L. 1989; Sec. 76-13-134, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-423 by Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2523, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-13-424. Emergency forest practices. Nothing in 76-13-420 through 76-13-424 precludes an operator from undertaking any forest practice in an emergency to prevent watershed damage or the loss of timber resources.

History: En. Sec. 4(11), Ch. 423, L. 1989; Sec. 76-13-135, MCA 2005; redes. 76-13-424 by Sec. 32(3), Ch. 336, L. 2007.

Part 5
Portable Sawmills on Forest Lands
(Repealed)

76-13-501. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. 28-801 by Sec. 106, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 267, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-13-502. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.1, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1501, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-802 by Sec. 107, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-802.

76-13-503. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 248, L. 1965; Sec. 81-1502, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-803 by Sec. 108, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-803; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 281, L. 1983.

76-13-504. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.3, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1503, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-804 by Sec. 109, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-804.

76-13-505. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.4, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1504, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-805 by Sec. 110, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-805.

76-13-506. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.6, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1506, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-806 by Sec. 111, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-806(part).

76-13-507. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 94, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 124, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1839.6, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1506, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and redes. 28-806 by Sec. 111, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 28-806(part).

Part 6
Transportation of Coniferous Trees

76-13-601. Unlawful transportation of trees and boughs. (1) A person may not transport on the ways of this state more than five coniferous trees without having possession of a bill of sale showing ownership of the trees. The bill of sale shall specify:

(a) the date of its execution;

(b) the name and address of the vendor or donor of the trees;

(c) the name and address of the vendee or donee of the trees;

(d) the number of trees, by species, sold or transferred by the bill of sale; and

(e) the shipping yards or the property from which the trees were taken.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to:

(a) the transportation of trees with their roots intact;

(b) the transportation of logs, poles, pilings, or other forest products from which substantially all the limbs and branches have been removed;

(c) the transportation of coniferous trees by the owner of the land from which they were taken or the owner's agent, provided that agent has possession of a tax receipt or other evidence indicating the section, township, and range from which the trees were harvested; or

(d) the transportation of coniferous trees by a common carrier.

(3) A person may not transport on the ways of this state more than 200 pounds of boughs from coniferous trees without written authorization of the owner of the boughs.

(4) The bill of sale required in subsection (1) or the written authorization required in subsection (3) must be exhibited on request of a law enforcement officer, highway patrol officer, state fish and game warden, an employee of the department of transportation designated or

appointed as a peace officer under 61-10-154 or 61-12-201, or an agent of the department of natural resources and conservation.

(5) A person who violates this section shall be punished by a fine not to exceed $500, imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or both.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "ways of this state" means any highway, road, alley, lane, parking area, or other public or private place adapted and fitted for public vehicle travel that is commonly used by the public with the express or implied consent of the owner.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 621, L. 1983; (5)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 621, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 35, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 268, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 366, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Place of imprisonment when not specified by law, 46-18-211.

Part 7
Sustainable Management of Public Forests

76-13-701. Findings and policy. (1) The legislature finds that the sustainable management of public forests in Montana is vital to conserving the state's natural resources and their economic and ecological potential for the benefit of all Montanans.

(2) The legislature finds that public forests in Montana should be sustainably managed to maintain biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and potential to fulfill relevant ecological, economic, and social functions.

(3) The legislature finds that sustainable forest stewardship and management of Montana's public forests requires a balanced approach that ensures a stable timber supply, active restoration, healthy watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat, areas for natural processes, and allowances for multiple uses.

(4) The legislature finds that:

(a) there is overwhelming evidence that the management, protection, and conservation of watersheds in Montana is critical to the well-being of the state;

(b) the water supplies of some of the state's most populous cities and surrounding areas originate in federally managed watersheds that are at risk for catastrophic wildfire, the severity of which could be reduced by proper management;

(c) a catastrophic wildfire in any one of those municipal watersheds would result in ash and sediment inundating and degrading the water supply, leaving tens of thousands of residents without drinking water, creating a severe public safety situation, and decimating millions of dollars worth of water infrastructure;

(d) a burned-out watershed also affects the timing of snow melt and stream flow, which detrimentally affects irrigation and fisheries; and

(e) federal land managers are not giving due consideration to the constitutionally protected water rights of the state and its citizens, the exercise of which would be impaired by a catastrophic wildfire.

(5) The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to promote the sustainable use of all public forests within the state through sound management and collaboration with local, state, and federal entities.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 409, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 403, L. 2013.**

76-13-702. Duties — authority. To implement the policy of 76-13-701, the department of natural resources and conservation:

(1) shall support sustainable forest management practices, including forest restoration, on public forests in Montana consistent with all applicable laws and administrative requirements;

(2) shall provide technical information and educational assistance to nonindustrial, private forest landowners;

(3) shall promote forest management activities within and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface and promote the implementation of community wildfire protection plans;

(4) shall promote a viable forest and wood products industry and other businesses and individual activities that rely on public forest lands;

(5) shall represent the state's interest in the federal forest management planning and policy process, including establishing cooperative agency status and coordination with federal agencies;

(6) shall advocate that Montana be included in federal legislation to establish a good neighbor policy that would allow the secretary of the interior or the secretary of agriculture to enter into a cooperative agreement or contract that would authorize the state forester to provide watershed restoration and protection services on federal land. Watershed restoration and protection services included in the good neighbor policy must include the authority to:

(a) treat insect-infested trees;

(b) reduce hazardous fuels; and

(c) conduct any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

(7) may assist local government entities in establishing cooperative agency status and coordination with federal agencies;

(8) shall promote the development of an independent, long-term sustained yield calculation on Montana's federal forests;

(9) has the authority to intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects that:

(a) comply with the policy in 76-13-701 and in which local and state interests are clearly involved; or

(b) involve fuel-loading conditions that the department considers to be a significant threat to public health and safety or to hamper watershed restoration and protection;

(10) has the authority to enter into agreements with federal agencies to participate in forest management activities on federal lands; and

(11) shall participate in and facilitate collaboration between traditional forest interests in reaching consensus-based solutions on federal land management issues.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 409, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 115, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 403, L. 2013.

Part 8
Mechanized Fuels Reduction and Fire Suppression
(Terminated)

76-13-801. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 289, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 289, L. 2009.

76-13-802. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 289, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 289, L. 2009.

CHAPTER 14
RANGELAND RESOURCES

Part 1 — Rangeland Management

76-14-101. Short title.
76-14-102. Purpose.
76-14-103. Definitions.
76-14-104. Types of land included as rangeland.
76-14-105. Role of state coordinator.
76-14-106. Duties of rangeland resources committee.
76-14-107 through 76-14-110 reserved.
76-14-111. Rangeland improvement loan program.
76-14-112. Rangeland improvement loan special revenue account.
76-14-113. Eligibility for loans.
76-14-114. Criteria for evaluation of loan applications.
76-14-115. Selection of loan recipients.
76-14-116. Rules.

Part 1
Rangeland Management

76-14-101. Short title. This part shall be known as the "Montana Rangeland Resources Act".

History: **En. 76-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-301.**

76-14-102. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish a program of rangeland management whereby:

(1) the importance of Montana's rangeland with respect to livestock, forage, wildlife habitat, high-quality water production, pollution control, erosion control, recreation, and the natural beauty of the state is recognized;

(2) cooperation and coordination of range management activities between persons and organizations charged with or having the management of rangeland, whether private or public, can be promoted and developed; and

(3) those who are doing exceptional work in range management can receive appropriate recognition.

History: **En. 76-302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-302.**

76-14-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Committee" means the Montana rangeland resources committee selected as provided in 2-15-3305(2).

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation.

(3) "Montana rangeland resource program" means the rangeland resource program administered by the conservation districts division of the department of natural resources and conservation in concert with the Montana conservation districts law and the Grass Conservation Act to maintain and enhance the rangeland resources of the state.

(4) "Person" means any individual or association, partnership, corporation, or other business entity.

(5) "Range condition" means the current condition of the vegetation on a range site in relation to the natural potential plant community for that site.

(6) "Range management" means a distinct discipline founded on ecological principles and dealing with the husbandry of rangelands and range resources.

(7) "Rangeland" means land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing use.

(8) "State coordinator" means the state coordinator for the Montana Rangeland Resources Act provided for in 2-15-3304.

(9) "Tame pastureland" means land that has been modified by mechanical cultivation and that has current vegetation consisting of native or introduced species, or both.

(10) "Users of rangeland" means all persons, including but not limited to ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, recreationists, and others appreciative of the functional, productive, aesthetic, and recreational uses of rangelands.

History: **(1) thru (6), (8)En. 76-303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1977; Sec. 76-303, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; R.C.M. 1947, 76-303(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 44, L. 2007.**

76-14-104. Types of land included as rangeland. The term "rangeland" includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannahs, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

History: **En. 76-303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-303(part).**

76-14-105. Role of state coordinator. The state coordinator shall:

(1) serve as an advisor, counselor, and coordinator for and between persons and agencies involved in range management;

(2) strive to create understanding and compatibility between the many users of rangeland, including hunters, anglers, recreationists, ranchers, and others;

(3) promote and coordinate the adoption and implementation of sound range management plans to minimize conflicts between governmental agencies and private landowners;

(4) participate in zoning and planning studies to ensure that native ranges are adequately represented at sessions for development of zoning and planning regulations;

(5) coordinate range management research to help prevent duplication and overlap of effort in this area.

History: **En. 76-304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-304(2); amd. Sec. 2524, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-14-106. Duties of rangeland resources committee. (1) The committee shall:

(a) review and recommend annual and long-range work programs;

(b) suggest priorities of work;

(c) provide advice and counsel to the coordinator for carrying out the rangeland resource program.

(2) The committee may consult with state and federal agencies and units of the university system as it considers appropriate in performing its duties.

History: **En. 76-307 by Sec. 7, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-307; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 44, L. 1985.**

76-14-107 through 76-14-110 reserved.

76-14-111. Rangeland improvement loan program. The department may make rangeland improvement loans for rangeland development and improvement, including but not limited to stock water development, cross fencing, establishment of grazing systems, reseeding, mechanical renovation, sagebrush management, and weed control.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1983.**

76-14-112. Rangeland improvement loan special revenue account. (1) There is created a rangeland improvement loan special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102.

(2) There must be allocated to the rangeland improvement loan earmarked account any principal and accrued interest received in repayment of a loan made under the rangeland improvement loan program and any fees or charges collected by the department pursuant to 76-14-116 for the servicing of loans, including arrangements for obtaining security interests.

(3) Deposits to the rangeland improvement loan special revenue account must be placed in short-term investments, and the earnings must be deposited in the rangeland improvement loan special revenue account.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 418, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 16, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

76-14-113. Eligibility for loans. (1) Any person may apply for a loan to finance rangeland improvements to be constructed, developed, and operated in Montana who:

(a) is a resident of Montana;

(b) is engaged in farming or ranching; and

(c) possesses the necessary expertise to make a rangeland loan practical.

(2) All loans must be for rangeland improvement or development exclusively.

(3) An application for a loan must be in the form prescribed by the department and accompanied by a resource conservation plan, which may be prepared in consultation with the United States natural resources conservation service.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 280, Ch. 42, L. 1997.**

76-14-114. Criteria for evaluation of loan applications. The following criteria must be considered in selecting loan recipients:

(1) Loan applications must be ranked according to the following priorities:

(a) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on native rangeland, resulting in the improvement of native range condition and of benefit to more than a single operator, have first priority.

(b) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on native rangeland, resulting in the improvement of native range condition but of benefit to only a single operator, have second priority.

(c) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on either native rangeland or tame pastureland used in conjunction with native rangeland, or both, resulting in the improvement of native range condition and the condition of the tame pastureland used in conjunction with native rangeland, have third priority.

(d) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on tame pastureland, resulting in the improvement of the tame pastureland exclusively, have fourth priority.

(e) Range improvement or development projects undertaken to return to rangeland status land that was once native rangeland and that has since been cultivated have fifth priority.

(2) Consideration must be given to the number of related resources that will benefit, including but not limited to water quality, wildlife habitat, and soil conservation.

(3) Consideration must be given to the amount of funding from other sources.

(4) Consideration must be given to the feasibility and practicality of the project.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

76-14-115. Selection of loan recipients. (1) Conservation district supervisors shall initially review loan applications for feasibility and prioritize applications for referral to the department.

(2) The department shall organize and review applications for clarity and completeness prior to committee review.

(3) The committee shall consider applications and make recommendations to the department.

(4) The department shall finally approve or disapprove applications recommended by the committee and shall select loan recipients.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

76-14-116. Rules. The department shall adopt rules:

(1) prescribing the form and content of applications for loans and the required conservation plan;

(2) governing the application of the criteria for awarding loans and the procedure for the review of applications by conservation district supervisors, the committee, and the department;

(3) providing for the servicing of loans, including arrangements for obtaining security interests and the establishment of reasonable fees or charges;

(4) providing for the confidentiality of financial statements submitted; and

(5) prescribing the conditions for making loans.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules under Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

CHAPTER 15
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Chapter Cross-References

Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75, ch. 1.
Conservation easements, Title 76, ch. 6, part 2.

Part 1
General Provisions

76-15-101. Legislative determinations. It is declared, as a matter of legislative determination:

(1) that the farm and grazing lands of the state of Montana are among the basic assets of the state and that the preservation of these lands is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its people; that improper land use practices have caused and have contributed to and are now causing and contributing to a progressively more serious erosion of the farm and grazing lands of this state by wind and water; that the breaking of natural grass, plant, and forest cover has interfered with the natural factors of soil stabilization, causing loosening of soil and exhaustion of humus and developing a soil condition that favors erosion; that the topsoil is being blown and washed out of fields and pastures; that there has been an accelerated washing of sloping fields; that these processes of erosion by wind and water speed up with removal of absorptive topsoil, causing exposure of less absorptive and less protective but more erosive subsoil; that failure by any land occupier to conserve the soil and control erosion upon the occupier's lands causes a washing and blowing of soil and water from the occupier's lands onto other lands and makes the conservation of soil and control of erosion on other lands difficult or impossible;

(2) that the consequences of soil erosion in the form of soil blowing and soil washing are the silting and sedimentation of stream channels, reservoirs, dams, and ditches, the loss of fertile soil material in dust storms, the piling up of soil on lower slopes and its deposit over alluvial plains, the reduction in productivity or outright ruin of rich bottom lands by overwash of poor subsoil material, sand, and gravel swept out of the hills, the deterioration of soil and its fertility, the deterioration of crops and range cover grown on the land, declining acre yields despite development of scientific processes for increasing yields, the loss of soil and water that causes destruction of food and cover for wildlife, a blowing and washing of soil into streams that silts over spawning beds and destroys water plants, diminishing the food supply of fish, a diminishing of the underground water reserve, which causes water shortages, intensifies periods of drought, and causes crop and range vegetation cover failures, an increase in the speed and volume of rainfall runoff, causing severe and increasing floods that bring suffering, disease, and death, the impoverishment of families attempting to operate eroding and eroded lands, damage to roads, highways, railways, farm buildings, and other property from floods and from dust storms, and losses in municipal water supply, irrigation developments, farming, and grazing;

(3) that to conserve soil resources and control and prevent soil erosion and prevent floodwater and sediment damages and further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, it is necessary that land use practices contributing to soil wastage and soil erosion be discouraged and discontinued and appropriate soil-conserving land use practices and works of improvement for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water be adopted and carried out; that among the procedures necessary for widespread adoption are the carrying on of engineering operations such as the construction of water spreaders, terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, desilting basins, floodwater retarding

structures, channel improvements, floodways, land drainage, dikes, ponds, ditches, and the like; the utilization of strip cropping, lister furrowing, contour cultivating, and contour furrowing; land drainage; land irrigation; seeding and planting of waste, sloping, abandoned, or eroded lands with water-conserving and erosion-preventing plants, trees, and grasses; forestation and reforestation; rotation of crops, restriction of number of livestock grazed, deferred grazing, and rodent eradication; soil stabilization with trees, grasses, legumes, and other thick-growing, soil-holding crops; retardation of runoff by increasing absorption of rainfall; and retirement from cultivation of steep, highly erosive areas and areas now badly gullied or otherwise eroded.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 76-102(A) thru (C); amd. Sec. 2525, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-15-102. Declaration of policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources of this state, for the control and prevention of soil erosion, for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1959; R.C.M. 1947, 76-102(D).

76-15-103. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agency of this state" includes the government of this state and any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the government of this state.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(3) "District" or "conservation district" means a governmental subdivision of this state and a public body corporate and politic organized in accordance with this chapter, for the purposes, with the powers, and subject to the restrictions set forth in this chapter.

(4) "Due notice" means notice published at least twice, with an interval of at least 14 days between the two publication dates, in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation within the proposed area or by posting at a reasonable number of conspicuous places within the appropriate area. The posting must include, when possible, posting at public places where it is customary to post notices concerning county or municipal affairs generally.

(5) "Government" or "governmental" includes the government of this state, the government of the United States, and any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of either of them.

(6) "Land occupier" or "occupier of land" includes a person, firm, corporation, municipality, or other entity that holds title to or is in possession of lands lying within a district organized under this chapter, whether as owner, lessee, renter, tenant, or otherwise.

(7) "Petition" means a petition filed under 76-15-201 for the creation of a district.

(8) "Qualified elector" means an elector as defined in Title 13.

(9) "Supervisor" means one of the members of the governing body of a district, elected or appointed in accordance with this chapter.

(10) "United States" or "agencies of the United States" includes the United States of America, the natural resource conservation service of the United States department of agriculture, and any other agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States of America.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-103(part); amd. Sec. 393, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 269, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-104. Adjournment of hearings. At any hearing held pursuant to the notice, at the time and place designated in the notice, adjournment may be made from time to time without the necessity of renewing the notice for the adjourned dates.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 88, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-103(part).

76-15-105. Duties of department. In addition to the duties hereinafter conferred upon the department, it shall:

(1) offer assistance as may be appropriate to the supervisors of conservation districts in the carrying out of their powers and programs;

(2) keep the supervisors of each of the several districts informed of the activities and experiences of all other districts and facilitate an interchange of advice and experiences between the districts and cooperation between them;

(3) coordinate the programs of the several conservation districts hereunder so far as this may be done by advice and consultation;

(4) secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and of agencies of this state in the work of the districts;

(5) disseminate information throughout the state concerning the activities and programs of the conservation districts; and

(6) encourage the formation of districts in areas where their organization is desirable.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 21, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 47, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-104.

76-15-106. Conservation district account. There is a conservation district account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 to be administered by the department of natural resources and conservation for providing funding for conservation districts.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 351, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 138, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 119, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 18, 2023.

76-15-107. Exemption from environmental review. The department is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing grants, loans, or bonds related to conservation, reclamation, and renewable resource activities pursuant to this part.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: This section is effective October 1, 2023.

76-15-108. Conservation district fund — conservation district special revenue account. (1) There is a conservation district fund administered by the department of administration. Pursuant to 17-5-703, a percentage of coal severance taxes received by the state must be deposited into this fund. Earnings not transferred to the conservation district account as provided in subsection (2) must be retained in the conservation district fund.

(2) The conservation district account established in 76-15-106 receives earnings from the conservation district fund as provided in 17-5-703.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 717, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 8, Ch. 717, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective July 1, 2023."

Part 2
Creation of Conservation Districts

76-15-201. Petition to create conservation district. (1) Any 10% of the qualified electors within the limits of the territory proposed to be organized into a district may file a petition with the department asking that the department approve the organization of a conservation district to function in the territory described in the petition.

(2) The petition must set forth:

(a) the proposed name of the district;

(b) that there is need in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for a conservation district to function in the territory described in the petition;

(c) a description of the territory proposed to be organized as a district, which description may not be required to be given by metes and bounds or by legal subdivisions but is sufficient if generally accurate;

(d) a request that:

(i) the department define the boundaries for the district;

(ii) a referendum be held within the territory defined on the question of the creation of a conservation district in the territory; and

(iii) the department determine that a district be created.

(3) Where more than one petition is filed covering parts of the same territory, the department may consolidate all or any part of the petitions.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 270, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-202. Hearing on petition. (1) Within 30 days after a petition has been filed with the department, it shall cause due notice to be given of a proposed hearing before the department upon the question of the desirability and necessity in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the creation of the district; upon the question of the appropriate boundaries to be assigned to the district; upon the propriety of the petition and other proceedings taken under this chapter; and upon all questions relevant to those inquiries.

(2) All qualified electors within the limits of the territory described in the petition and of lands within any territory considered for addition to the described territory and all other interested parties are entitled to attend the hearings and be heard.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part).

Cross-References

Applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, 2-4-107.

76-15-203. Hearing procedure if additional territory to be included. If it appears to the department after reviewing the record of the hearing that it may be desirable to include within the proposed district territory outside of the area within which due notice of the hearing has been given, the department shall adjourn the hearing and shall cause due notice of a further hearing to be given throughout the entire area considered for inclusion in the district. The further hearing must be held by the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 271, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-204. Determination of need for district. (1) After the hearing, if the department determines, upon the facts presented at the hearing and upon other relevant facts and information as may be available, that there is need, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, for a conservation district to function in the territory considered at the hearing, it shall make and record that determination and shall define, by metes and bounds or by legal subdivisions, the boundaries of the district.

(2) If the department determines after the hearing, after due consideration of the relevant facts, that there is no need for a conservation district to function in the territory considered at the hearing, it shall make and record that determination and shall deny the petition. After 6 months have expired from the date of the denial of a petition, subsequent petitions covering the same or substantially the same territory may be filed and a new hearing held and determinations made on the petitions.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 272, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-205. Criteria for determining need. In making the determinations and in defining the boundaries, the department shall consider the topography of the area considered and of the state, the composition of soils in the area, the distribution of erosion, the prevailing land use practices, the desirability and necessity of including within the boundaries the particular lands under consideration and the benefits those lands may receive from being included within the boundaries, the relation of the proposed area to existing watersheds and agricultural regions and other conservation districts already organized or proposed for organization under this chapter, and such other physical, geographical, and economic factors as are relevant, having due regard to the legislative determination set forth in 76-15-101 and 76-15-102. The territory to be included within the boundaries need not be contiguous.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 273, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-206. Determination of administrative practicability of district. After the department has made and recorded a determination that there is need in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for the organization of a district in a particular territory and has defined the boundaries of the district, it shall consider the question whether the operation of a district within the boundaries with the powers conferred upon conservation districts in this chapter is administratively practicable and feasible.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 274, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-207. Referendum on question of creating district. (1) To assist the department in the determination of administrative practicability and feasibility, the department shall, within a reasonable time after entry of the finding that there is need for the organization of the proposed district and the determination of the boundaries of the district, hold a referendum within the proposed district upon the proposition of the creation of the district and cause due notice of the referendum to be given.

(2) The question must be submitted by ballots upon which the words “For creation of a conservation district of the lands below described and lying in the county(ies) of

(3) All qualified electors within the boundaries of the territory, as determined by the department, are eligible to vote in the referendum.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 275, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-208. Administration of hearings and referenda. (1) The department shall pay all expenses for the issuance of the notices and the conduct of the hearings and referenda and shall supervise the conduct of the hearings and referenda. It shall adopt appropriate rules governing the conduct of the hearings and referenda and providing for the registration prior to the date of the referendum of all eligible voters or prescribing some other appropriate procedure for the determination of those eligible as voters in the referendum.

(2) No informalities in the conduct of the referendum or in any matters relating thereto shall invalidate the referendum or the result thereof if notice thereof has been given substantially as herein provided and the referendum has been fairly conducted.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(5).

76-15-209. Procedure following referendum. (1) The department shall publish the result of the referendum, and shall consider and determine whether the operation of the district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible.

(2) If the department determines that the operation of the district is administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record that determination and proceed with the organization of the district in the manner provided in this chapter.

(3) If the department determines that the operation of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record that determination and deny the petition. After 6 months have expired from the date of entry of a determination by the department that operation of a proposed district is not administratively practicable and feasible and denial of a petition pursuant to the determination, subsequent petitions may be filed and action taken on the petitions in accordance with this part.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 276, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-210. Criteria for determining administrative practicability. (1) In making its determination, the department shall consider the attitudes of the qualified electors within the defined boundaries, the number of qualified electors eligible to vote in the referendum who voted, the proportion of the votes cast in the referendum in favor of the creation of the district to the total number of votes cast, the approximate wealth and income of the qualified electors of the proposed district, the probable expense of carrying on erosion-control operations within the district, and other economic and social factors relevant to the determination, having due regard to the legislative determinations set forth in 76-15-101 and 76-15-102.

(2) The department may not determine that the operation of the proposed district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible unless a majority of the votes cast in the referendum upon the proposition of creation of the district has been cast in favor of the creation of the district.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 277, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-211. Appointment of supervisors. If the department determines that the operation of the proposed district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible, it shall appoint two supervisors to act with the three supervisors first elected, as provided in this part, as the initial governing body of the district.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 278, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-212. Submission of application by appointed supervisors. The district is a governmental subdivision of this state and a public body, corporate and politic, upon the taking of the following proceedings:

(1) The two appointed supervisors shall present to the secretary of state an application signed by them, which must set forth:

(a) that a petition for the creation of the district was filed with the department pursuant to this chapter, that the proceedings specified in this chapter were taken pursuant to the petition, that the application is being filed in order to complete the organization of the district as a governmental subdivision and a public body, corporate and politic, under this chapter, and that the department has appointed them as supervisors;

(b) the name and official residence of each of the supervisors, together with a certified copy of the appointments evidencing their right to office;

(c) the term of office of each of the supervisors;

(d) the name which is proposed for the district; and

(e) the location of the principal offices of the supervisors of the district.

(2) The application must be subscribed and sworn to by each of the supervisors.

(3) (a) The application must be accompanied by a statement by the department which shall certify that:

(i) a petition was filed, notice issued, and hearing held as provided in this part;

(ii) the department determined that there is need in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for a conservation district to function in the proposed territory and defined the boundaries of the district;

(iii) notice was given and a referendum held on the question of the creation of the district; and

(iv) the result of the referendum showed a majority of the votes cast in the referendum to be in favor of the creation of the district and that the department determined that the operation of the proposed district is administratively practicable and feasible.

(b) The statement must also set forth the boundaries of the district as they have been defined by the department.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 279, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-213. Processing of application by secretary of state. (1) The secretary of state shall examine the application and statement, and if the secretary of state finds that the name proposed for the district is not identical with that of any other conservation district of this state or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion or uncertainty, the secretary of state shall receive and file the application and statement and shall record them in an appropriate book of record in the secretary of state's office.

(2) If the secretary of state finds that the name proposed for the district is identical with that of any other conservation district of this state or so nearly similar as to lead to confusion and uncertainty, the secretary of state shall certify that fact to the department. The department shall submit to the secretary of state a new name for the district which is not subject to the defects. Upon receipt of the new name free of defects, the secretary of state shall record the application and statement with the modified name in an appropriate book of record in the secretary of state's office.

(3) The secretary of state shall make and issue to the supervisors, without cost, a certificate under the seal of the state of the due organization of the district and shall record the certificate with the application and statement.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 280, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-214. Evidentiary status of certificate issued by secretary of state. In a suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to a contract, proceeding, or action of the district, the district shall be considered to have been established in accordance with this chapter upon proof of the issuance of the certificate by the secretary of state. A copy of the certificate, duly certified by the secretary of state, is admissible in evidence in the suit, action, or proceeding and is proof of the filing and contents thereof.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(11).

76-15-215. District as governmental subdivision and public body. When the application and statement have been made, filed, and recorded as herein provided, the district is a governmental subdivision of this state and a public body, corporate and politic, exercising public powers.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; Sec. 76-105, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; Sec. 76-108, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part), 76-108(part).

76-15-216. Limitation on territory included in district. The boundaries of the district must include the territory as determined by the department, but may not include any area included within the boundaries of another conservation district.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(part); amd. Sec. 281, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Combination or division of districts, 76-15-803.

Part 3
Administration of Conservation Districts

76-15-301. Establishment of supervisor areas and reorganization of district governing bodies. (1) (a) A conservation district is authorized to divide the unincorporated area of the district into no more than five supervisor areas.

(b) Each supervisor area must be represented by one supervisor. If less than five supervisor areas are established, a sufficient number of supervisors must be elected at large to complete the governing body of the district as provided in 76-15-311(1).

(2) (a) In a district containing no incorporated municipalities that are completely within the boundaries of the district, the department shall, upon passage of a resolution by the district to transition to seven supervisors, reorganize the district as provided in 76-15-305 and this subsection (2).

(b) A district that is reorganized pursuant to this section may be divided into no more than seven supervisor areas.

(3) If provided by ordinance of the district, a supervisor must reside in the area the supervisor represents.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(12); (2)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 173, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 282, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 162, L. 2011.

76-15-302. Repealed. Sec. 262, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-106(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

76-15-303. Election of supervisors — election by acclamation — appointment. (1) An election for supervisors must be conducted in accordance with Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

(2) All qualified electors within the district are eligible to vote in the election.

(3) The candidate or, if more than one supervisor position is to be filled by the election, the candidates who receive the largest number, respectively, of the votes cast in the election are the elected supervisors for the district.

(4) The names of the candidates must be arranged on ballots as prescribed in 13-12-205.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-106(part); amd. Sec. 369, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 576, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 254, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 414, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 239, Ch. 49, L. 2015.**

76-15-304. Election of supervisors. (1) Two supervisors shall be elected at the second general election following the organization or reorganization of the district and shall replace the two supervisors appointed by the department. Thereafter, a district shall alternately elect three and two supervisors at succeeding general elections.

(2) An election for supervisors must be conducted in accordance with Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-106(2); amd. Sec. 240, Ch. 49, L. 2015.**

76-15-305. Transition to seven supervisors. (1) At the time of reorganization under 76-15-301(2), the department shall appoint:

(a) one supervisor for a term to coincide with the terms of those elected supervisors whose terms will expire after the next general election; and

(b) one supervisor for a term to coincide with the terms of those elected supervisors whose terms will expire after the general election following the next general election.

(2) The supervisor positions held by the appointed supervisors become open for election at the time the terms expire. A district having seven supervisors shall alternately elect four and three supervisors at succeeding general elections.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 173, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 283, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 241, Ch. 49, L. 2015.**

76-15-306 through 76-15-310 reserved.

76-15-311. Governing body of district. (1) If there are no incorporated municipalities that are completely within the boundaries of the district, the governing body of the district must consist of five elected supervisors unless the district has been reorganized pursuant to 76-15-301(2) and 76-15-305.

(2) If there are incorporated municipalities that are completely within the boundaries of the district, the governing body of the district must consist of seven supervisors as follows:

(a) The board of supervisors, in addition to five elected supervisors, must consist of two appointed supervisors, making a total of seven supervisors in those districts. The legislative bodies of the incorporated municipalities within the district shall appoint the two additional supervisors after consultation with the elected supervisors.

(b) Where there are two or more incorporated municipalities that are completely within the boundaries of a district, the two appointed supervisors shall represent all the municipalities and urban interests in the district. A municipality may not have more than one appointed supervisor residing in the municipality. The legislative bodies of the incorporated municipalities within the district shall agree on the persons appointed to serve as the appointed supervisors.

(3) If there are no incorporated municipalities that are completely within the boundaries of the district but a portion of one or more incorporated municipalities is within the boundaries of a district, the elected supervisors may pass a resolution to transition to a board of seven members consisting of five elected supervisors and two supervisors appointed by the legislative bodies of the partially included municipalities as provided in subsection (2).

(4) A supervisor appointed under subsection (2) or (3) may live outside the municipality the supervisor represents, but the supervisor must reside within the boundaries of the district.

(5) An elected supervisor must reside within the boundaries of the district.

(6) The board of supervisors may appoint associate supervisors it considers necessary to advise the board of supervisors on the operation of the conservation district as provided in part 4 of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(1) thru (3); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 173, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 162, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 242, Ch. 49, L. 2015.**

76-15-312. Term of office and vacancies. (1) (a) The term of office of each supervisor is 4 years, except as provided in subsection (1)(b).

(b) The supervisors who are appointed by the department pursuant to 76-15-305 must be designated to serve for terms of 2 years from the date of their appointment, after which the offices must be filled by election. A supervisor appointed pursuant to 76-15-311 shall serve a term of 3 years.

(c) An elected supervisor holds office until a successor has been elected and has qualified.

(2) A vacancy is created when any of the following events occurs before the expiration of the term of the incumbent:

(a) death;

(b) a determination pursuant to Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, that the incumbent is mentally ill;

(c) resignation;

(d) removal from office;

(e) unexcused absence from three consecutive regular meetings of the board of supervisors;

(f) ceasing to reside in the district;

(g) conviction of a felony or a violation of official duties; or

(h) the decision of a court declaring void the incumbent's election or appointment.

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2)(e), a majority vote of the board of supervisors may excuse a supervisor from attending a meeting.

(4) A vacancy occurring in the office of an elected supervisor must be filled by appointment by the remaining supervisors until the next election, when a successor must be elected to serve the unexpired term. The election must be conducted in accordance with Title 13, chapter 1, part 5, in the year following the appointment.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2526, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 162, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 243, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

76-15-313. Operation of supervisors. (1) The supervisors shall annually elect a presiding officer from their members.

(2) A majority of the supervisors constitute a quorum, and except as otherwise specifically provided, the concurrence of a majority in any matter within their duties is required for its determination.

(3) Upon the unanimous approval of the board of supervisors, a supervisor may receive compensation for the supervisor's services, including travel expenses as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred in the discharge of the supervisor's duties. However, a supervisor may not receive compensation for attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board of supervisors.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 533, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2527, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-15-314. Removal of a supervisor. A supervisor may be removed by the department and a vacancy created under 76-15-312(2)(d), upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office but for no other reason.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 284, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-315. Administrative functions of supervisors. (1) The supervisors may employ a secretary and other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, that they may require and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation.

(2) The supervisors may delegate to their presiding officer, to one or more supervisors, or to one or more agents or employees powers and duties that they consider proper.

(3) The supervisors shall furnish to the department copies of ordinances, rules, orders, contracts, forms, and other documents that they adopt or employ and other information concerning their activities that may be required in the performance of their duties under this chapter.

(4) The supervisors shall:

(a) provide for the execution of surety bonds for all employees and officers who are entrusted with funds or property;

(b) provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and of all resolutions, regulations, and orders issued or adopted; and

(c) provide for an annual audit of the accounts of receipts and disbursements.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(part); amd. Sec. 2528, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-15-316. Cooperation with municipalities and counties. The supervisors may invite the governing body of any municipality or county located near the territory comprised within the district to designate a representative to advise and consult with the supervisors of the district on all questions of program and policy which may affect the property, water supply, or other interests of the municipality or county.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(7).

76-15-317. Cooperation with state agencies. Agencies of this state which shall have jurisdiction over or be charged with the administration of any state-owned lands and of any county or other governmental subdivision of the state, which shall have jurisdiction over or be charged with the administration of any county-owned or other publicly owned lands lying within the boundaries of any district organized hereunder shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the supervisors of such districts in the effectuation of programs and operations undertaken by the supervisors under the provisions of this chapter. The supervisors of such districts shall be given free access to enter and perform work upon such publicly owned lands. The provisions of land use regulations adopted pursuant to 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 shall have the force and effect of law over all such publicly owned lands and shall be in all respects observed by the agencies administering such lands.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 72, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 76-113.

76-15-318. Cooperation between districts. The supervisors of any two or more districts organized under the provisions of this chapter may cooperate with one another in the exercise of any or all powers conferred in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 72, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 76-112.

76-15-319. Legal assistance. (1) The supervisors may call upon the county attorney of the county in which the greatest portion of the district is located or the attorney general of the state for the legal services they may require, or they may employ their own counsel and legal staff.

(2) If the county attorney is unable to provide legal assistance because of a conflict of interest, then the matter may be referred to the attorney general or the department.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 4, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 146, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 439, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-107(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 533, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 285, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

County Attorney to act as counsel for district, 7-4-2711.

76-15-320. Legal status of district — immunity. (1) A conservation district and the supervisors of a conservation district may:

(a) sue and be sued in the name of the district;

(b) satisfy a judgment or settlement pursuant to 2-9-316;

(c) have a seal that is judicially noticed;

(d) have perpetual succession unless terminated as provided in this chapter;

(e) implement Title 75, chapter 7, part 1; and

(f) make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

(2) A conservation district, conservation district supervisor, or conservation district employee is immune from suit for any liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed for an act or omission committed while engaged in conservation district activities pursuant to Title

75, chapter 7, part 1, or this chapter, unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence, was committed in bad faith, or was committed with malicious purpose.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 23, L. 1999.

76-15-321. Rulemaking authority. A conservation district and the supervisors thereof shall have the power to make and from time to time amend and repeal rules to carry into effect the purposes and powers of this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Applicability of Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

76-15-322. Filing of notice of organization of district. Within 10 days after the creation of the district, the supervisors of a conservation district shall cause a notice declaring the district organized to be filed for record in the office of the county clerk and recorder of each county in which any portion of the district is situated.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-201(part).

76-15-323. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 152, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 76-202.

76-15-324. Minutes. The board of supervisors shall submit the minutes of its proceedings for electronic storage within 30 days after the minutes have been approved by that body for electronic storage and retention in accordance with the provisions of Title 2, chapter 6, part 12. The board of supervisors shall submit the minutes for electronic storage to the county clerk and recorder of each county within the jurisdiction of the district.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 262, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Public records, Title 2, ch. 6.

Part 4
Operation of Conservation Districts

76-15-401. Study of problems relating to soil and water conservation. (1) A conservation district and the supervisors thereof shall have the power to:

(a) conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion, floodwater and sediment damages, and water quality as it pertains to saline seep and to the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and the preventive and control measures and works of improvement needed;

(b) publish the results of such surveys, investigations, or research; and

(c) disseminate information concerning such preventive and control measures and works of improvement.

(2) In order to avoid duplication of research activities, no district shall initiate any research program except in cooperation with the government of this state or any of its agencies or with the United States or any of its agencies.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(1).

76-15-402. Development of soil and water conservation plans. A conservation district and the supervisors thereof shall have the power to:

(1) develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil resources and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention and conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water within the district, which plans shall specify in such detail as may be possible the acts, procedures, performances, and avoidances which are necessary or desirable for the effectuation of such plans, including the specification of engineering operations, range management, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, cropping, range programs, tillage and grazing practices, and changes in use of land; and

(2) publish such plans and information and bring them to the attention of occupiers of lands within the district.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(8).

76-15-403. Operation of projects and works. A conservation district and the supervisors of the conservation district may:

(1) conduct soil, vegetation, and water resources conservation projects on lands within the districts upon obtaining the consent of the owner of the lands or the necessary rights or interest in the lands;

(2) carry out preventive and control measures and works of improvement for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, including but not limited to engineering operations, range management, methods of cultivation, growing vegetation, changes in use of land, and the measures listed in 76-15-101(3) on:

(a) lands within the district and owned or controlled by the state with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction of the lands; or

(b) any other lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the occupier of the lands or the necessary rights or interests in the lands;

(3) cooperate or enter into agreements with and, within the limits of appropriations duly made available to it by law, furnish financial or other aid to any governmental or other agency or any occupier of lands within the district, subject to any conditions that the supervisors consider necessary to advance the purposes of this chapter, to conduct or complete:

(a) erosion control and prevention operations; and

(b) works of improvement for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water within the district;

(4) construct, improve, operate, and maintain any structures that are necessary or convenient for the performance of any of the operations authorized in this chapter;

(5) purchase, lease, or otherwise take over and administer projects undertaken by the United States or the state within the district boundaries for:

(a) soil conservation;

(b) flood prevention;

(c) drainage;

(d) irrigation;

(e) water management;

(f) erosion control; or

(g) erosion prevention;

(6) manage, as agent of the United States or of the state any of the types of projects identified in subsection (5) within its boundaries;

(7) act as agent for the United States or for the state in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation, or administration of any of the types of projects identified in subsection (5) within its boundaries;

(8) accept donations, gifts, and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise from the United States, from the state, or from any other source and use or expend funds or other contributions to conduct its operations;

(9) execute its duties and responsibilities under Title 75, chapter 7, part 1, pursuant to the procedures of this chapter; or

(10) execute projects for the conservation, development, storage, distribution, and utilization of water, including but not limited to projects for the following purposes:

(a) irrigation;

(b) flood prevention;

(c) drainage;

(d) fish and wildlife;

(e) recreation;

(f) development of power; or

(g) supplying water for fire protection, livestock, or public, domestic, industrial, or other uses.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(2) thru (4), (7), (9); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 23, L. 1999.

76-15-404. Acquisition and management of property. (1) A conservation district and the supervisors thereof shall have the power to obtain options upon and to acquire by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest, devise, or otherwise any property (real or personal) or rights or interests therein; to maintain, administer, and improve any properties acquired; to receive income from such properties; to expend such income in carrying out the purposes and provisions of this chapter; and to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any of its property or interests therein in furtherance of the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

(2) All such property shall be exempt from taxation by the state or any political subdivision thereof.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(5).

76-15-405. Limitation on acquisition, operation, or disposition of property. No provisions with respect to the acquisition, operation, or disposition of property by other public bodies shall be applicable to a district organized hereunder unless the legislature shall specifically so state.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(B).

76-15-406. Furnishing of supplies and equipment. A conservation district and the supervisors thereof shall have the power to make available to land occupiers within the district, on such terms as it shall prescribe, agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds and seedlings, and such other material or equipment as will assist such land occupiers to carry on operations upon their lands for the conservation of soil resources and for the prevention and control of soil erosion, and for flood prevention and the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(6).

76-15-407. Selection and acquisition of water storage sites. (1) Each conservation district within the state shall seek and may select at least one off-stream water storage site for the construction of a reservoir.

(2) If funding is available for a reservoir or other reclamation project, the conservation district shall acquire the site by purchase.

(3) Supervisors of conservation districts may designate sites for future construction of reservoirs. The supervisors shall designate such site by filing a legal description thereof in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county in which the site is located or the counties in which the site is located if it extends across the boundaries of two or more counties. Upon filing of such designation, the state of Montana, its agencies, or political subdivisions may not acquire the properties so designated for public purposes other than reservoir sites and may not construct any public facilities except reservoirs. Supervisors may cancel a site designation by filing notice with the clerk and recorder of the county or counties affected.

History: En. 76-118 by Sec. 1, Ch. 418, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-118.

76-15-408. Funding of storage reservoirs. Each district shall seek funding for the construction of off-stream storage reservoirs, especially funding from the natural resources projects state special revenue account. The department shall provide assistance, both administrative and technical, in the preparation of grant and funding applications by the districts.

History: En. 76-119 by Sec. 2, Ch. 418, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-119; amd. Sec. 286, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 114, Ch. 2, L. 2009.

76-15-409. Purposes of off-stream storage. The reservoirs shall provide water storage for appropriators within the conservation district and shall provide water for additional beneficial uses. The reservoir may be part of a federal reclamation project and may be used to provide flood control in the district.

History: En. 76-120 by Sec. 3, Ch. 418, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-120.

76-15-410. Disposition of excess water. (1) The conservation district may dispose of water in excess of that needed to meet the requirements of prior appropriators by selling the excess water to any person who will apply the water to an agreed beneficial use within the state.

(2) In making sales under this section, the district shall allocate water on the basis of priorities established by each local district in accordance with 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 according to need and beneficial use.

History: En. 76-121 by Sec. 4, Ch. 418, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-121.

76-15-411. Conditions to extend benefits to nonstate lands. As a condition to the extending of any benefits under this chapter to or the performance of work upon any lands not owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, the supervisors may require contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits and may require land occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion and prevent floodwater and sediment damages thereon.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(11).

Part 5
Financial Aspects of Conservation Districts
Loan Program

76-15-501. Financial management. A conservation district and the supervisors of the conservation district may:

(1) borrow money and incur indebtedness and issue bonds or other evidence of indebtedness;

(2) refund or retire an indebtedness or lien against the district or property of the district;

(3) establish and collect rates, fees, tolls, rents, or other charges for the use of facilities or for services or materials provided. Revenue from these sources may be expended in carrying out the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

(4) subject to 15-10-420, levy taxes as provided in this part to pay any obligation of the district and to accomplish the purposes of this chapter as provided in this chapter;

(5) apply for and receive federal revenue sharing funds in order to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter;

(6) establish a conservation practice loan program as provided in this part; or

(7) apply for, accept, administer, and expend funds, grants, and loans from the state or federal government or any other source.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 75, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 395, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-108(A)(12) thru (15); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 23, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 146, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

76-15-502. Allocation of state funds among districts. (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, all money which may from time to time be appropriated out of the state treasury to pay the administrative and other expenses of conservation districts shall be allocated by the department among the districts already organized or to be organized during the ensuing biennial fiscal period.

(2) In making allocations of the money, the department shall retain an amount estimated by it to be adequate to enable it to make subsequent allocations in accordance with this section and 76-15-503 from time to time among districts which may be organized after the initial allocations are made but within the ensuing biennial fiscal period.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-115(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 76, L. 1985.

76-15-503. Permissible uses of state money. All money allocated to a district by the department shall be available to the supervisors of the district for all administrative and other expenses of the district under this chapter and for all administrative and other expenses of the board of adjustment established or to be established by the district.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-115(part).

76-15-504. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 76, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-115(3).

76-15-505. Authorization to borrow money — limitations. (1) If, after the levy of the annual assessments for the current year, the board of supervisors finds that, because of some unusual or unforeseen cause, funds raised through the collection of the assessments and from other sources will not be sufficient for the proper maintenance and operation of the district and the works in the district, the board of supervisors may:

(a) borrow additional funds needed in an amount not to exceed 50 cents per acre for the lands within the district and may pledge the credit of the district for the payment of the funds; or

(b) request the county commissioners to issue and register warrants in anticipation of further collections.

(2) Subject to 15-10-420, the board of supervisors shall include in the levy for the ensuing year the amount required to pay the loan or to retire the warrants. The warrants may not exceed 90% of the assessment for the year.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-220; amd. Sec. 287, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 196, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-15-506. Bonds authorized — election. (1) Whenever a board of supervisors deems it necessary, it may issue bonds payable from revenues, assessments, or both, or the district may use other financing as provided for by this part and part 6 for the cost of works.

(2) The board of supervisors may call an election to be held in accordance with Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

(3) If from the returns of the election it appears that the majority of votes cast at the election was in favor of and assented to the incurring of the indebtedness, then the board of supervisors may by resolution provide for the issuance of the bonds.

(4) The issuance of bonds must be carried out in accordance with 7-7-4426 and 7-7-4432 through 7-7-4435. The validity of the bonds, use of the bond revenue, and the refunding of the bonds must be done in accordance with the provisions of 7-7-4425, 7-7-4430, 7-7-4501(2) and (3), and 7-7-4502 through 7-7-4505.

(5) Any bonds issued under this part and part 6 have the same force, value, and use as bonds issued by a municipality and are exempt from taxation as property within the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-223; amd. Sec. 394, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 244, Ch. 49, L. 2015.

76-15-507. Investment of funds. The board of supervisors shall have the power and authority to direct the investment of funds in a debt service fund in interest-bearing securities whenever in their judgment the same may be to the best interests of the district. But all such securities shall be converted into cash in time to meet the principal on the bonds payable from such debt service fund promptly at their maturity.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-221; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 298, L. 1983.

76-15-508. Management of surplus funds. The board of supervisors of a conservation district may invest any surplus funds of the district not needed for immediate use in the operations of the district or its activities, to pay bonds or coupons, or to meet current expenses in interest-bearing bonds or securities of the United States or of any agency of the United States if the bonds are guaranteed by the United States or in bonds of the state of Montana or any county or municipal corporation in said state. The board of supervisors of said district may require any funds of the district to be deposited with such depository or bank as may be designated by the board and likewise shall have authority to require the treasurer of the district to take from such depository a bond with corporate surety to ensure payment of any such deposit or to require such depository to pledge securities of the same kind as the district is authorized to invest its funds in to ensure payment of any such deposit.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-222; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1991.

76-15-509 and 76-15-510 reserved.

76-15-511. Estimate of money to be raised by assessment. The supervisors of the district shall on or before the first Monday of July of each year furnish the board of county commissioners an estimate in writing of the amount of money to be raised by assessment which is needed for the next ensuing fiscal year.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 152, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 76-204.

76-15-512. Expenses to be covered by estimate. The total amount of the estimate shall be sufficient to raise the amount of money necessary during the ensuing year to pay the incidental expenses of the district and to fund a conservation practice loan program in those districts having elected to establish such a program.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-206; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 473, L. 1983.

76-15-513. Division between counties of money to be raised by regular and special assessment. (1) If the district lies in more than one county, the supervisors of the district shall divide the amount of the estimate of the regular assessment in the proportion to the value of the land in the district lying in each county. The value shall be determined from the last assessment rolls of the counties. The supervisors shall furnish the boards of county commissioners of each of the respective counties a statement of the part of the estimate apportioned to the county.

(2) The estimates of the special assessments shall be divided in proportion to the value of land lying within the project area.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-205.

76-15-514. Regular and special assessments. Assessments levied pursuant to this part and part 6 shall be known as regular and special assessments.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-207.

76-15-515. Regular assessment. The regular assessment in any 1 year is subject to 15-10-420. The valuation must be determined according to the last assessment roll.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 152, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-208; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 573, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 2009.

76-15-516. Levy of regular and special assessments. (1) Subject to 15-10-420, the board of county commissioners of each county in which any portion of the district lies may, annually at the time of levying county taxes, levy an assessment on the taxable real property within the district. The levy must be known as the ".... (name of district) conservation district regular assessment" and must be sufficient to raise the amount reported to the county commissioners in the estimate of the supervisors.

(2) Subject to the conditions of 15-10-420, 76-15-531, and 76-15-532, the board of county commissioners of each county in which any portion of the district lies may, annually at the time of levying county taxes, levy an assessment on the taxable real property within the district. The levy must be known as the ".... (name of district) conservation district special administrative assessment" and must be sufficient to raise the amount reported to the county commissioners in the estimate of the supervisors.

(3) Subject to 15-10-420, the board of county commissioners of each county in which any portion of a project area lies may, annually at the time of levying county taxes, levy an assessment on the taxable value of all taxable property located within the project area. The levy must be known as ".... (name of the project area) special assessment" and must be sufficient to raise the amount reported to the county commissioners in the estimate of the supervisors.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 152, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-209; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 573, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 147, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 197, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-15-517. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 71, L. 2017.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 152, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-210; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 473, L. 1983.

76-15-518. Certification of assessment to department of revenue — entry on property tax record. Subject to 15-10-420, the board of county commissioners of each county in which any portion of the district is situated may levy the assessment provided in part 6 or this part. The assessment must be certified to the department of revenue and entered on the property tax record of each county.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-211; amd. Sec. 139, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 148, Ch. 584, L. 1999.

76-15-519. Application of general law on levy and collection. The provisions of law relating to the levy and collection of county taxes and the duties of county officers with respect thereto, insofar as they are applicable and not in conflict with this part and part 6, are hereby adopted and made a part hereof.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-212(part).

Cross-References

County taxation, Title 7, ch. 6, part 25.

76-15-520. Liability of county officers. The county officers referred to in 76-15-519 are liable on their several official bonds for the faithful discharge of their duties under this part and part 6.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-212(part).

Cross-References

Official bonds of county officers, 7-4-2212.

76-15-521. Principal county defined. "Principal county" as used in this part means the county in which all or the greatest portion of the land of a district is situated. The principal county remains the same regardless of any change in boundaries.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-213.

76-15-522. Settlements by county treasurers other than of principal county. The treasurers of each of the counties other than the principal county shall, not less than twice a year or upon order of the supervisors of the district, settle with such supervisors and pay to the treasurer of the principal county all money belonging to the district and in their possession.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-214.

76-15-523. Depository of district funds. The treasury of the principal county is the depository of all of the county tax funds of the district. The district may receive upon demand all or a portion of the district funds from the county treasury and deposit the funds in a bank or financial institution in such account as the board of supervisors considers appropriate for the operation and administration of the district.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-215; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 473, L. 1983.

76-15-524. Receipt and crediting of district funds — responsibility on bond. The treasurer of the principal county shall receive and receipt for all county tax money of the district and for conservation practice loan repayments, including principal, interest, if any, administrative fees or charges for loans, and interest paid and collected on deposits or investments under a conservation practice loan program and place the same to the credit of the district. The treasurer is responsible for the official bond and for its safekeeping and disbursement, in the manner provided in this part and part 6, of the money of the district held by the treasurer.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 253, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-216; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 1997.

76-15-525. Payment of district money — warrants. The treasurer of the principal county shall pay out money of the district only upon warrants of the county auditor or, in those counties not having an auditor, the county clerk and recorder, drawn upon order of the supervisors of the district and signed by at least two of such supervisors.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-217.

76-15-526. Treasurer's reports. The treasurer shall report in writing at each regular meeting of the supervisors and as often at other times as the supervisors may request the amount of money on hand and the receipts and disbursements since the treasurer's last report. The report must be verified.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-218; amd. Sec. 2529, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-15-527. Purpose of expenditures. All money collected under 76-15-511 through 76-15-516, 76-15-518 through 76-15-526, 76-15-531, and 76-15-532 must be expended for the purposes provided in Title 76, chapter 15.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 253, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 76-219; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 573, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 71, L. 2017.

76-15-528. Lien for special assessments. Any special assessment made and levied to defray the cost and expenses of any of the work enumerated in this chapter, together with any percentages imposed for delinquency and for cost of collection, shall constitute a lien against the property upon which such assessment is levied from the date on which such assessment is levied. This lien can only be extinguished by payment of such assessment with all penalties, costs, and interest.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-231; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

Cross-References

Liens, Title 71, ch. 3.

76-15-529. Assessments unaffected by misnomers and mistakes relating to ownership. When under the provisions of this part and part 6 special taxes and assessments are assessed against any lot or parcel of land as the property of a particular person, no misnomer of the owner or supposed owner or other mistake relating to the ownership thereof shall affect such assessment or render it void or voidable.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-232.

76-15-530. Conservation district appropriations — administration. (1) The state treasurer shall draw warrants payable from appropriations of allocations authorized as provided under 15-35-108 on order from the department.

(2) The department shall administer the conservation district appropriations referred to in subsection (1). The money must be distributed to the conservation districts on the basis of need. A conservation district may submit an application to the department for a grant of funds for purposes that conservation districts are authorized to perform.

(3) A conservation district is not eligible to receive a grant unless it has exhausted its authorized mill levies.

(4) The department may adopt rules implementing this section that provide for the form and content of applications and the criteria, terms, and conditions for making grants.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 479, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 288, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 509, L. 1995.

76-15-531. Special administrative assessment permitted — voter approval. (1) (a) In addition to the levy authorized in 76-15-515 and 76-15-516(3), the supervisors of a conservation district may levy an annual special administrative assessment for administrative costs and expenses of the district if the qualified electors of the district approve the imposition of the additional assessment at an election held as provided in 15-10-425.

(b) Nonmill-levy revenue that is distributed based on the relative proportion of mill levies may not be distributed to the special administrative assessment.

(2) The special administrative assessment question may be presented to the qualified electors of the district by resolution of the supervisors.

(3) If the conservation district is located in more than one county, the special administrative assessment question must be presented to and approved by the qualified electors who reside in the district from each county.

(4) The resolution referring the special administrative assessment question must state:

(a) the rate of the assessment;

(b) the amount of money anticipated to be raised by the assessment; and

(c) the purposes for which the special administrative assessment revenue may be used.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 573, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 495, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 198, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

76-15-532. Limitations — reduction or repeal of special administrative assessment. (1) In each year following the approval of the special administrative assessment as provided in 76-15-531, the rate of the levy imposed for the special administrative assessment may not raise more revenue than was proposed in the resolution and approved by the qualified electors of the district.

(2) If the supervisors of the district reduce the amount of the special administrative assessment, they may not raise the assessment without the approval of the qualified electors of the district.

(3) On or before the second Monday in July, a petition, signed by at least 50% of the eligible voters within the district, calling for a reduction in or the repeal of the special administrative assessment for the ensuing fiscal year may be presented to the supervisors. Following verification of the signatures on the petition, the supervisors shall reduce or repeal the administrative assessment as specified in the petition.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 573, L. 1993.

76-15-533 through 76-15-540 reserved.

76-15-541. Conservation practice loan program — definition. (1) A conservation district may establish and administer a conservation practice loan program pursuant to 76-15-541 through 76-15-547.

(2) A conservation practice loan may be made to a land occupier who is an agriculture producer within the exterior boundaries of the district. The conservation practice must be constructed, operated, developed, and maintained within the district.

(3) A conservation practice is the construction, operation, development, or maintenance of an erosion control and prevention operation, a work of improvement for flood prevention, and the conservation, development, use, and disposal of water within a district in furtherance of the purposes and policies of this chapter. Conservation practices include those practices pertaining to acceptable land use conversion as determined by a majority of the district supervisors with the advice of the United States natural resources conservation service.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 281, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

76-15-542. Conservation practice loan account. (1) The supervisors of a district may allocate a portion of the regular assessment for each fiscal year to a segregated and separate conservation practice loan account within the treasury of the principal county for the purpose of providing funds for conservation practice loans.

(2) Conservation practice loan repayments, including principal, interest, if any, and administrative fees or charges for loans must be deposited in the conservation practice loan account. Interest earned from deposits or investment of funds must be credited to the conservation practice loan account unless the district directs the county treasurer to deposit the interest earned into the conservation district general operating account.

(3) The funds in the conservation practice loan account may be used for conservation practice loans and for the administrative expenses of a conservation practice loan program. Interest paid and collected on the deposits or investments of a conservation practice loan account may be used for the general operations of a conservation district.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 1997.

76-15-543. Application for loan. (1) An application for a loan must be in the form prescribed by the district supervisors and contain or be accompanied by any information necessary to adequately describe the proposed conservation practice and necessary for evaluation of the proposed conservation practice under the criteria contained in 76-15-544 and 76-15-545.

(2) The application must include a conservation plan, which may be prepared in consultation with the United States natural resources conservation service.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 282, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

76-15-544. Eligibility for loan. A district may award a loan to a land occupier to finance a conservation practice only if a majority of the district supervisors find, based on the application and the supervisors' investigation and evaluation of the proposal, that:

(1) the conservation practice will be economically feasible;

(2) the conservation practice will comply with statutory and regulatory standards protecting the quality of resources such as air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and recreational opportunities;

(3) the applicant has adequate financial resources to construct, operate, develop, and maintain the conservation practice; and

(4) the applicant is credit-worthy and is able and willing to enter into a contract with the district for loan repayment and for construction, operation, development, and maintenance of the proposed conservation practice.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 473, L. 1983.**

76-15-545. Criteria for evaluation of loan applicants — preferences. (1) The district supervisors shall apply the following criteria in ranking applications for a conservation practice loan that is eligible for funding under 76-15-544:

(a) the extent and desirability of the conservation need and resource benefit as determined in the district's annual and long-range plans;

(b) the feasibility and practicality of the project;

(c) the number of related resources that will benefit, including but not limited to water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation;

(d) the extent and desirability of associated public benefits in addition to any private benefits the project or activity may provide; and

(e) any other factor that, in the district supervisors' judgment, is important to the evaluation of the conservation practice in light of the purposes, policies, and objectives of this chapter.

(2) Among applications for a loan in which the proposed conservation practices are substantially equal in ranking under subsection (1), a district shall give preference to:

(a) applicants who have not previously received a conservation practice loan; and

(b) applications for a group or cooperative conservation practice.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 473, L. 1983.**

76-15-546. Terms and conditions of loan. A conservation practice loan is subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The district shall obtain a security interest in real estate that would be obtained by a reasonable, careful, and prudent lender.

(2) The term of the loan may not be greater than the life of the project and may not exceed 30 years.

(3) A current appraisal of real estate offered as security and a commitment for title insurance on that land must be secured by the borrower at the borrower's expense. All costs incident to the loan and loan closing must be paid by the borrower.

(4) A conservation practice must be completed according to United States natural resources conservation service standards and specifications, if applicable.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 283, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 141, L. 1997.**

76-15-547. Rules for loan program. The district shall adopt rules:

(1) prescribing the form and content of applications for loans and plans for the resource conservation practice;

(2) governing the application of the criteria and preferences for awarding loans;

(3) providing for the servicing of loans, including arrangements for obtaining security interests and the establishment of reasonable fees or charges;

(4) providing for the confidentiality of financial statements submitted;

(5) prescribing the conditions for making loans;

(6) establishing the interest rate, if any, for the loans; and

(7) determining the type and amount of security interest in real estate that will be accepted and any conditions to be made upon the security interest.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 141, L. 1997.**

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

Part 6
Project Areas

76-15-601. Establishment of project areas — special assessments. Whenever the public interest or convenience may require and upon the petition of a county, city, town, cooperative grazing association, or other special purpose district or by more than 50% of the qualified electors affected thereby, the board of supervisors is hereby authorized and empowered to establish project areas for carrying out projects to accomplish one or more of the purposes of the district and within which area special assessments can be made for carrying out project purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-224.**

76-15-602. Hearing on petition to establish project area. Upon receipt of a petition to establish a project area, the board or boards of supervisors shall cause due notice to be given of a public hearing on the petition.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-225(part).**

76-15-603. Investigation of need for project area. Prior to the hearing, the board or boards of supervisors shall make or cause to be made an investigation of the need for establishment of the proposed project area and shall prepare a report of their findings.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-225(part).**

76-15-604. Protest procedure. At any time within 15 days after the date of the last publication of the notice of the hearing on the petition, any owner of property liable to be assessed for the project may protest against the proposed project or the creation of the project area, or both. The protest must be in writing and be delivered to the secretary of the conservation district who shall endorse on the protest the date of its receipt by the secretary.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-226(part); amd. Sec. 2530, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-15-605. Board decision. (1) The report of 76-15-603 must be presented and read at the hearing on the petition.

(2) At the public hearing on the petition, the board of supervisors shall proceed to hear and pass upon all protests made and its decision must be final and conclusive except when owners of more than 50% of the land in the proposed project area protest the project. If owners of more than 50% of the land protest the project, no further action may be taken for a period of 6 months from the date of the hearing, after which a new petition may be filed.

(3) If the board or boards of supervisors find that it is not feasible, desirable, or practical to establish the proposed project area, they shall make an order denying the petition and shall state therein their reasons for so doing.

(4) If, however, the board finds that the project is desirable, proper, and necessary, it shall grant the petition, establish the boundaries of the proposed project area, and notify the county election administrator that an election is to be held in the proposed area for the purpose of determining whether or not the project area must be created. The election must be conducted in accordance with Title 13, chapter 1, part 5.

History: **En. Secs. 17, 18, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Secs. 21, 22, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-225(part), 76-226(part); amd. Sec. 395, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 245, Ch. 49, L. 2015.**

76-15-606. Election procedure. (1) The question must be submitted to the electors by ballot on which the words "For creation of proposed project area" and "Against creation of proposed project area" must appear, with a square before each proposition and directions to insert an "X" mark in the square before one or the other of the propositions as the voter may favor or oppose creation of the project area.

(2) A person is not entitled to vote at the election unless the person possesses all the qualifications required of electors under Title 13 and resides within the boundaries of the proposed project area and the county in which the person proposes to vote.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-225(part); amd. Sec. 2531, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-15-607. Notice of creation of project area. If the majority of the votes cast at the election are in favor of creating a project area, the board or boards of supervisors shall create the project area and shall file with the county clerk and recorder in each county in which there lies a portion of the project area a notice of creation of the project area setting forth the purposes of the area and the boundaries thereof.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 291, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-225(part).**

76-15-608. Description of work or project area. In all resolutions, notices, orders, and determinations, it shall be sufficient to briefly describe the work or the project area or both.

History: **En. Sec. 19, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-227.**

76-15-609. Area included in project area. A project area may include a part or all of any district or may include areas in more than one district.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-228(part).

76-15-610. Administration of project area. The affairs of a project area shall be administered by the board or boards of supervisors or their authorized agents.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-228(part).

76-15-611. Federal authority unaffected. (1) The provisions of this part do not apply to the government of the United States or any department, bureau, or agency thereof, except to such extent as the government of the United States or any department, bureau, or agency thereof may desire to take advantage of its provisions. It is an express purpose and intent of this part to aid but not to interfere with the government of the United States or any department, bureau, or agency thereof in any undertaking over which such federal authority desires to exercise full supervision and control.

(2) The provisions of this part may not be construed to impair, limit, or repeal any right whatsoever which the government of the United States or any department, bureau, or agency thereof has to full and complete jurisdiction, management, or control over projects over which such federal authority desires to exercise such rights. It is a purpose of this part expressly to subordinate any power of jurisdiction and to never interfere directly with such federal authority.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-230; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

76-15-612. Duty to maintain improvements. Whenever any project petitioned for or created by the state or federal government has been made, built, constructed, erected, or accomplished as provided in this part, it is hereby made the duty of the board or boards of supervisors under whose jurisdiction the project area was created to adequately and suitably maintain and preserve said improvements and fully to keep the same in proper repair and operation by contract or otherwise in the way or manner as the board shall deem suitable and proper.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-233.

76-15-613 through 76-15-620 reserved.

76-15-621. Estimate of expenses of project area. (1) When a project area has been created, the board or boards of supervisors shall estimate the expenses of the project area from the date of its establishment until the end of the ensuing fiscal year and before July 1 in each year thereafter shall estimate project area expenses for the fiscal year ensuing.

(2) Estimates of project area expenses may include revenue needed to pay the interest or principal of any bonded debt, costs of rights-of-way, easements, or other interest in property deemed necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of any projects therein.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-229(part).

76-15-622. Financing of project area expenses. (1) The expense of the project area may, in the discretion of the board or boards of supervisors, be financed in whole from revenue received by regular assessments or by revenue received in part from regular assessments and in part from special assessments.

(2) Upon adoption of a budget covering necessary expenses, the board or boards of supervisors shall send a copy of such budget or apportionment thereof to the board of county commissioners of each county in the project area and the city auditor of each city in the project area.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-229(part).

76-15-623. Administration of special assessment. (1) Subject to 15-10-420, when the board or boards of supervisors have determined that a special assessment is necessary, the board of county commissioners of the county in which there lies any portion of a project area may annually at the time of levying county taxes levy a special assessment on the taxable value of all taxable property in the project area. The levy must be known as the ".... (name of district) soil and water conservation district special assessment" and must be sufficient to raise the income reported to it in the estimate of the supervisors.

(2) Each lot or parcel of land to be assessed must be assessed with that part of the amount of money required that its taxable value bears to the total taxable value of all the lands to be assessed.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-229(part); amd. Sec. 149, Ch. 584, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 199, Ch. 574, L. 2001.**

76-15-624. Disposition of funds — insufficient revenue. (1) Funds produced each year by this special tax levy shall be available until spent.

(2) If this special tax levy in any year does not produce sufficient revenue to pay the project area expenses, a fund sufficient to pay the same may be accumulated.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-229(part).**

76-15-625. Limitation on special assessment. A special assessment to defray the expenses of a project area may be spread over a term of not to exceed 40 years.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 291, L. 1969; R.C.M. 1947, 76-229(part).**

Part 7
Land Use Regulations

76-15-701. Adoption of land use regulations. (1) The supervisors of any district shall have authority to formulate regulations governing the use of lands within the district in the interest of conserving soil and water resources and preventing and controlling erosion. The supervisors may conduct such public meetings and public hearings upon tentative regulations as may be necessary to assist them in this work.

(2) The supervisors shall not have authority to enact such land use regulations into law until after they shall have caused due notice to be given of their intention to order a referendum for submission of such regulations to the qualified electors within the boundaries of the district for their indication of approval or disapproval of such proposed regulations and until after the supervisors have considered the result of such referendum.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(A); amd. Sec. 396, Ch. 571, L. 1979.**

Cross-References

Cooperation with state agencies, 76-15-317.

76-15-702. Referendum on proposed land use regulations. (1) The proposed regulations shall be embodied in a proposed ordinance. Copies of such proposed ordinance shall be available for the inspection of all eligible voters during the period between publication of such notice and the date of the referendum.

(2) The notices of the referendum shall recite the contents of such proposed ordinance or shall state where copies of such proposed ordinance may be examined. The question shall be submitted by ballots upon which the words "For approval of proposed ordinance No. ...., prescribing land use regulations for conservation of soil and prevention of erosion" and "Against approval of proposed ordinance No. ...., prescribing land use regulations for conservation of soil and prevention of erosion" shall appear, with a square before each proposition and a direction to insert an "X" mark in the square before one or the other of said propositions as the voter may favor or oppose approval of such proposed ordinance.

(3) The supervisors shall publish the result of the referendum. All registered electors within the district shall be eligible to vote in such referendum. No informalities in the conduct of such referendum or in any matters relating thereto shall invalidate said referendum or the result thereof if notice thereof shall have been given substantially as herein provided and said referendum shall have been fairly conducted.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(B); amd. Sec. 397, Ch. 571, L. 1979.**

76-15-703. Voter approval of proposed regulations required. The supervisors shall not have authority to enact such proposed ordinance into law unless a majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall have been cast for approval of the proposed ordinance. The approval of the proposed ordinance by a majority of the votes cast in such referendum shall not be deemed to require the supervisors to enact such proposed ordinance into law.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(part).**

76-15-704. Regulations to have force of law. Land use regulations prescribed in ordinances adopted pursuant to the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 by the supervisors of any district shall have the force and effect of law in the district and shall be binding and obligatory upon all occupiers of lands within such district.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(part).

76-15-705. Alteration of regulations. (1) Any qualified elector within such district may at any time file a petition with the supervisors asking that any or all of the land use regulations prescribed in any ordinance adopted by the supervisors under the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 be amended, supplemented, or repealed.

(2) Land use regulations prescribed in any ordinance adopted pursuant to the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 shall not be amended, supplemented, or repealed except in accordance with the procedure prescribed in 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 for adoption of land use regulations.

(3) Referenda on adoption, amendment, supplementation, or repeal of land use regulations shall not be held more often than once in 6 months.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(part).

76-15-706. Contents of land use regulations. (1) The regulations to be adopted by the supervisors under the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 may include:

(a) provisions requiring the carrying out of necessary engineering operations, including the construction of water spreaders, terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds, ditches, fences, and other necessary structures;

(b) provisions requiring observance of particular methods of cultivation or grazing, including contour cultivating, contour furrowing, and lister furrowing; sowing, planting, and strip cropping; seeding and planting of lands with water-conserving and erosion-preventing plants, trees, and grasses; and forestation and reforestation;

(c) specifications of cropping and range programs and tillage and grazing practices to be observed;

(d) provisions requiring the retirement from cultivation of highly erosive areas or of areas on which erosion may not be adequately controlled if cultivation is carried on; and

(e) provisions for other means, measures, operations, and programs that may assist conservation of soil and water resources and prevent or control erosion in the district, having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in 76-15-101 and 76-15-102.

(2) The regulations must provide for the establishment of a board of adjustment pursuant to 76-15-721.

(3) The regulations must be uniform throughout the territory comprised within the district except that the supervisors may classify the lands within the district with reference to such factors as soil type, degree of slope, degree of threatened or existing erosion, grazing and cropping programs, tillage and range practices in use, and other relevant factors and may provide regulations varying with the type or class of land affected but uniform as to all lands within each class or type.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 2015.

76-15-707. Publication of regulations. Copies of land use regulations adopted under the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 shall be printed and made available to all occupiers of land within the district.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-109(part).

76-15-708. Power to determine compliance with regulations. After a complaint shall have been filed with the supervisors charging a violation of the regulations, the supervisors shall have authority to go upon any lands within the district to determine whether land use regulations adopted under the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 are being observed.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-110(1).

76-15-709. Enforcement of regulations — petition to district court. Where the supervisors of any district shall find that any of the provisions of land use regulations prescribed in any ordinance adopted in accordance with the provisions of 76-15-701 through 76-15-707 are not being observed on particular lands and that such nonobservance tends to increase erosion on such lands and is interfering with the prevention or control of erosion on other lands within the district, the supervisors may present a petition, duly verified, to the district court of the county in which the lands of the defendant may lie:

(1) setting forth:

(a) the adoption of the ordinance prescribing land use regulations;

(b) the failure of the defendant to observe such regulations and to perform particular work, operations, or avoidances as required thereby; and

(c) that such nonobservance tends to increase erosion on such lands and is interfering with the prevention or control of erosion on other lands within the district; and

(2) praying the court:

(a) to require the defendant to perform the work, operations, or avoidances within a reasonable time; and

(b) to order that, if the defendant shall fail so to perform, the supervisors may go on the land, perform the work or other operations, or otherwise bring the condition of such lands into conformity with the requirements of such regulations and recover the costs and expenses thereof, with interest, from the defendant.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-110(2).

76-15-710. Court procedure after petition is filed. (1) Upon the presentation of a petition as described in 76-15-709, the court shall cause process to be issued against the defendant and shall hear the case. If it appears to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take evidence that it may direct and report the evidence to the court with the referee's findings of fact and conclusions of law, which must constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court is made.

(2) In all cases in which the person in possession of lands who fails to perform work, operations, or avoidances is not the owner, the owner of the lands must be joined as party defendant.

(3) The court may dismiss the petition, or it may require the defendant to perform the work, operations, or avoidances and may provide that, upon the failure of the defendant to initiate the performance within the time specified in the order of the court and to prosecute the performance to completion with reasonable diligence, the supervisors may enter upon the lands involved and perform the work or operations or otherwise bring the condition of the land into conformity with the requirements of the regulations and recover the costs and expenses of the work or operations, with interest at the rate of 10% a year, from the defendant.

(4) The court shall retain jurisdiction of the case until after the work has been completed. Upon completion of the work pursuant to the order of the court, the supervisors may file a petition with the court, a copy of which must be served upon the defendant in the case, stating the costs and expenses sustained by them in the performance of the work and asking judgment for the costs and expenses with interest. The court has jurisdiction to enter judgment for the amount of the costs and expenses, with interest at the rate of 10% a year until paid, together with the costs of suit, including reasonable attorney fees to be fixed by the court.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 431, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 76-110(3) thru (5); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2532, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

76-15-711 through 76-15-720 reserved.

76-15-721. Board of adjustment. (1) A board of adjustment consisting of three members must be appointed to decide a petition for variance pursuant to 76-15-723.

(2) (a) (i) On filing of a petition pursuant to 76-15-723, the department shall appoint members to the board of adjustment, subject to the approval of the district supervisors.

(ii) After a board is appointed pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(i), that board serves until it reaches a final decision on the petition.

(b) The members may be removed by the department, on notice and hearing, only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office. The hearing must be conducted jointly by the department and the supervisors of the district.

(c) Employees of the department and the supervisors of the district are ineligible to appointment as members of the board of adjustment.

(3) Vacancies in the board of adjustment must be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

(4) The members of the board of adjustment receive compensation for their services at the rate of $25 a day for time spent on the work of the board in addition to expenses, including travel expenses, as provided for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. The supervisors shall pay the necessary administrative and other expenses of operation incurred by the board upon the certificate of the presiding officer of the board.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(1); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 76, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 289, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 194, L. 2015.**

76-15-722. Operation of board of adjustment. (1) The board of adjustment shall adopt rules to govern its procedures. The rules must be in accordance with this chapter and with the ordinance establishing the board of adjustment.

(2) The board shall elect a presiding officer from among its members. Meetings of the board must be held at the call of the presiding officer and at other times that the board may determine. Any two members of the board constitute a quorum. The presiding officer or in the presiding officer's absence another member of the board that the presiding officer may designate to serve as acting presiding officer may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.

(3) All meetings of the board must be open to the public. The board shall keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings, of all documents filed with it, and of all orders entered, which must be filed in the office of the board and are a public record.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(2); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2533, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 194, L. 2015.**

76-15-723. Petition for variance. (1) A qualified elector may file a petition with the board of adjustment alleging that there are great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship in the way of the elector carrying out upon the elector's lands the strict letter of the land use regulations prescribed by ordinance approved by the supervisors and asking the board to authorize a variance from the terms of the land use regulations in the application of the regulations to the lands occupied by the petitioner.

(2) Copies of the petition must be served by the petitioner upon the presiding officer of the supervisors of the district within which the petitioner's lands are located and upon the department.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(part); amd. Sec. 2534, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

76-15-724. Hearing on petition for a variance. (1) The board of adjustment shall fix a time for the hearing of the petition and cause due notice of the hearing to be given.

(2) The supervisors of the district and the department are entitled to appear and be heard at the hearing. A qualified elector within the district who objects to the authorizing of the variance prayed for may intervene and become a party to the proceedings. A party to the hearing before the board may appear in person, by agent, or by attorney.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(part).**

76-15-725. Board decision. (1) If, upon the facts presented at the hearing, the board of adjustment determines that there are great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship in the way of applying the strict letter of any of the land use regulations upon the lands of the petitioner, it shall make and record that determination and shall make and record findings of fact as to the specific conditions which establish the great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship.

(2) Upon the basis of the findings and determination, the board of adjustment may order a variance from the terms of the land use regulations in their application to the lands of the petitioner that:

(a) will relieve the great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship;

(b) will not be contrary to the public interest; and

(c) will be such that the spirit of the land use regulations is observed, the public health, safety, and welfare is secured, and substantial justice is done.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(part); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 290, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-726. Appeal to district court from board decision. (1) A petitioner aggrieved by an order of the board of adjustment granting or denying, in whole or in part, the relief sought, the supervisors of the district, or an intervening party may obtain a review of the order in any district court of the county in which the lands of the petitioner lie by filing in the court a petition praying that the order of the board of adjustment be modified or set aside.

(2) A copy of the petition must immediately be served upon the parties to the hearing before the board of adjustment, and after service the party seeking review shall file in the court a transcript of the entire record in the proceedings, certified by the board of adjustment, including the documents and testimony upon which the order complained of was entered and the findings, determination, and order of the board of adjustment.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(part); amd. Sec. 291, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-727. Court proceedings. (1) Upon the filing, the court shall cause notice of the filing to be served upon the parties, and the court has jurisdiction of the proceedings and of the questions determined or to be determined in the proceedings, may grant temporary relief as it considers just and proper, and make and enter a decree enforcing, modifying and enforcing as modified, or setting aside, in whole or in part, the order of the board of adjustment.

(2) A contention that is not urged before the board of adjustment may not be considered by the court unless the failure or neglect to urge the contention is excused because of extraordinary circumstances. The findings of the board of adjustment as to the facts, if supported by evidence, are conclusive.

(3) If a party applies to the court for leave to produce additional evidence and shows to the satisfaction of the court that the evidence is material and that there are reasonable grounds for the failure to produce the evidence in the hearing before the board of adjustment, the court may order the additional evidence to be taken before the board of adjustment and to be made a part of the transcript. The board of adjustment may modify its findings as to the facts or make new findings, taking into consideration the additional evidence taken and filed, and it shall file the modified or new findings which, if supported by evidence, are conclusive and shall file with the court its recommendations, if any, for the modification or setting aside of its original order.

(4) The jurisdiction of the court is exclusive and its judgment and decree are final, except that they are subject to review in the same manner as are other judgments or decrees of the court.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 439, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 76-111(part); amd. Sec. 292, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Part 8
Alteration and Termination of Conservation Districts

76-15-801. Change of district name. Petitions for changing the name of a district organized under this chapter may be filed with the department. The petition shall be signed by a majority of the district supervisors and shall state the present name of the district and the proposed new name. If the department determines that the proposed new name is not identical with or so similar to that of any other district in the state as to lead to confusion or uncertainty, it shall present a statement of that determination to the secretary of state, who shall issue to the district a certificate, under the seal of the state, evidencing the change of name of the district. Upon the issuance of the certificate, the supervisors of the district shall cause due notice to be given of the change of the name of the district.

History: En. 76-117 by Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-117(1).

76-15-802. Procedure to add territory to a district. Petitions for including additional territory within an existing district may be filed with the department, and the proceedings provided for in part 2 in the case of petitions to organize a district shall be followed in the case of petitions for the inclusion. The department shall prescribe the form for the petitions, which shall be as nearly as may be in the form prescribed in part 2 for petitions to organize a district. Where the total number of qualified electors in the area proposed for inclusion is less than 10, the petition may be filed when signed by a majority of the qualified electors of the area, and in that case no referendum need be held. In referenda upon petitions for the inclusion, all qualified electors within the proposed additional area are eligible to vote.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 73, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-105(10).

76-15-803. Combination or division of districts. (1) A petition may be filed with the department for the division of any district, for the combination of any two or more districts, or for the division of a district and the combination of any divided part of a district with any other district. Any or all of these actions may be initiated by the filing of a single petition with the department. The petition must be signed by a majority of the members of each of the governing bodies of the affected districts. The department shall prescribe the form for the petition. When a petition is filed, the department shall within 30 days give notice of a public hearing on the petition. All qualified electors within the affected districts and all other interested parties are entitled to attend the hearing and be heard. After the hearing, the department shall determine from the hearing record whether the proposed division, the combination, or the division and combination of territory is administratively practicable and feasible. In making the determination, the department shall give due regard to the legislative determinations set forth in 76-15-101 and 76-15-102 and to the considerations enumerated in 76-15-201 through 76-15-216, to the extent applicable, relative to determining the practicability and feasibility of creating a district.

(2) If the department determines that the proposed division, combination, or division and combination is administratively practicable and feasible, the department shall effect the proposed division, combination, or division and combination by filing with the secretary of state a statement certifying the changes made in the boundaries of the affected districts, together with any change in the name of the districts. If the determination is in the negative, the department shall make and record that determination and shall deny the petition. After 6 months from the denial of the petition, a new petition may be filed.

(3) When a district is divided, the supervisors of the district shall allocate the property, rights, and liabilities (including contractual obligations) of the district among the resulting parts of the district, giving due consideration to the proportionate size of each divided part, the number of qualified electors and operating units, the degree and extent of soil erosion in the district, and other relevant factors. A statement of the allocation must be filed with the department within 30 days after the notification of the board's determination in favor of the division of the district. If the supervisors fail to make or to agree upon the allocation, the division must be made by the department after a hearing as the department considers necessary and with due regard for the standards set out in this subsection for making the allocations.

History: En. 76-117 by Sec. 1, Ch. 46, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 41, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 76-117(2) thru (4); amd. Sec. 293, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-804. Petition to discontinue all or part of district. (1) At any time after 5 years after the organization of a district under this chapter, 10% or more of the qualified electors within the boundaries of the district may file a petition with the department requesting the termination of the operations of the district or a part of the district and the discontinuance of the existence of the district or that part of the district.

(2) The department may conduct public meetings and public hearings upon the petition that are necessary to assist it in the consideration of the petition.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(1); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 473, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 294, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-805. Referendum on question of discontinuance. (1) Within 60 days after the petition has been received by the department, it shall give due notice of the holding of a referendum and shall supervise the referendum and issue appropriate regulations governing the conduct thereof. The question is to be submitted by ballots upon which the words "For terminating the existence of the .... (name of the conservation district or part of the district to be here inserted)" and "Against terminating the existence of the .... (name of the conservation district or part of the district to be here inserted)" shall appear with the square before each proposition and a direction to insert an "X" mark in the square before one or the other of the propositions as the voter may favor or oppose discontinuance of the district or a part of the district.

(2) All qualified electors within the boundaries of the district are eligible to vote in the referendum. No informalities in the conduct of the referendum or in any matters relative thereto shall invalidate the referendum or the result thereof if notice thereof is given substantially as herein provided and the referendum is fairly conducted.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(2).**

76-15-806. Decision in case of petition for discontinuance of entire district. (1) In the case of petitions for discontinuance of a district, the department shall publish the result of the referendum and shall consider and determine whether the continued operation of the district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible.

(2) If the department determines that the continued operation of the district is administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record that determination and deny the petition.

(3) If the department determines that the continued operation of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible, it shall record that determination and shall certify the determination to the supervisors of the district.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(3)(a); amd. Sec. 295, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

76-15-807. Decision in case of petition for discontinuance of portion of district. (1) In the case of petitions for discontinuance of part of a district, the department shall publish the result of the referendum and shall consider and determine whether the continued operation of a part of the district within the defined boundaries is administratively practicable and feasible.

(2) If the department determines that the continued operation of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible with a part of the district discontinued, it shall record that determination and deny the petition.

(3) If the department determines that the continued operation of the district is administratively practicable and feasible with a part of the district discontinued, it shall record that determination and shall certify the determination to the supervisors of the district.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(3)(b); amd. Sec. 296, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

76-15-808. Criteria for decision on discontinuance. (1) In making the determination, the department shall give due regard and weight to the attitudes of the qualified electors lying within the district, the number of qualified electors eligible to vote in the referendum who voted, the proportion of the votes cast in the referendum in favor of the discontinuance of the district or part of the district to the total number of votes cast, the approximate wealth and income of the qualified electors of the district, the probable expense of carrying on erosion control operations within the district, and such other economic and social factors as may be relevant to the determination, having due regard to the legislative findings set forth in 76-15-101 and 76-15-102.

(2) The department may not determine that the continued operation of the district or part of the district is administratively practicable and feasible unless at least a majority of the votes cast in the referendum are cast in favor of the continuance of the district or part of the district.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(4); amd. Sec. 297, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

76-15-809. Procedure to terminate district. (1) Upon certification of the department that the department has determined that the continued operation of the district or part of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible, pursuant to 76-15-804 through 76-15-810, the supervisors shall immediately proceed to terminate the affairs of the district or part of the district.

(2) The supervisors shall dispose of all property belonging to the district or part of the district at public auction and shall pay the proceeds of the sale into the state treasury.

(3) The supervisors shall file an application, duly verified, with the secretary of state for the discontinuance of the district or part of the district and shall transmit with the application

the certificate of the department, setting forth the determination of the department that the continued operation of the district or part of the district is not administratively practicable and feasible. The application must state that the property of the district or part of the district has been disposed of and the proceeds paid to the treasury as provided in 76-15-804 through 76-15-810 and must set forth a full accounting of the properties and proceeds of the sale.

(4) The secretary of state shall issue to the supervisors a certificate of dissolution and shall record the certificate in an appropriate book of record in the secretary of state's office.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(5); amd. Sec. 298, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

76-15-810. Effect of termination. (1) Upon issuance of a certificate of dissolution under 76-15-809, all ordinances and regulations theretofore adopted and in force within the district or in that part of the district are void.

(2) All contracts previously entered into, to which the district or supervisors are parties, remain in effect for the period provided in those contracts. The department shall be substituted for the district or supervisors as party to the contracts if the total district is discontinued. In this case the department is entitled to all benefits and subject to all liabilities under the contracts and has the same right and liability to perform, to require performance, to sue and be sued thereon, and to modify or terminate the contracts by mutual consent or otherwise as the supervisors of the district would have had.

(3) The dissolution does not affect the lien of any judgment entered under 76-15-708 through 76-15-710 or the pendency of an action instituted under those sections, and the department succeeds to all rights and obligations of the district or supervisors as to those liens and actions.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 72, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 431, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-114(6).

Part 9
Coal Bed Methane Protection

76-15-901. Short title. This part may be cited as the "Coal Bed Methane Protection Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 531, L. 2001.

76-15-902. Legislative findings and declaration of purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the need for an economical supply of clean-burning energy is a national and state priority.

(2) The legislature further finds that Montana possesses plentiful reserves of clean-burning natural gas contained in coal beds.

(3) The legislature further finds that the extraction of natural gas from coal beds may result in unanticipated adverse impacts to land and to water quality and availability.

(4) The legislature declares that there is a compelling public need to promote efforts that preserve the environment and protect the right to use and enjoy private property. The legislature further declares that the purpose of this part is to establish a long-term coal bed methane protection account and a coal bed methane protection program for the purpose of compensating private landowners and water right holders for damage to land and to water quality and availability that is attributable to the development of coal bed methane wells.

(5) The legislature further declares that the provisions of this part do not relieve coal bed methane developers or operators that own, develop, or operate coal bed methane wells and collection systems of their legal obligation to compensate landowners and water right holders for damages caused by the development of coal bed methane.

(6) The legislature further declares that the provisions of this part do not relieve coal bed methane developers or operators from:

(a) any liability associated with the exploration or development of coal bed methane; or

(b) the responsibility to comply with any applicable provision of Titles 75, 82, and 85 and any other provision of law applicable to the protection of natural resources or the environment.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 531, L. 2001.

76-15-903. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural production" means the production of:

(a) any growing grass, crops, or trees attached to the surface of the land; or

(b) farm animals with commercial value.

(2) "Coal bed methane developer or operator" means the person who acquires a lease for the purpose of extracting natural gas from a coal bed.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation as provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(4) "Emergency" means the loss of a water supply that must be replaced immediately to avoid substantial damage to a landowner or a water right holder.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 531, L. 2001.**

76-15-904. Coal bed methane protection account — use. (1) There is a coal bed methane protection account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) All money paid into the account must be invested by the board of investments. Earnings from investments must be deposited in the account.

(3) Subject to the conditions of subsections (4) and (5), money deposited in the account must be used to compensate landowners and water right holders for damages attributable to coal bed methane development as provided in this part.

(4) Money deposited in the fund and earnings of the fund may not be expended until after June 30, 2005. For fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2005, principal and earnings may be expended only in the case of an emergency. For fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2011, principal and earnings in the account may be expended for any purpose authorized pursuant to this part.

(5) Subject to legislative fund transfers, money in the account must be appropriated to the department for use by conservation districts that have private landowners or water right holders who qualify for compensation as provided in 76-15-905.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 531, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 522, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 312, L. 2011.**

76-15-905. Coal bed methane protection program — restrictions. (1) There is a coal bed methane protection program administered by conservation districts that have coal beds within the exterior boundary of the district or whose water sources may be adversely affected by the extraction of coal bed methane. The purpose of the coal bed methane protection program is to compensate private landowners or water right holders for damage caused by coal bed methane development.

(2) A conservation district shall establish procedures, approved by the department, for evaluating claims for compensation submitted by a landowner or water right holder. The procedures must include:

(a) a method for submitting an application for compensation for damages caused by coal bed methane development;

(b) a process for determining the cost of the damage to land, surface water, or ground water, if any, caused by coal bed methane development;

(c) the development of eligibility requirements for receiving compensation that include an applicant's access to existing sources of state funding, including state-mandated payments, that compensate for damages; and

(d) criteria for ranking applications related to available resources.

(3) An eligible recipient for compensation includes private landowners and water right holders who can demonstrate as the result of damage caused by coal bed methane development:

(a) a loss of agricultural production or a loss in the value of land;

(b) a reduction in the quantity or quality of water available from a surface water or ground water source that affects the beneficial use of water; or

(c) the contamination of surface water or ground water that prevents its beneficial use.

(4) (a) Subject to the conditions of subsections (5) through (8), an eligible landowner may be compensated for the damages incurred by the landowner for loss of agricultural production and income, lost land value, and lost value of improvements caused by coal bed methane development. A payment made under this subsection (4)(a) may only cover land directly affected by coal bed methane development.

(b) Subject to the conditions of subsections (5) through (8), an eligible water right holder may be compensated for damages caused by the contamination, diminution, or interruption of surface water or ground water.

(5) In order to qualify for a payment of damages under this section, the landowner or water right holder shall demonstrate that it is unlikely that compensation will be made by the coal bed methane developer or operator who is liable for the damage to land or the reduction in or contamination of surface water or ground water as the result of coal bed methane development.

(6) Compensation made to a landowner or a water right holder under this section may not exceed 75% of the cost of the damages. The maximum amount paid to a landowner or water right holder may not exceed $50,000.

(7) Conservation district administrative expenses for services provided under this section are eligible costs for reimbursement from the coal bed methane protection account.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b), compensation for damages allowed under this section may be made only after June 30, 2011.

(b) Compensation for an emergency may be made after June 30, 2005.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 531, L. 2001.

Part 10
Procurement and Competitive Bidding

Part Cross-References

Public contracts, Title 18.

Contracts and other obligations, Title 28.

76-15-1001. Power to enter and execute contracts. A conservation district is authorized to make contracts necessary to implement the applicable powers granted by this chapter and to provide for the manner of executing contracts.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1002 and 76-15-1003 reserved.

76-15-1004. Service contracts. (1) Contracts for architectural, engineering, land surveying, auditing, accounting, or legal services that are estimated to:

(a) exceed the amount provided for in 18-8-212 may be entered into by publication of a request for qualifications pursuant to 76-15-1006 and negotiation with the most qualified responder;

(b) not exceed the amount provided for in 18-8-212 may be by direct negotiations.

(2) Contracts in which the majority of the services to be rendered constitute services other than architectural, engineering, land surveying, auditing, accounting, or legal services must be awarded under the procedure provided for in subsection (3).

(3) Except as provided in subsection (1), contracts may be entered into as follows:

(a) When the total contract value is estimated to be less than $5,000, a procurement technique may be used that best meets the conservation district's needs.

(b) When the total contract value is estimated to be between $5,001 and $25,000, a limited solicitation procedure must be used by receiving a minimum of three written or oral quotations. The limited solicitation procedure must be documented.

(c) When the total contract value is estimated to be greater than $25,000, a request for proposal or invitation to bid pursuant to 76-15-1006 must be used to select a contractor that best meets the conservation district's needs.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1005. Requirements for purchases or construction contracts. For contracts for the purchase of vehicles, machinery, equipment, materials, or supplies or for construction, repair, restoration, or maintenance under this chapter in excess of the limit provided in 7-5-2301, supervisors shall comply with the provisions of 76-15-1006 and may:

(1) award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder;

(2) postpone awarding a contract;

(3) reject any or all bids; or

(4) readvertise the contract.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1006. Advertisements. (1) The advertisement for requests for bids, proposals, or qualifications must be published in a newspaper of general circulation that includes the conservation district.

(2) A second publication may not be made less than 5 days or more than 12 days before the opening of bids.

(3) A second publication may not be made less than 5 days or more than 12 days before the deadline for the submission of a request for proposals or a request for qualifications.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1007 through 76-15-1010 reserved.

76-15-1011. Exemptions from advertising and bidding. (1) When immediate delivery of supplies, equipment, or services is required in an emergency, including but not limited to fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot, or insurrection, the provisions of 76-15-1005 and 76-15-1006 do not apply if:

(a) the supervisors act, by majority vote in an open meeting, in a manner that best meets the emergency and serves the public interest; and

(b) the emergency is declared and recorded in the minutes of the board of supervisors meeting.

(2) Supplies or services may be purchased without bid from government agencies if purchased at a substantial savings.

(3) Contracts may be entered into by direct negotiations for the purchase of vehicles, machinery, equipment, materials, or supplies or for construction, repair, restoration, or maintenance under Title 76, chapter 15, for which the cost is less than the limit provided in 7-5-2301.

(4) Vehicles, machinery, equipment, materials, or supplies may be rented if the rental results in a substantial savings over purchase.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Competitive, advertised bidding required for certain large purchases or construction contracts, 7-5-2301.

76-15-1012. Terms and extensions. (1) Prior to the issuance, extension, or renewal of a contract, it must be determined that:

(a) estimated requirements cover the period of the contract and are reasonably firm and continuing; and

(b) the contract will serve the best interests of the conservation district by encouraging effective competition or otherwise promoting economies in conservation district procurement.

(2) A contract may not be made for a period of more than 7 years.

(3) A contract may be extended or renewed if:

(a) the terms of the extension or renewal, if any, are included in the solicitation;

(b) funds are available for the first fiscal period at the time of the agreement; and

(c) the total contract period, including any extension or renewal, does not exceed 7 years.

(4) Payment and performance obligations for succeeding fiscal periods are subject to the availability and appropriation of funds for the fiscal periods.

(5) If funds are not available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period, the contract must be canceled.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1013. Division of contracts prohibited. Contracts may not be divided or projects split to circumvent the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

76-15-1014. Cooperative purchasing contracts. A conservation district may, in cooperation with one or more other conservation districts, conduct cooperative purchasing as defined in 18-4-401 for the procurement of supplies or services.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 155, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Cooperative purchasing, Title 18, ch. 4, part 4.

CHAPTER 16
GRAZING DISTRICTS

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Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

Disposition of Taylor Grazing Act funds, 17-3-221, 17-3-222.

76-16-101. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the "Grass Conservation Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2301(part).

76-16-102. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the conservation, protection, restoration, and proper utilization of grass, forage, and range resources of the state of Montana, to provide for the incorporation of cooperative nonprofit state districts, to provide a means of cooperation with the secretary of the interior as provided in the federal act known as the Taylor Grazing Act and any other governmental agency or department having jurisdiction over lands belonging to the United States or other state or federal agency as well as agencies having jurisdiction over federal lands, to permit the setting up of a form of grazing administration which will aid in the unification or control of all grazing lands within the state where the ownership is diverse and the lands intermingled, and to provide for the stabilization of the livestock industry and the protection of dependent commensurate properties.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2301(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-103. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Animal unit" means one cow, one horse, or five sheep, 6 months of age or older.

(2) "Animal unit month" or "AUM" means one cow/calf pair, one horse, or five sheep, grazed individually for 1 month, or an equivalency as determined by a local state district.

(3) "Assessment" means a special levy imposed on permittee members by the state district to raise funds for specific purposes as provided in 76-16-323(1). The term does not include fees.

(4) "Commensurate property" means land that is privately owned or controlled and that is not range.

(5) "Commission" means the Montana grass conservation commission provided for in 76-16-112.

(6) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(7) "Dependent commensurate property" is commensurate property that:

(a) requires the use of range in connection with it to maintain its proper use;

(b) produces or whose owner furnishes as part of the owner's past customary practice the proper feed necessary to maintain livestock during the time other than the established grazing period on the range; and

(c) has been used in connection with the range for a 5-year period immediately preceding the date of organization of the state district.

(8) "Directors" means the board of directors of a state district provided for in 76-16-301.

(9) "Grazing preference" is a right to obtain a grazing permit from a state district, expressed in animal unit months. Grazing preferences, expressed in AUMs, must be the basis for determining a member's proportionate interest in state district assets.

(10) "Permits" are evidence of grazing privileges granted by state districts.

(11) "Person" means a natural person or persons, unincorporated associations, partnerships, corporations, and governmental departments or agencies.

(12) "Range" is the land within a state district upon which grazing permits are granted to maintain livestock through the established grazing period.

(13) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Montana grass conservation commission.

(14) "State district" means a nonprofit cooperative organization incorporated under this chapter and its board of directors. The term includes all lands owned or controlled by the state district or its members.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2302(part); amd. Sec. 299, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 244, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-104. Role of the commission. (1) The commission shall assist in carrying out the purposes of this chapter, act in an advisory capacity with the boards of county commissioners, and supervise and coordinate the formation and operation of state districts that may be incorporated under this chapter.

(2) The commission may act in an advisory capacity to the boards of county commissioners for the purpose of working out uniform plans for the use of lands lying within or outside of the boundaries of state districts in conformity with recognized conservation and stabilization policies.

History: En. Secs. 1, 17, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Secs. 35, 47, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2301(part), 46-2317; amd. Sec. 300, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 244, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-105. Repealed. Sec. 45, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2307(part); amd. Sec. 301, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 244, L. 1997.

76-16-106. Commission fees. (1) The commission may impose fees against the state districts in an amount not in excess of 10 cents per animal unit month of grazing preference, based upon the number of animal unit months per year for which the state district grants permits, to defray expenses incurred by the commission in carrying out its powers and duties under this chapter.

(2) These fees must be held in the state special revenue fund to be expended by order and direction of the commission for the operation and administration of the commission under this chapter.

(3) If a state district fails or refuses to pay the fee on or before October 1 of each year and after the state district is provided with a full report from the department of all money collected and expended by it for its fiscal year preceding that date, the commission may compel and levy collection and payment by writ of mandate or other appropriate remedy against the state district.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 241, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2331; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-107. Range for wild game animals. In each state district a sufficient carrying capacity of range must be reserved for the maintenance of a reasonable number of wild game animals to use the range in common with livestock grazing in the state district. The commission may act in an advisory capacity to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks in the protection of wildlife within the boundaries of all state districts.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2332; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-108. Nature of rights. (1) Grazing preferences or rights under this chapter through the creation of the state district or the issuance of permits based on AUMs of grazing preference are statutory and do not create any vested right, title, interest, or estate in or to the lands owned or controlled by the state district except as provided in this chapter.

(2) A person who chooses to become a member of a state district is bound by all the provisions of this chapter and is limited to the statutory remedies contained in this chapter, and a court has no jurisdiction to consider any right claimed under this chapter except by judicial review from the final decision of the commission as provided in this chapter.

History: (1)En. Sec. 14, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 46-2314, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 46-2308, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2308(part), 46-2314(3); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-109. Appeal procedure. (1) Notice of a decision of a state district must be given in writing by the secretary of the state district to the interested parties or their attorneys by certified mail at the address as shown on the records of the state district.

(2) A person affected by the decision of a state district may appeal to the commission, and the commission shall hear and decide all those appeals. An appeal from the decision of the state district to the commission may be taken by filing written notice of the appeal with the commission, by filing a copy of the notice of appeal with the secretary of the state district, and by serving a copy of the notice of appeal by certified mail upon any interested parties who have appeared or upon their attorneys within 60 days after receiving written notice of the decision of the state district. The appellant shall also file with the commission proof by affidavit of the filing and service of the notice of appeal. The appeal to the commission must be taken and review of the appeal must be upon the record of any hearing conducted and considered by the state district. However, the commission may, for good cause shown, permit additional testimony to be submitted.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2308(part); amd. Sec. 302, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-110. Administrative procedure act applicable. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act applies to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2308(3).

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

76-16-111. What constitutes receipt of notice. In all cases where notices are given to permittees under this chapter by certified mail and addressed to the post-office address of the permittee as shown by the records of the state district, the notices must be considered received by the permittee when deposited in the United States post office by the state district or by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(8); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-112. Creation of Montana grass conservation commission — membership — meetings — compensation. (1) There is a Montana grass conservation commission. The commission is composed of five members appointed by the governor to serve staggered 3-year terms.

(2) (a) The governor, after giving full consideration to representation by both large and small operators, shall appoint:

(i) two members who are either officers of or who serve on the board of directors of a state district;

(ii) two members who hold active grazing preference rights within a state district; and

(iii) one member of the public who possesses a general understanding of the livestock industry and the proper use of rangelands within state districts for the purpose of livestock production.

(b) Ex officio members may be appointed by the commission as needed.

(3) Members may not be appointed for more than three consecutive terms. The commission shall annually elect from among its members a presiding officer and a vice presiding officer. The presiding officer shall preside over all meetings of the commission, except that the vice presiding officer shall assume the duties of the presiding officer in the absence of the presiding officer.

(4) (a) The commission shall meet annually in Montana at a place determined by the presiding officer.

(b) The commission may hold other meetings at times and places as necessary upon the call of the presiding officer or the request of a majority of commission members and upon at least 7 days' written notice to the commission members of the time and place of the meeting.

(c) A majority of commission members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The commission shall keep accurate records of all business that is considered, and the presiding officer shall sign all orders, minutes, and other documents of the commission.

(5) Commission members may receive no compensation for their services, but members are entitled to compensation for actual expenses incurred in carrying out their duties, including travel and per diem.

(6) The commission is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in 2-15-121. The commission shall, if it determines that personnel services are required, hire its own personnel, and 2-15-121(2)(d) does not apply. The secretary must be employed at the discretion of the commission.

History: **En. Sec. 33, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 31, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 114, L. 2015.**

76-16-113. Powers of commission. The commission has all the powers enumerated in this chapter and any other powers necessary or incidental to carrying out the full purpose and intent of this chapter, including but not limited to:

(1) conducting hearings on issues brought before the commission and conducting investigations into matters affecting the commission or the operation of state districts, including appeals of decisions made by the board of directors of an individual state district or other actions taken in accordance with this chapter;

(2) administratively promoting and fostering an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual trust between the federal bureau of land management, the United States forest service, the department, and state districts and upholding the terms and conditions of any memorandum of understanding between those entities with regard to provisions noted in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Public Rangelands Improvement Act, the Taylor Grazing Act, and this chapter;

(3) prescribing methodologies to be used for the reallocation of grazing preference within cooperative state districts that, for whatever reason, no longer have access to historical grazing preference records;

(4) preparing and standardizing various forms to be used by the state districts and supervising or regulating the organization and operation of state districts;

(5) issuing citations directed to any person requiring the person's attendance before the commission and subpoenaing witnesses and paying expenses that would be allowed in a court action;

(6) requiring an officer or director of a state district to submit records of the state district to the commission for the purpose of aiding an investigation conducted by the commission;

(7) requiring state districts to annually furnish itemized financial reports; and

(8) cooperating and entering into agreements on behalf of a state district, with its consent, with any governmental subdivision, department, or agency in order to promote the purposes of this chapter.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

Part 2
Establishment of Districts

76-16-201. Procedure to incorporate state district. (1) If three or more persons who own or control commensurate property and are livestock operators within the area proposed to be created into a state district decide to incorporate a state district, they shall submit a statement in writing to the commission together with a plat showing the proposed boundaries of the area.

(2) The statement must set forth the name of the proposed state district, the county or counties in which the proposed state district is located, and the names and addresses of all operators of land and livestock units within the area. The commission may require any additional information it considers necessary.

(3) On receipt of the statement and plat and any additional information, the commission shall fix a time and place of a hearing for approval within the state district or county, which may not be less than 30 days or more than 60 days after receipt of the statement.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2309(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

76-16-202. Notice and hearing on question of incorporation. (1) The persons deciding to incorporate the state district shall cause notice of the hearing to be given by publishing a notice prescribed by the commission once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area. The first publication must be at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing.

(2) The commission shall hear evidence offered in support of or in opposition to the creation of the state district and shall make a full inquiry into the advisability of its creation.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2309(part); amd. Sec. 303, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

76-16-203. Certificate of approval. If the creation of the state district appears feasible, beneficial, and desirable to those who own or control more than 50% of the lands to be included in the state district, the commission may issue a certificate of approval.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2309(part); amd. Sec. 304, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

76-16-204. Articles of incorporation. (1) Upon the issuance of the certificate of approval, three or more persons who own or control commensurate property and are livestock operators within or near the proposed state district may prepare articles of incorporation and file them in the office of the secretary of state without payment of fees.

(2) The articles must be accompanied by the certificate of approval and signed, sealed, and acknowledged. The articles, as prescribed by the commission, shall substantially state the following:

(a) the name of the state district, the last four words of which must be "cooperative state grazing district";

(b) the county or counties in which the state district is located and the place where the principal office and business of the state district will be conducted;

(c) the membership fee for each member of the state district, which may not be more than $5;

(d) the names and residences of the persons who subscribe, together with a statement that each owns or controls commensurate property and is a livestock operator within the proposed state district;

(e) the powers of the state district, which may not be inconsistent with this chapter;

(f) the officers of the state district, their principal duties, and the principal duties of the board of directors;

(g) the purpose for which the state district is incorporated.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2310(part); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 401, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Formation of nonprofit corporation, Title 35, ch. 2, part 2.

76-16-205. Issuance of certificate of incorporation. If the articles substantially comply with the requirements set forth in 76-16-204 and are accompanied by the certificate of approval, the secretary of state shall issue to the state district a certificate of incorporation.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2310(part).**

76-16-206. Amending articles of incorporation. (1) A state district may amend its articles of incorporation by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any regular or special meeting of its members and the approval of the commission. The only notice of the meeting that is necessary is the notice of meetings of members as required by the bylaws of the state district. The amended articles of incorporation and bylaws must be submitted to the commission for approval. Upon approval, the commission shall issue a certificate of approval. The amended articles of incorporation must be filed by the secretary of state without charge, but may not be filed unless accompanied by the certificate of approval. If the articles of incorporation are amended, the amendment must be filed with the county clerk or clerks.

(2) Upon the filing of the amended articles with the secretary of state and the proper county clerk or clerks, the state district possesses the same powers and is subject to the same obligations as if incorporated under this chapter.

History: **En. Secs. 11, 18, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Secs. 41, 48, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2311(part), 46-2318; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

76-16-207. Filing of map or plat of state district. A state district shall, upon completion of its organization, file with the commission and the county clerk and recorder of each county in which its lands lie a map or plat of the external boundaries of the state district showing the allocation of individual allotments, members running in common allotments, allotment names, and references to lands used as base properties, along with a copy of its articles of incorporation. If the boundaries of a state district are changed and the changes are approved by the commission after a hearing, the state district shall file with the county clerk or clerks and with the commission a revised map or plat indicating the changed boundaries.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2311(part); amd. Sec. 305, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-208. Adoption of bylaws and periodic review — annual report. (1) A state district incorporated under this chapter shall within 60 days after its incorporation adopt bylaws approved by the commission. The bylaws may be amended or revised with the approval of the commission. Each incorporated state district shall review and update its bylaws to ensure compliance with this chapter and the general laws of this state. A review and update must be completed at reasonable intervals, not to exceed 5 years.

(2) Each state district incorporated under this chapter shall report annually to the commission any changes to the allocation of grazing preferences, redefinitions of grazing allotment boundaries, or dispositions of base properties within the state district. The annual reports must include an updated plat depicting current allocation of grazing preferences, grazing allotment boundaries, and a list of all members running in common allotments where more than one member may have grazing preferences.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2315; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-209. Alteration of state district. (1) A state district may change the boundaries of the state district, merge with another state district organized under this chapter, or subdivide.

(2) A merger may not be made unless consented to by a majority of the members of each merging state district and approved by the commission after a hearing.

(3) A subdivision may not be made unless consented to by a majority of the members in the affected area and approved by the commission after a hearing.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(11); amd. Sec. 306, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-210. Request for dissolution of state district. A state district, with the written consent of three-fourths of its permittee members, may at any time request the commission to dissolve the state district subject to the preferences of this chapter. The commission shall establish procedures for the dissolution of any state district.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2325(part); amd. Sec. 307, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-211. Dissolution of state district. (1) If a state district ceases to function in accordance with its bylaws and this chapter and it appears to the commission that the reinstatement and future operation of the state district is no longer feasible, beneficial, and desirable to the majority of members of the state district, the commission, after a hearing and upon 30 days' notice in writing, published for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in or nearest to the state district, may dissolve the state district.

(2) A notice of the dissolution must be filed by the commission with the secretary of state and the clerk and recorder of the county or counties in which the state district is located.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2307(1)(b); amd. Sec. 308, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-212. Distribution of state district assets. (1) When a hearing on the request for dissolution has been held before the commission and the consent of the board of directors has been given, the directors shall distribute the assets of the state district, either in items of property or in cash or both. Distribution must first be made with the approval of the commission to creditors up to the amount of their claims. Distribution must then be made with the approval of the commission to permittee members upon the basis of their proportionate interest in the assets.

(2) If assets must be liquidated, the directors shall offer them for sale at public auction or through another competitive bidding procedure after publication of a notice of the sale once a week for 2 successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the state district. State district members holding grazing preference directly proportional to and associated with the assets being liquidated must be offered an opportunity to meet the highest bid submitted through the bidding process.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2325(part); amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-213. Final report on dissolution proceedings. A final report of all dissolution proceedings must be made to the commission by the directors. Upon the approval of the report, the commission shall order the state district dissolved.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2325(part); amd. Sec. 309, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

Part 3
Organization, Administration, and Operation

Part Cross-References

Maintenance of fences, 76-16-320.
Animals unlawfully running at large, Title 81, ch. 4, part 2.
Herd districts, Title 81, ch. 4, part 3.

76-16-301. Powers and duties of directors. The directors of the state district shall manage and exercise the powers of the state district subject to its bylaws and to the regulation of the commission as provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2313; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

Cross-References

One director to serve on County Planning Board, 76-1-211.

76-16-302. Membership in state district. (1) Membership in a state district is limited to persons engaged in the livestock business who own or lease forage-producing lands within or near the state district, except that the agent of a person entitled to membership in the state district may become a member in place of the agent's principal.

(2) If an agent becomes a member, the agent's qualifications for membership and the agent's obligations to and the privileges in the state district must be measured by those that the agent's principal would have had if the principal had elected to become a member. An agent and the agent's principal may not both be members of the state district unless the agent has individual qualifications for membership that are separable from and independent of those of the principal.

(3) Livestock producers owning or controlling base property within the designated boundaries of the state district and who held grazing preference during the preceding grazing season or at the time of voting must be designated as permittee members.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2314(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-303. Voting rights. Only permittee members in good standing as set forth in the state district bylaws are entitled to vote on all issues submitted to a vote of the members. Individuals or livestock producers who operate on temporary permits may not vote. A permittee member has only one vote. Voting by proxy may not be permitted unless clearly outlined procedures for proxy voting are incorporated into the state district bylaws.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2314(part); amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-304. Effect of transfer of land. When a member disposes of a part of the lands or leases owned by that member so that another person becomes the owner of the lands or leases and acquires the right to membership, then the rights and interest involved must be determined by the directors of the state district with the approval of the commission.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2314(2); amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-305. Acquisition and disposal of property. A state district may:

(1) purchase or market livestock and livestock products and purchase supplies and equipment. These supplies may include among other things grass, grass seed, or forage, whether attached to and upon or severed from the land.

(2) acquire forage-producing lands, including agricultural lands when necessary to comply with the purposes and directives of this chapter, by lease, purchase, cooperative agreements, or otherwise, either from the United States, the state of Montana, or the county or counties in which the lands are located or from private owners. All lands to which a state district may acquire title may be disposed of by exchange, sale, or otherwise.

(3) acquire or construct fences, reservoirs, or other facilities for the care of livestock and lease or purchase lands for such purposes.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(1), (3), (5).

76-16-306. Management of grazing lands. A state district may:

(1) manage and control the use of its range and agricultural lands acquired under 76-16-305(2). This power includes the right to determine the size of preferences and permit according to a fixed method which shall be stated in the bylaws and which shall take into consideration the rating of dependent commensurate property and the carrying capacity of the range and may be subject to reservations, regulations, and limitations under the terms of agreements between the state district and any agency of the United States. The state district may also allot range to members or nonmembers and decrease or increase the size of permits if the range carrying capacity changes.

(2) undertake reseeding and other approved conservation and improvement practices of depleted range areas or abandoned farm lands and enter into cooperative agreements with the federal government or any other person for the reseeding or conservation and improvement practices;

(3) employ and discharge employees, riders, and other persons necessary to properly manage the state district.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(4), (8), (13); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 266, L. 1979.

Cross-References

County weed control, Title 7, ch. 22, part 21.
Weed control — Department of Agriculture, Title 80, ch. 7, part 7.
Noxious weed management funding, Title 80, ch. 7, part 8.

76-16-307. Leasing of state lands. State land that is situated within the boundaries of a state district created under this chapter may be leased by one or more members of a state district if the lease is in accordance with existing laws and regulations of the department. The board of directors of a state district may assist members of a state district in acquiring and administering a state grazing lease. The commission shall require that all state districts comply with this section.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 46, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2316; amd. Sec. 310, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Lease of state grazing lands, 77-6-502, 77-6-504 through 77-6-508.

76-16-308. Regulation of stock grazing in state district. A state district may:

(1) specify the breed, quality, and number of male breeding animals that each member must furnish when stock is grazing in common in the state district;

(2) regulate the driving of stock over, across, into, or through the range and collect fees for driving stock.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(7), (12); amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-309. Knowledge of state district boundaries responsibility of livestock owner. A person herding or in control of livestock in the approximate vicinity of a state district shall ascertain the boundary lines of the state district.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2311(part); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-310. Permit required to run livestock in state district. (1) An owner or person in control of livestock may not permit livestock to run at large or under herd within the exterior boundaries of a state district unless the owner or person in control of the livestock first obtains a grazing permit from the state district.

(2) The owner or person in control of livestock running at large or under herd within a state district without a permit from the state district or in excess of the permit is liable for all damages sustained by any member, permittee, or state district that are a result of the person's unpermitted use of the state district. If livestock wrongfully enter a state district, the owner or person in control of the trespassing livestock, who willfully or negligently permits livestock to run at large within the state district without first obtaining a permit from the state district, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine in an amount not less than $10 or more than $500. In addition to a fine, the owner or person is liable for all damages that are caused by the trespassing livestock.

(3) This provision does not require any person to obtain a grazing permit to graze livestock on land that the person owns or controls within a state district if the stock being grazed are restrained from running at large within the state district and from grazing on any other lands within the state district.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(1); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 31, L. 2001.**

76-16-311. Control of trespassing livestock. (1) The state district or its duly authorized agent controlling the land upon which wrongful entry is made by trespassing livestock may take the livestock into its possession and shall reasonably care for the livestock while in its possession and may retain possession of the livestock and have a lien and claim on the livestock as security for payment of damages and reasonable charges for the care of livestock while in its possession.

(2) The state district taking possession of trespassing livestock shall, within 72 hours after taking possession, notify the owner, owners, or person in charge of the livestock by a notice in writing describing the livestock by number of animals and brands on the livestock, if any, the amount of damages claimed to date, and the charge per animal unit per day for caring for and feeding the livestock thereafter. Charges may not exceed $2 per animal unit per day. The notice must generally describe the location where the livestock is held and require the owner or owners, within 10 days after receiving the notice, to take the livestock away after making full payment of all damages and costs.

(3) In case the parties do not agree as to the amount of damages, the state district taking possession of the livestock may at the expense of the owner retain a sufficient number of livestock to cover the amount of damages claimed by the state district. However, the owner may, upon furnishing a sufficient bond, conditioned for the payment to the state district of all sums, including costs that may be recovered by the state district in a civil action to foreclose its lien, have returned to the owner all livestock held. The state district is liable to the owner for any loss or injury to the livestock accruing through the state district's lack of reasonable care.

(4) If the state district taking possession of the livestock fails to recover in a civil action a sum equal to that offered to the state district by the owner of the livestock, the state district shall bear the expense of keeping and feeding the livestock while in its possession. Notice may be given by personal service on the owner, owners, or person in charge of the livestock by sending notice by prepaid registered or certified mail, addressed to that person's last-known place of residence. Service by registered or certified mail is considered complete upon the deposit of the notice in the post office.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(2), (3); amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 401, L. 1999.**

Cross-References

Application to trespass actions, 76-16-415.

76-16-312. Impoundment of trespassing livestock. The state district or the party taking up such trespassing livestock may cause same to be impounded at any suitable place within the state district or within 5 miles from the exterior boundaries thereof, and such livestock shall be deemed legally impounded if placed in a corral or upon land enclosed by a legal fence or placed in charge of a herder or herders.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(9).**

76-16-313. Release of livestock. Upon demand, the state district or its authorized agent controlling the land or party in charge of such livestock shall release and deliver possession of such livestock to the owner or person entitled thereto upon payment of damages and charges, but said payment of damages and charges shall not act as a bar to the prosecution of said person, owner, or persons in control of such livestock, as hereinbefore provided.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(part).

76-16-314. Recovery of excess charge for damages. If the amount of damages or costs demanded by the party taking up such livestock is in excess of the actual damage and actual costs, the owner or person in charge of such livestock may pay same under protest and thereafter sue to recover the amount paid in excess of the actual damages and reasonable costs, provided suit to recover same is filed in the district court within 60 days after payment.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(part).

76-16-315. Procedure upon inability to locate person responsible for trespassing livestock. If a state district takes possession of livestock after due diligence to discover the owner or possessor of the livestock and the owner or possessor cannot be found or the ownership of the livestock discovered or if a party takes possession of livestock and the owner or claimant refuses to pay the amount of damages or charges or to furnish bonds, as provided in 76-16-311, the state district or person shall, within 10 days from the time that the livestock was taken into possession, deliver to the sheriff of the county in which the livestock was taken into possession or to the nearest state livestock inspector a statement containing the information required to be given in the notice set out in 76-16-311.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(part); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-316. Sale of trespassing livestock. (1) Upon receipt of the statement referred to in 76-16-315, the sheriff shall proceed to advertise and sell at public auction the livestock taken up.

(2) The livestock must be sold on 5 days' notice posted at the courthouse of each county in which any portion of the state district lies and in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The sheriff may require from the state district a sufficient bond, conditioned upon the following:

(a) that the state district has used reasonable diligence to discover the owner of the stock and to notify the owner in the premises;

(b) that all requirements of law on the part of the state district to be performed in the premises have been performed; and

(c) that the sheriff is indemnified against all liability for the sale of the livestock except as to the sheriff's own failure to perform the things required by law.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(part); amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-317. Disposition of sale proceeds. (1) The proceeds of the sale must be applied by the sheriff, after first deducting the sheriff's costs and expenses, to the discharge of the claims and the costs of the proceedings in selling the property and to the payment of the damages, claims, and costs of the party taking up the livestock. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, may be paid over to the owner of the livestock, if known. If the owner is not known, then the remainder must be deposited with the county treasurer, who shall keep the remainder of the proceeds in a public fund to be designated state district fund (giving the name of the state district). A separate fund, styled as above, must be kept by the county treasurer for each state district within that county. The county treasurer shall record the number, type, and brands, if any, of animals sold, the amount received for the animals, and the amount of deductions. The record must be open to public inspection.

(2) A person claiming ownership of the livestock and submitting proof of ownership to the board of county commissioners within 1 year from date of sale is entitled to receive any excess received from the sale of the livestock, provided the claim is to the satisfaction of the board.

(3) Any money received from the sale of the livestock that is not claimed within 1 year after the sale must be transferred to the general fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(7); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-318. Unlawful recovery of trespassing livestock. Any person taking or rescuing from the possession of a state district or an agent of a state district any animal taken up and impounded pursuant to 76-16-310 through 76-16-317 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding $200.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(10); amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-319. No liability for official acts. An officer, the commission, an employee of an officer or the commission, or an employee of any county or of any state district is not liable for any act performed in good faith in discharging official duties under this chapter. All acts are presumed to have been in good faith and in conformity with this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(8); amd. Sec. 311, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 401, L. 1999.

76-16-320. Maintenance of fences. (1) The cost of construction and maintenance of fence enclosing lands controlled by any member, nonmember, or state district within the external boundaries of the state district must be borne by the member, nonmember, or state district, unless otherwise provided for in the duly approved bylaws of the state district.

(2) In the event of the adoption of provisions to the bylaws of a state district whereby the cost of construction and maintenance of fence is to be distributed proportionately among the parties affected by the cost of construction and maintenance of fence, the state district's proportionate share of the costs and maintenance must be financed only by assessments levied by the state district against the permittee members of the state district and upon consent by 55% of the permittee members.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(11), (12); amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-321. Construction of trespass and fence provisions. (1) Sections 76-16-310 through 76-16-320 shall not be interpreted to repeal or abolish any other legal remedies which a member, a permittee, or a state district may now have against trespassing livestock or the owner or persons in control thereof. The remedies provided by 76-16-310 through 76-16-320 are additional and supplemental to the remedies provided by any other laws of the state of Montana.

(2) Nothing contained in 76-16-310 through 76-16-320 shall be so construed as to restrict the right of parties to obtain injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.

History: (1)En. Sec. 8, Ch. 199, L. 1945; Sec. 46-2327, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 26, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1955; Sec. 46-2326, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2326(13), 46-2327.

76-16-322. Fence-out requirement. Farming lands lying within the external boundaries of a state district must be protected by the owner or lessee to the extent of a legal fence as described in 81-4-101. The state district or its members are not liable for damages unless the farming lands are protected by a sufficient fence as described in this section.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 208, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2329(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 249, L. 2015.

76-16-323. State district finances. A state district may:

(1) fix and determine the amount of grazing fees to be imposed on members or nonmembers for the purpose of paying leases and operating expenses and fix and determine the amount of assessments to be made on members on a grazing preference basis for the purpose of acquiring lands by purchase or for the purpose of constructing improvements in the state district;

(2) set up and maintain a reasonable reserve fund;

(3) borrow money and if necessary mortgage the physical assets of a state district to provide for operation and development, provided that at least 80% of the permittee members of the state district consent in writing to the borrowing and the borrowing has been approved by the commission. This subsection does not confer power upon a state district to mortgage the property of the individual members of the state district.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(6), (9), (10); amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-324. Lawsuits involving district. A state district may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 22, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2312(2).

76-16-325. Compliance with commission orders required. (1) If a state district or the directors of a state district fail to comply with an order of the commission, the commission may order a hearing on the order within the state district or county and cite the directors of the state district to appear before the commission.

(2) If upon the hearing it appears that the directors refuse to perform the duties of their office as provided in this part and as set forth in the articles of incorporation and the bylaws of the association or refuse to comply with a lawful order of the commission, the directors may be summarily removed from office by the commission, and the state district shall elect new officers. During the period until the election, the commission may operate and manage the affairs of the state district.

(3) The expense of operating and managing the affairs of a noncomplying state district must be paid by the noncomplying state district before it may be reinstated.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2307(part); amd. Sec. 312, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

Part 4
Grazing Permit System

76-16-401. Distribution of grazing preferences. When a state district is organized, grazing preferences must be distributed in the following manner:

(1) Any member of a state district owning or controlling dependent commensurate property may be given a grazing preference.

(2) If the carrying capacity of the range exceeds the reasonable needs of the members owning or controlling dependent commensurate property, members owning or controlling commensurate property shall have the grazing preference.

(3) If the carrying capacity of the range exceeds the reasonable needs of the members owning or controlling dependent commensurate property or commensurate property, temporary grazing permits may be issued to nonmembers or members, preferring those that have used the range 5 years immediately preceding the organization of the state district.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2320(part); amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-402. Conversion of temporary permittee lands to dependent commensurate property. (1) When a temporary permit is utilized by a permittee in connection with forage-producing lands owned or controlled by the permittee within or near the state district for a period of any combination of 4 years out of 5, then the forage-producing lands owned or controlled by the permittee may be considered dependent commensurate property and, upon application, the state district may accordingly grant such permittee membership and grazing preference in the state district providing an application had been made for temporary rights for each of the 5 years.

(2) However, temporary permits are privileges granted from year to year, and their possession does not establish a grazing preference right unless a grazing preference right is expressly granted by the state district and in the manner provided in this part.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2320(part); amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-403. Procedure if reduction in grazing privileges necessary. (1) If a reduction in grazing privileges becomes necessary, operators with temporary permits will be reduced on a proportionate basis prior to any reduction to any holder of grazing preference.

(2) Reductions of grazing preference for individual members that result from actions beyond the control of the state district or the board of directors of a state district or as a result of actions or of the failure to take appropriate actions by the holder of the grazing preference in question do not require a general reduction in grazing preference, and the state district may not be compelled to require proportionate reductions in grazing preference, by the membership of the state district.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 199, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2320(part); amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-404. Application for grazing preferences. Any person entitled to grazing preferences within any state district based on dependent commensurate property or commensurate property shall make application within 1 year after the state district is organized to qualify for grazing preference. However, all permittees must be entitled to benefits accruing under 76-16-401 through 76-16-403.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 199, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2321(part); amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-405. Grazing preferences appurtenant to dependent commensurate property and commensurate property. Grazing preferences run with and are appurtenant to the dependent commensurate and commensurate property upon which they are based except as provided in this chapter. They are not subject to devise, bequest, attachment, execution, lease, sale, exchange, transfer, pledge, mortgage, or other process or transaction, except as provided in this section, 76-16-406 through 76-16-409, 76-16-412, and 76-16-413 or in the bylaws of a state district.

History: Ap. p. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 46-2322, R.C.M. 1947; Ap. p. Sec. 2, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 199, L. 1945, amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 46-2302, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2302(part), 46-2322(part).

76-16-406. Transfer of grazing preferences. (1) Upon application by a permittee, the state district with the approval of the commission may allow a grazing preference based on ownership or control of dependent commensurate or commensurate property to be transferred to other property of sufficient commensurability. However, in any transfer of grazing preference from dependent commensurate or commensurate property controlled but not owned by the applicant, the applicant must have had control and use of the dependent commensurate or commensurate property and the grazing preference appurtenant to the property for 5 consecutive years and must have established and maintained the livestock operation upon which the dependency was established by use or priority immediately prior to the application for transfer.

(2) In addition, the transfer may not interfere with the stability of livestock operations or with proper range management and may not affect adversely the established local economy. A transfer may not be allowed without the written consent of the owner or owners of the dependent commensurate or commensurate property from which the transfer is to be made and the owner or owners of any encumbrances on the property. A transfer is not effective until approved by the commission.

(3) All expenses involved under the application must be borne by the applicant.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(part); amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 266, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-407. Processing of application for transfer. (1) When an application for transfer is presented to the board of directors of a state district, the secretary of the state district upon the direction of that board shall give notice, setting forth in general the application and the time and place of a hearing on the application as fixed by the board. A copy of the notice must be given or mailed to the applicant and must be published at least once a week for 2 successive weeks prior to the hearing in a newspaper published or generally circulated within the state district. The notice must also be posted for at least 2 full weeks prior to the hearing in three public places within the state district.

(2) The date of the hearing must be at least 15 days from the first publication of the notice. At the hearing the directors shall fully hear and determine the application and any objections to the application.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(2); amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-408. Effect of transfer of grazing preference. Upon the allowance of a transfer under 76-16-405 through 76-16-407, the property from which the transfer is made loses its grazing preference to the extent of the grazing preference transferred.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(3); amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-409. Transfer of underlying property. (1) When the land to which a grazing preference is attached changes its control or ownership, the grazing preference changes with the land and the person to which the control or ownership changes shall secure a nonuse permit or shall pay the usual grazing fees.

(2) If the person fails to secure a nonuse permit or refuses to pay the grazing fees, the grazing preferences may be revoked by the state district.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(part); amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-410. Compensation to state district for range improvements. Subsequent lessees or owners of land shall compensate a state district for the value of range improvements constructed with the consent of the owner upon lands leased by the state district. The value must be the value at the expiration date of the lease. If the owner and the state district cannot agree as to the value, the state district may either remove or abandon the improvement. If the subsequent lessee and the state district cannot agree as to the value, it must be fixed by the commission.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2323; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-411. Grazing permits to owners of land not controlled by state district. (1) When any land is situated within the boundaries of a state district and is not leased or controlled by the state district and not surrounded by a legal fence, any person owning or controlling these lands has the right to obtain a grazing permit from the state district, the size of which must be determined by the carrying capacity of the land, full consideration being given for location of necessary stock water. The use of the permit is subject to all regulations by the state district.

(2) If the person owning or controlling the land declines to secure a permit or fails to lease the land to the state district at a fair lease rental and fails to fence the land at the person's expense, the person is not entitled to recover damages for trespass by stock grazing under permit, but the state district may not issue a permit to use the carrying capacity of the land.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 208, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2329(part); amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-412. Revocation of grazing preferences upon failure to obtain permits, pay fees, or obey rules. (1) If a person controls but does not own land and does not secure a nonuse permit and refuses to pay grazing fees, the state district shall notify the owner of the land by certified mail that the grazing preference attached to the land will be revoked unless the owner pays the usual grazing fees to the state district within 60 days from the time of receipt of the notice. The state district may revoke the grazing preference if the owner or mortgagor does not pay the fees or secure a nonuse permit.

(2) If a permittee fails to pay grazing fees or assessments levied by the state district or fails to obtain a nonuse permit or violates any of the rules of the state district, the state district may notify the permittee and owner of the land by certified mail that the grazing preference attached to the land will be revoked unless the grazing fees or assessments are paid or the permittee ceases to violate the rules laid down by the state district within 60 days from the time of receipt of the notice. The state district may revoke the grazing preference if the permittee or owner fails to pay the charges or comply.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(part); amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-413. Effect of revocation. (1) When a grazing preference is revoked, it is detached from the dependent commensurate or commensurate property to which it was formerly appurtenant and it immediately shifts to the state district. A revocation includes all rights, privileges, and authorities associated with a grazing preference.

(2) The state district may then allocate it to either dependent commensurate or commensurate property in the manner provided by its bylaws.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(7); amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-414. Equalization of state district assets. (1) Whenever a state district possesses reserves, the values of which are greater than its liabilities, and the state district determines that a part of the reserves is in excess of its reasonable needs to operate the state district, the state district may refund to the permittee members their proportionate share of the reserves as determined at the last annual accounting.

(2) Whenever a state district possesses reserves and physical assets, the values of which are greater than its liabilities, and a permittee member loses a grazing preference or any portion of a grazing preference, the permittee member is entitled to receive a proportionate share of the value of the excess from the state district, as determined by the annual accounting of the state district. Valuation must be as prescribed by the bylaws of the state district. The state district may set off the amount of any claim it may have against a former member.

(3) Whenever a new member receives a grazing preference, the new member shall, as a condition of receiving the grazing preference, pay to the state district the value of the equitable interest in the physical assets and reserve fund that accrues to the new member by virtue of membership. The value must be determined at the time of receiving a grazing preference, as prescribed by the bylaws of the state district, and upon the basis of the determination of value of physical assets and reserves made at the last annual accounting.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 163, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2324; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 401, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 31, L. 2001.

76-16-415. Application to trespass actions. Sections 76-16-405 through 76-16-409, 76-16-412, and 76-16-413 do not apply to trespass violations.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 208, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 24, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 46-2322(part).

Cross-References

Control of trespassing livestock, 76-16-311.

CHAPTER 17
PUBLIC LAND ACCESS

Part 1 — Public Land Access Network Grant Program

76-17-101. Definitions.
76-17-102. Montana public land access network grant program — donations — rulemaking.
76-17-103. Montana public land access network account.
76-17-104. Grants — eligibility.

Part 1
Public Land Access Network Grant Program

76-17-101. *(Temporary)* **Definitions.** As used in this part, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of land commissioners.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2017.)*

History: En. Sec. 1(5), Ch. 374, L. 2017.

76-17-102. *(Temporary)* **Montana public land access network grant program — donations — rulemaking.** (1) There is a Montana public land access network grant program. An individual or organization may seek a grant from the program to secure public access through private land to public land, as defined in 15-30-2380, for which there is no other legal public access or to enhance existing access to public land.

(2) The grant program is funded by private donations. State agencies shall, as appropriate, facilitate private donations to the Montana public land access network account established in 76-17-103, including but not limited to the following methods:

(a) a donation by a person of $1 or more above the price of a conservation license purchased pursuant to 87-2-202; and

(b) a donation by a person, as defined in 2-4-102, through the websites of the department of natural resources and conservation, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, and the state of Montana.

(3) (a) The department of natural resources and conservation shall adopt a logo for the Montana public land access network grant program, using the acronym "MT-PLAN". The department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall use the logo on signs and maps indicating the locations and access points of public lands made accessible through the grant program.

(b) Subject to the limitations provided in 76-17-103(4), either department may be reimbursed from the Montana public land access network account established in 76-17-103 for reasonable costs, as determined by the board, that are associated with subsection (3)(a).

(4) The department of natural resources and conservation may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this part. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2017.)*

History: En. Sec. 1(1)-(4), Ch. 374, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 221, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 507, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 507, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

76-17-103. *(Temporary)* **Montana public land access network account.** (1) There is a Montana public land access network account to the credit of the department in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. Money deposited in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, and may be used only for the purposes of this part.

(2) The following funds must be deposited in the account:

(a) money received pursuant to 76-17-102 or from any other source for the purposes of this part; and

(b) any interest or income earned on the account.

(3) The department shall make disbursements from the account for access project grants that are approved by the board pursuant to 76-17-104.

(4) An amount that equals up to 10% of the grants awarded pursuant to this part in each fiscal year may be used by the department for administrative purposes. In addition, during the first 5 years of the grant program, the department may use up to 5% of the funds in the account each year to advertise the Montana public land access network. After that, the department may use up to 2% of the funds in the account each year for advertising. All administrative costs paid from the account must be approved by the board.

(5) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account at the end of a fiscal year must remain in the account.

(6) Any unspent or unencumbered money in the account on June 30, 2027, must be transferred to a state special revenue account to the credit of the department and used to secure public access to public land for which there is no other legal public access or to enhance existing access to public land. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2017.)*

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 374, L. 2017.

76-17-104. *(Temporary)* **Grants — eligibility.** (1) An individual or organization may apply to the department for a grant to pay for costs associated with an access project that secures public access through private land to public land, as defined in 15-30-2380, for which there is no other legal public access or to enhance existing access to public land. The costs must include payments to the owner of private land who allows public access. Grants may not be made to pay costs associated with litigation related to public access.

(2) An access project that is eligible to receive a grant:

(a) (i) except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(ii), must provide public access for recreational purposes; and

(ii) if the access project would provide access to state trust land, as defined in 77-1-101, must provide access for all lawful purposes to the state trust land;

(b) may have a term that ranges from 3 years to in perpetuity. A termed easement that is awarded a grant pursuant to this section creates no expectation of access after the term expires.

(c) may not provide access to a previously inaccessible parcel of land if that parcel is leased state land under Title 77, chapter 1, and the lessee is not the landowner granting access to the parcel.

(3) The department shall make recommendations to the board regarding grant applications received pursuant to this section. A grant must be approved by the board before it is disbursed pursuant to 76-17-103.

(4) An access easement that is awarded a grant pursuant to this part must be held and enforced by the department.

(5) The department shall report the details of approved access project grants to the legislative auditor. *(Terminates June 30, 2027—sec. 10, Ch. 374, L. 2017.)*

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 374, L. 2017.**

CHAPTERS 18 THROUGH 20 RESERVED

CHAPTER 21
YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS (Terminated)

Part 1 — General (Terminated)

Part 2 — Projects — Corpsmembers (Terminated)

Part 3 — Mitigation of Impacts on Established Labor (Terminated)

Part 1
General (Terminated)

76-21-101. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-102. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-103. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

Part 2
Projects — Corpsmembers (Terminated)

76-21-201. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-202 through 76-21-204 reserved.

76-21-205. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-206. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-207. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

Part 3
Mitigation of Impacts on Established Labor (Terminated)

76-21-301. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-302. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

76-21-303. Terminated. Sec. 14, Ch. 652, L. 1983.
History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 652, L. 1983.**

CHAPTER 22
SAGE GROUSE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
(Renumbered)

Part 1 — Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act (Renumbered)

Part 1
Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act (Renumbered)

76-22-101. Renumbered 87-5-901. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-102. Renumbered 87-5-902. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-103. Renumbered 87-5-903. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-104. Renumbered 87-5-904. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-105. Renumbered 87-5-905. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-106 through 76-22-108 reserved.

76-22-109. Renumbered 87-5-909. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-110. Renumbered 87-5-910. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-111. Renumbered 87-5-911. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-112. Renumbered 87-5-912. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-113. Renumbered 87-5-913. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-114. Renumbered 87-5-914. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-115. Renumbered 87-5-915. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-116. Renumbered 87-5-916. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-117. Renumbered 87-5-917. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

76-22-118. Renumbered 87-5-918. Sec. 3, Ch. 326, L. 2021.

CHAPTERS 23 AND 24
RESERVED

CHAPTER 25
MONTANA LAND USE PLANNING ACT

Part 1 — General Provisions

76-25-101. Short Title.
76-25-102. Legislative purpose, findings, and intent.
76-25-103. Definitions.
76-25-104. Planning commission.
76-25-105. Applicability and compliance.
76-25-106. Public participation.

Part 2 — Land Use Plan

76-25-201. Adoption or amendment of land use plan and future land use map.
76-25-202. Update of land use plan or future land use map.
76-25-203. Existing conditions and population projections.
76-25-204 and 76-25-205 reserved.
76-25-206. Housing.
76-25-207. Local services and facilities.
76-25-208. Economic development.
76-25-209. Natural resources, environment, and hazards.
76-25-210 through 76-25-212 reserved.
76-25-213. Land use and future land use map.

76-25-214. Area plans.
76-25-215. Issue plans.
76-25-216. Implementation.

Part 3 — Zoning

76-25-301. Authority to adopt local zoning regulations.
76-25-302. Encouragement of development of housing.
76-25-303. Limitations on zoning authority.
76-25-304. Adoption and amendment of zoning regulations.
76-25-305. Effect on zoning regulations and map.
76-25-306. Zoning and annexation.
76-25-307. Interim zoning ordinances.

Part 4 — Subdivision Regulations

76-25-401. Authority to adopt local subdivision regulations — limitations.
76-25-402. Exemptions to subdivision review.
76-25-403. Adoption and amendment of subdivision regulations.
76-25-404. Contents of local subdivision regulations.
76-25-405 through 76-25-407 reserved.
76-25-408. Local review procedure for divisions of land.
76-25-409. Effect of preliminary plat approval.
76-25-410. Local review procedure for final plats.
76-25-411. Filing and recordation of plats and certificates of survey.
76-25-412. Survey requirements.
76-25-413. Public improvements and extension of capital facilities.

Part 5 — Fees, Variances, Appeals, Enforcement, and Penalties

76-25-501. Fees.
76-25-502. Variances.
76-25-503. Appeals.
76-25-504. Enforcement and penalties.

Chapter Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

Part 1
General Provisions

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

76-25-101. Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the "Montana Land Use Planning Act".

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-102. Legislative purpose, findings, and intent. (1) It is the purpose of this chapter to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Montana through a system of comprehensive planning that balances private property rights and values, public services and infrastructure, the human environment, natural resources, and recreation, and a diversified and sustainable economy.

(2) The legislature finds that coordinated and planned growth will encourage and support:

(a) sufficient housing units for the state's growing population that are attainable for citizens of all income levels;

(b) the provision of adequate public services and infrastructure in the most cost-effective manner possible, shared equitably among all residents, businesses, and industries;

(c) the natural environment, including wildlife and wildlife habitat, sufficient and clean water, and healthy air quality;

(d) agricultural, forestry, and mining lands for the production of food, fiber, and minerals and their economic benefits;

(e) the state's economy and tax base through job creation, business development, and the revitalization of established communities;

(f) persons, property, infrastructure, and the economy against natural hazards, such as flooding, earthquake, wildfire, and drought; and

(g) local consideration, participation, and review of plans for projected population changes and impacts resulting from those plans.

(3) It is the legislature's intent that the comprehensive planning authorized in this chapter:

(a) provides the broadest and most comprehensive level of collecting data, identifying and analyzing existing conditions and future opportunities and constraints, acknowledging and addressing the impacts of development on each jurisdiction, and providing for broad public participation;

(b) serves as the basis for implementing specific land use regulations that are in substantial compliance with the local land use plan;

(c) provides for local government approval of development proposals in substantial compliance with the land use plan, based on information, analysis, and public participation provided during the development and adoption of the land use plan and implementing regulations; and

(d) allows for streamlined administrative review decisionmaking for site-specific development applications.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-103. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Aggrieved party" means a person who can demonstrate a specific personal and legal interest, as distinguished from a general interest, who has been or is likely to be specially and injuriously affected by the decision.

(2) "Applicant" means a person who seeks a land use permit or other approval of a development proposal.

(3) "Built environment" means man-made or modified structures that provide people with living, working, and recreational spaces.

(4) "Cash-in-lieu donation" is the amount equal to the fair market value of unsubdivided, unimproved land.

(5) "Certificate of survey" means a drawing of a field survey prepared by a registered surveyor for the purpose of disclosing facts pertaining to boundary locations.

(6) "Dedication" means the deliberate appropriation of land by an owner for any general and public use, reserving to the landowner no rights that are incompatible with the full exercise and enjoyment of the public use to which the property has been devoted.

(7) "Division of land" means the segregation of one or more parcels of land from a larger tract held in single or undivided ownership by transferring or contracting to transfer title to a portion of the tract or properly filing a certificate of survey or subdivision plat establishing the identity of the segregated parcels pursuant to this chapter. The conveyance of a tract of record or an entire parcel of land that was created by a previous division of land is not a division of land.

(8) "Dwelling " means a building designed for residential living purposes, including single-unit, two-unit, and multi-unit dwellings.

(9) "Dwelling unit" means one or more rooms designed for or occupied exclusively by one household.

(10) "Examining land surveyor" means a registered land surveyor appointed by the governing body to review surveys and plats submitted for filing.

(11) "Final plat" means the final drawing of the subdivision and dedication required by this chapter to be prepared for filing for record with the county clerk and recorder and containing all elements and requirements set forth in this chapter and in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(12) "Four-unit dwelling" or "fourplex" means a building designed for four attached dwelling units in which the dwelling units share a common separation, such as a ceiling or wall, and in which access cannot be gained between the units through an internal doorway, excluding common hallways.

(13) "Immediate family" means a spouse, children by blood or adoption, and parents.

(14) "Irrigation district" means a district established pursuant to Title 85, chapter 7.

(15) "Jurisdictional area" or "jurisdiction" means the area within the boundaries of the local government. For municipalities, the term includes those areas the local government anticipates may be annexed into the municipality over the next 20 years.

(16) "Land use permit" means an authorization to complete development in conformance with an application approved by the local government.

(17) "Land use plan" means the land use plan and future land use map adopted in accordance with this chapter.

(18) "Land use regulations" means zoning, zoning map, subdivision, or other land use regulations authorized by state law.

(19) "Local governing body" or "governing body" means the elected body responsible for the administration of a local government.

(20) "Local government" means a county, consolidated city-county, or an incorporated municipality to which the provisions of this chapter apply as provided in 76-25-105.

(21) "Manufactured housing" means a dwelling for a single household, built offsite in a factory that is in compliance with the applicable prevailing standards of the United States department of housing and urban development at the time of its production. A manufactured home does not include a mobile home or housetrailer, as defined in 15-1-101.

(22) "Ministerial permit" means a permit granted upon a determination that a proposed project complies with the zoning map and the established standards set forth in the zoning regulations. The determination must be based on objective standards, involving little or no personal judgment, and must be issued by the planning administrator.

(23) "Multi-unit dwelling" means a building designed for five or more attached dwelling units in which the dwelling units share a common separation, such as a ceiling or wall, and in which access cannot be gained between the units through an internal doorway, excluding common hallways.

(24) "Permitted use" means a use that may be approved by issuance of a ministerial permit.

(25) "Planning administrator" means the person designated by the local governing body to review, analyze, provide recommendations, or make final decisions on any or all zoning, subdivision, and other development applications as required in this chapter.

(26) "Plat" means a graphical representation of a subdivision showing the division of land into lots, parcels, blocks, streets, alleys, and other divisions and dedications.

(27) "Preliminary plat" means a neat and scaled drawing of a proposed subdivision showing the layout of streets, alleys, lots, blocks, and other elements of a subdivision that furnish a basis for review by a governing body.

(28) "Public utility" has the meaning provided in 69-3-101, except that for the purposes of this chapter, the term includes a county water or sewer district as provided for in Title 7, chapter 13, parts 22 and 23, and municipal sewer or water systems and municipal water supply systems established by the governing body of a municipality pursuant to Title 7, chapter 13, parts 42, 43, and 44.

(29) "Single-room occupancy development" means a development with dwelling units in which residents rent a private bedroom with a shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

(30) "Single-unit dwelling" means a building designed for one dwelling unit that is detached from any other dwelling unit.

(31) "Subdivider" means a person who causes land to be subdivided or who proposes a subdivision of land.

(32) "Subdivision" means a division of land or land so divided that it creates one or more parcels containing less than 160 acres that cannot be described as a one-quarter aliquot part of a United States government section, exclusive of public roadways, in order that the title to the parcels may be sold or otherwise transferred and includes any resubdivision and a condominium. The term also means an area, regardless of its size, that provides or will provide multiple spaces for rent or lease on which recreational camping vehicles or mobile homes will be placed.

(33) "Subdivision guarantee" means a form of guarantee that is approved by the commissioner of insurance and is specifically designed to disclose the information required in 76-25-413.

(34) "Tract of record" means an individual parcel of land, irrespective of ownership, that can be identified by legal description, independent of any other parcel of land, using documents on file in the records of the county clerk and recorder's office.

(35) "Three-unit dwelling" or "triplex" means a building designed for three attached dwelling units in which the dwelling units share a common separation, such as a ceiling or wall, and in which access cannot be gained between the units through an internal doorway, excluding common hallways.

(36) "Two-unit dwelling" or "duplex" means a building designed for two attached dwelling units in which the dwelling units share a common separation, such as a ceiling or wall, and in which access cannot be gained between the units through an internal doorway.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-104. Planning commission. (1) (a) Each local government shall establish, by ordinance or resolution, a planning commission.

(b) Any combination of local governments may create a multi-jurisdiction planning commission or join an existing commission pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

(c) (i) Any combination of legally authorized planning boards, zoning commissions, planning and zoning commissions, or boards of adjustment existing prior to May 17, 2023, may be considered duly constituted under this chapter as a planning commission by agreement of the governing bodies of each jurisdiction represented on the planning commission.

(ii) If more than one legally authorized planning board, zoning commission, or planning and zoning commission exists within a jurisdiction, the governing bodies of each jurisdiction may agree to:

(A) designate, combine, consolidate, or modify one or more of the authorized boards or commissions as the planning commission; or

(B) create a new planning commission pursuant to this section and disband the existing boards and commissions.

(2) (a) (i) Each planning commission must consist of an odd number of no fewer than three voting members who are confirmed by majority vote of each local governing body.

(ii) Each jurisdiction must be equally represented in the membership of a multi-jurisdiction planning commission.

(b) The planning commission shall meet at least once every 6 months.

(c) Minutes must be kept of all meetings of the planning commission and all meetings and records must be open to the public.

(d) A majority of currently appointed voting members of the planning commission constitutes a quorum. A quorum must be present for the planning commission to take official action. A favorable vote of at least a majority of the quorum is required to authorize an action at a regular or properly called special meeting.

(e) The ordinance, resolution, or interlocal agreement creating the planning commission must set forth the requirements for appointments, terms, qualifications, removal, vacancies, meetings, notice of meetings, officers, reimbursement of costs, bylaws, or any other requirement determined necessary by the local governing body.

(3) (a) Except as set forth in subsection (3)(b), the planning commission shall review and make recommendations to the local governing body regarding the development, adoption, amendment, review, and approval or denial of the following documents:

(i) the land use plan and future land use map as provided in 76-25-201;

(ii) zoning regulations and map as provided in Title 76, chapter 25, part 3;

(iii) subdivision regulations as provided in Title 76, chapter 25, part 4; and

(iv) any other legislative land use planning document the local governing body designates.

(b) In accordance with 76-25-503, the planning commission shall hear and decide appeals from any site-specific land use decisions made by the planning administrator pursuant to the adopted regulations described in subsection (3)(a). Decisions of the planning commission may be appealed to the local governing body as provided in 76-25-503.

(4) The planning commission may be funded pursuant to 76-1-403 and 76-1-404.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-105. Applicability and compliance. (1) A municipality with a population at or exceeding 5,000 located within a county with a population at or exceeding 70,000 in the most recent decennial census shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), any municipality that meets the population thresholds of subsection (1) on May 17, 2023, shall comply with the provisions of this chapter within 3 years of May 17, 2023.

(b) A municipality that has adopted a growth policy within 5 years prior to May 17, 2023, shall comply with the provisions of this chapter within 5 years of the date that the growth policy was adopted or within the deadline established in subsection (2)(a), whichever occurs later.

(c) A municipality that meets the population thresholds of subsection (1) on any decennial census completed after May 17, 2023, shall comply with the provisions of this chapter by December 31 of the third year after the date of the decennial census.

(3) (a) A local government that is not required to comply with the provisions of this chapter may decide to comply with the provisions of this chapter by an affirmative vote of the local governing body. After an affirmative vote, the governing body shall comply with the provisions of this chapter by December 31 of the fifth year after the date of the vote.

(b) A local government that votes pursuant to subsection (3)(a) to comply with the provisions of this chapter may subsequently decide to not comply with the provisions of this chapter by an affirmative vote.

(4) A local government that complies with this chapter is not subject to any provision of Title 76, chapters 1, 2, 3, or 8.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-106. Public participation. (1) (a) A local government shall provide continuous public participation when adopting, amending, or updating a land use plan or regulations pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Public participation in the adoption, amendment, or update of a land use plan or implementing regulations must provide for, at a minimum:

(i) dissemination of draft documents;

(ii) an opportunity for written and verbal comments;

(iii) public meetings after effective notice;

(iv) electronic communication regarding the process, including online access to documents, updates, and comments; and

(v) an analysis of and response to public comments.

(2) A local government shall document and retain all public outreach and participation performed as part of the administrative record in accordance with the retention schedule published by the secretary of state.

(3) (a) A local government may decide the method for providing:

(i) general public notice and participation in the adoption, amendment, or update of a land use plan or regulation; and

(ii) notice of written comment on applications for land use permits pursuant to this chapter.

(b) All notices must clearly specify the nature of the land use plan or regulation under consideration, what type of comments the local government is seeking from the public, and how the public may participate.

(c) The local government shall document what methods it used to provide continuous participation in the development, adoption, or update of a land use plan or regulation and shall document all comments received.

(d) The department of commerce established in 2-15-1801 and functioning pursuant to 90-1-103 shall develop a list of public participation methods and best practices for use by local governments in developing, adopting, or updating a land use plan or regulations.

(4) Throughout the adoption, amendment, or update of the land use plan or regulation processes, a local government shall emphasize that:

(a) the land use plan is intended to identify the opportunities for development of land within the planning area for housing, businesses, agriculture, and the extraction of natural resources, while acknowledging and addressing the impacts of that development on adjacent properties, the community, the natural environment, public services and facilities, and natural hazards;

(b) the process provides for continuous and extensive public notice, review, comment, and participation in the development of the land use plan or regulation;

(c) the final adopted land use plan, including amendments or updates to the final adopted land use plan, comprises the basis for implementing land use regulations in substantial compliance with the land use plan; and

(d) the scope of and opportunity for public participation and comment on site-specific development in substantial compliance with the land use plan must be limited only to those impacts or significantly increased impacts that were not previously identified and considered in the adoption, amendment, or update of the land use plan, zoning regulations, or subdivision regulations.

(5) The local governing body shall adopt a public participation plan detailing how the local government will meet the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

Part 2
Land Use Plan

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

76-25-201. Adoption or amendment of land use plan and future land use map. (1) The local governing body shall adopt or amend by resolution a land use plan and future land use map in accordance with this part only after consideration by and on the recommendation of the planning commission.

(2) Prior to making a recommendation to the governing body to adopt or amend a land use plan and future land use map, the planning commission shall:

(a) provide public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106; and

(b) accept, consider, and respond to public comment on the proposed land use plan and future land use map. All public comment must be part of the administrative record transmitted to the governing body.

(3) After meeting the requirements of subsection (2), the planning commission shall make a final recommendation to the governing body to adopt, modify, or reject the proposed land use plan and future land use map or any amendment to the proposed land use plan and future land use map.

(4) The governing body shall incorporate any existing neighborhood, area, or plans adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1, that meet the requirements of this chapter into the land use plan and future land use map.

(5) (a) The governing body shall consider the recommendation of the planning commission to adopt, modify, or reject the proposed land use plan and future land use map or any amendment to the proposed land use plan and future land use map.

(b) After providing public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106, the governing body may adopt, with any revisions the local governing body considers appropriate, or reject the land use plan and future land use map or any amendment to the proposed land use plan and future land use map proposed by the planning commission.

(6) An amendment to a land use plan or future land use map may be initiated:

(a) by majority vote of the governing body;

(b) on petition of at least 15% of the electors of the local government jurisdiction to which the plan applies, as registered at the last general election; or

(c) by a property owner applying for a zoning, subdivision, or other land use permit.

(7) (a) After the initiation of an amendment to a land use plan or future land use map allowed in subsection (6), the planning commission shall make a preliminary determination of whether the proposed land use plan or future land use map amendment results in new or increased impacts to or from local facilities, services, natural resources, natural environment, or natural hazards from those previously described and analyzed in the assessment conducted in the development of the land use plan.

(b) If the planning commission finds new or increased impacts from the proposed land use plan or future land use map amendment, the local government shall collect additional data and conduct additional analysis necessary to provide the planning commission with the opportunity to consider all potential impacts resulting from the amendment before proceeding under subsection (2).

(8) The governing body may not amend the land use plan or future land use map unless:

(a) the amendment is found in substantial compliance with the land use plan; and

(b) the potential impacts resulting from development in substantial compliance with the proposed amendment have been made available for public review and comment and have been fully considered by the governing body.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-202. Update of land use plan or future land use map. (1) After a local government adopts a land use plan and future land use map in accordance with 76-25-201, the land use plan and future land use map must be reviewed by the planning commission every fifth year after adoption to determine whether an update to the land use plan and future land use map must be performed. The planning commission shall:

(a) make a preliminary determination regarding the existence of new or increased impacts to or from local facilities, services, natural resources, natural environment, or natural hazards from those previously described and analyzed when the land use plan and future land use map were previously adopted;

(b) provide public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106; and

(c) accept, consider, and respond to public comment on the review of the land use plan and future land use map. All public comment must be part of the administrative record transmitted to the governing body.

(2) (a) If the planning commission finds new or increased impacts under subsection (1), the planning commission shall recommend an update to the land use plan, future land use map, or both.

(b) If the planning commission finds no new or increased impacts under subsection (1), the planning commission shall make a recommendation to the governing body that no update to the land use plan or future land use map is necessary.

(3) After receiving the recommendation of the planning commission, the governing body may direct that an update of the land use plan, future land use map, or both be completed or may readopt the current land use plan, future land use map, or both.

(4) (a) In developing, drafting, and considering an update to the land use plan or future land use map, the planning commission shall follow the process set forth in]76-25-201 with respect to the changes proposed to the land use plan or future land use map.

(b) If the planning commission finds new or increased impacts resulting from the land use plan or future land use map, the local government shall collect additional data and conduct additional analysis necessary to provide the governing body and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider all potential impacts resulting from an update to the land use plan or future land use map.

(5) At any time before an update is required after a review under subsection (1), the local governing body may direct that an update to the land use plan or future land use map be prepared for consideration by the planning commission and for recommendation to the governing body.

(6) Once an update to the land use plan or future land use map is adopted or the land use plan or future land use map is readopted, the information and analysis contained within the land use plan and future land use map must be considered accurate for the purposes of making site-specific development decisions in substantial compliance with the land use plan and future land use map.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-203. Existing conditions and population projections. (1) The land use plan must include, at a minimum, inventories and descriptions of existing conditions of housing, local services and facilities, economic development, natural resources, environment, and hazards, and land use within the jurisdictional boundaries of the land use plan.

(2) As set forth in 76-25-206 through 76-25-209 and 76-25-213 through 76-25-216, the land use plan must include, at minimum, a description, map, and analysis of how the jurisdiction will accommodate its projected population over the next 20 years and the expected impacts of the development in the areas of housing, local services and facilities, economic development, natural resources, environment, and hazards.

(3) The inventories and descriptions in the plan must be based on up-to-date surveys, maps, diagrams, charts, descriptive material, studies, and reports necessary to explain and supplement the analysis of each section of the land use plan.

(4) (a) A jurisdiction shall use demographics provided by:

(i) the most recent decennial census or census estimate of the United States census bureau; and

(ii) population projections for a 20-year period based on permanent and seasonal population estimates:

(A) provided by demographics published by the department of commerce;

(B) generated by the local government; or

(C) produced by a professional firm specializing in projections.

(b) When a population projection is not available, population projections for the jurisdiction must be reflective of the area's proportional share of the total county population and the total county population growth.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-204 and 76-25-205 reserved.

76-25-206. Housing. (1) A local governing body shall identify and analyze existing and projected housing needs for the projected population of the jurisdiction and provide regulations that allow for the rehabilitation, improvement, or development of the number of housing units needed, as identified in the land use plan and future land use map, including:

(a) a quantification of the jurisdiction's existing and projected needed housing types, including location, age, condition, and occupancy required to accommodate existing and estimated population projections;

(b) an inventory of sites, including zoned, unzoned, vacant, underutilized, and potential redevelopment sites, available to meet the jurisdiction's needed housing types;

(c) an analysis of any constraints to housing development, such as zoning, development standards, and infrastructure needs and capacity, and the identification of market-based incentives that may affect or encourage the development of needed housing types; and

(d) a detailed description of what actions the jurisdiction may take to accommodate the projected needed housing types identified in subsection (1)(a).

(2) The housing section of the land use plan and future land use map may incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other housing needs assessments adopted by the governing body.

(3) If, after performing the analysis required in subsection (1), the local government determines that the total needed housing types may not be met due to lack of resources, development sites, infrastructure capacity, or other documented constraints, the local government shall establish the minimum number of housing units that may be rehabilitated, improved, or developed within the jurisdiction over the 20-year planning period and the actions the local government may take to remove constraints to the development of those units over that period.

(4) Progress toward the construction of the housing units identified as needed to meet projected housing needs during the 20-year planning period of the land use plan must be documented at each fifth year review of the land use plan as required in 76-25-202.

(5) The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-207. Local services and facilities. (1) The land use plan must:

(a) determine the existing and anticipated levels of public safety and emergency services necessary to serve the projected population of the jurisdiction, including law enforcement, fire protection, emergency management system agencies, and local health care organizations;

(b) contain an inventory and map of existing fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency service jurisdictional areas and anticipated response times, a description of mutual aid or cooperative service agreements, and the location of hospitals or clinics in the jurisdiction;

(c) identify capital and service improvements for fire, law enforcement, emergency services, and health services for the jurisdictional area necessary to meet the projected population;

(d) determine the existing capacity, existing deficiencies, planned expansion, and anticipated levels of utility services necessary to serve the projected population in the jurisdiction, including water, wastewater, and storm water systems, solid waste disposal, and other utility services, as identified by the local government;

(e) contain an inventory and map of all utility service areas, system networks, and facilities;

(f) identify local utility capital and service improvements for the jurisdictional area necessary to meet the projected population;

(g) determine the existing capacity, existing deficiencies, planned expansion, and anticipated improvements to the transportation network serving the jurisdictional area necessary to serve the projected population in the jurisdiction;

(h) contain an inventory and classification map of all existing and planned roads within the jurisdictional area, including major highways, secondary highways, and local routes, all non-motorized routes, including bike lanes and pedestrian thoroughfares, and all public transit systems and facilities; and

(i) identify planned capital and service transportation improvements necessary to serve the projected population.

(2) The local government shall:

(a) coordinate with school districts within the jurisdiction to determine the existing capacity of, planned expansion of, and anticipated improvements necessary for the local K-12 school system to serve the projected population in the jurisdiction; and

(b) request that the local school district provide any inventory and maps of existing K-12 educational facilities within the jurisdictional area and identify any capital and service improvements necessary to meet the projected population.

(3) The local government may include an analysis of existing capacity and service levels, planned expansions of, and anticipated improvements necessary to provide other services to the projected population in the jurisdiction.

(4) The local government may incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other relevant local services or facilities assessments adopted by the local governing body, such as a capital improvements plan or an impact fee study.

(5) The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-208. Economic development. (1) The land use plan must:

(a) assess existing and potential commercial, industrial, small business, and institutional enterprises in the jurisdiction, including the types of sites and supporting services needed by the enterprises;

(b) summarize job composition and trends by industry sector, including existing labor force characteristics and future labor force requirements, for existing and potential enterprises in the jurisdiction;

(c) assess the extent to which local characteristics, assets, and resources support or constrain existing and potential enterprises, including access to transportation to market goods and services, and assess historic, cultural, and scenic resources and their relationship to private sector success in the jurisdiction;

(d) inventory sites within the jurisdiction, including zoned, unzoned, vacant, underutilized, and potentially redeveloped sites, available to meet the jurisdiction's economic development needs;

(e) assess the adequacy of existing and projected local facilities and services, schools, housing stock, and other land uses necessary to support existing and potential commercial, industrial, and institutional enterprises; and

(f) assess the financial feasibility of supporting anticipated economic growth in the jurisdiction.

(2) The local government may incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other relevant economic development assessments.

(3) The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 500, L. 2023.**

76-25-209. Natural resources, environment, and hazards. (1) The land use plan must:

(a) include inventories and maps of natural resources within the jurisdiction, including but not limited to agricultural lands, agricultural water user facilities, minerals, sand and gravel resources, forestry lands, and other natural resources identified by the local government;

(b) describe the natural resource characteristics of the jurisdictional area, including a summary of historical natural resource utilization, data on existing utilization, and projected future trends;

(c) include an inventory, maps, and description of the natural environment of the jurisdictional area, including a summary of important natural features and the conditions of and real and potential threats to soils, geology, topography, vegetation, surface water, groundwater, aquifers, floodplains, scenic resources, wildlife, wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, and wildlife nesting sites within the jurisdiction; and

(d) include maps of, identify factors related to, and describe natural hazards within the jurisdictional area, including flooding, fire, earthquakes, steep slopes and other known geologic hazards and other natural hazards identified by the jurisdiction, with a summary of past significant events resulting from natural hazards that includes:

(i) a description of land use constraints resulting from natural hazards;

(ii) a description of the efforts that have been taken within the local jurisdiction to mitigate the impact of natural hazards; and

(iii) a description of the role that natural resources and the environment play in the local economy.

(2) The local government may incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other relevant assessments of natural resources, environment, or hazards.

(3) The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 500, L. 2023.**

76-25-210 through 76-25-212 reserved.

76-25-213. Land use and future land use map. (1) A land use plan must include a future land use map and a written description of the proposed general distribution, location, and extent of residential, commercial, mixed, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and conservation uses of land and other categories of public and private uses, as determined by the local government.

(2) The future land use map must reflect the anticipated and preferred pattern and intensities of development for the jurisdiction over the next 20 years, based on the information, analysis, and public input collected, considered, and relevant to the population projections for and economic development of the jurisdiction and the housing and local services needed to accommodate those projections, while acknowledging and addressing the natural resource, environment, and natural hazards of the jurisdiction.

(3) The future land use map may not confer any authority to regulate what is not otherwise specifically authorized in this chapter.

(4) The future land use map and the written description must include:

(a) a statement of intent describing the jurisdiction's applicable zoning, subdivision, and other land use regulations;

(b) descriptions of existing and future land uses, including:

(i) categories of public and private use;

(ii) general descriptions of use types and densities of those uses;

(iii) general descriptions of population; and

(iv) other aspects of the built environment;

(c) geographic distribution of future land uses in the jurisdiction, anticipated over a 20-year planning period that specifically demonstrate:

(i) adequate land to support the projected population in all land use types in areas where local services can be adequately and cost-effectively provided for that population;

(ii) adequate sites to accommodate the type and supply of housing needed for the projected population; and

(iii) areas of the jurisdiction that are not generally suitable for development and the reason, based on the constraints identified through the land use plan analysis;

(d) a statement acknowledging areas within the jurisdiction known to be subject to covenants, codes, and restrictions that may limit the type, density, or intensity of housing development projected in the future land use map; and

(e) areas of or adjacent to the jurisdiction subject to increased growth pressures, higher development densities, or other urban development influences.

(5) To the greatest extent possible, local governments shall create compatibility in the land use plans and future land use map in those areas identified in subsection (4)(e).

(6) The land use plan may:

(a) provide information required by a federal land management agency for the local governing body to establish or maintain coordination or cooperating agency status; and

(b) incorporate by reference any information or policies identified in other relevant assessments adopted by the local governing body, such as a pre-disaster mitigation plan or wildfire protection plan.

(7) The amount of detail provided in the analysis beyond the minimum criteria established in this section is at the discretion of the local governing body.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-214. Area plans. (1) A local governing body may adopt area plans for a portion of the jurisdiction to provide a more localized analysis of all or any part of a land use plan. An area plan may include but is not limited to a neighborhood plan, a corridor plan, or a subarea plan.

(2) The adoption, amendment, or update of an area plan must follow the same process as a land use plan provided for in this part and may be adopted as an amendment to the land use plan.

(3) The area plan must be in substantial compliance with the land use plan. To the extent an area plan is inconsistent with the land use plan, the land use plan controls.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-215. Issue plans. (1) A local governing body may adopt issue plans for all or part of a jurisdiction that provide a more detailed or thorough analysis for any component of the land use plan.

(2) The adoption, amendment, or update of an issue plan must follow the same process as a land use plan provided for in this part.

(3) If an issue plan covers the jurisdictional area of the land use plan, the issue plan may serve as the detailed analysis required in the land use plan.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-216. Implementation. (1) The land use plan and future land use map is not a regulatory document and must include an implementation section that:

(a) establishes meaningful and predictable implementation measures for the use and development of land within the jurisdiction based on the contents of the land use plan and future land use map;

(b) provides meaningful direction for the content of more detailed land use regulations and future land use maps; and

(c) requires identification of those programs, activities, actions, or land use regulations that may be part of the overall strategy of the jurisdiction for implementing the land use plan.

(2) The implementation section of the land use plan must include:

(a) if the local jurisdiction does not have current zoning regulations, a schedule by which zoning regulations and a zoning map will be adopted in accordance with the deadlines set forth in 76-25-105;

(b) if the local jurisdiction has current zoning regulations, an analysis of whether any inconsistencies exist between current zoning regulations and the land use plan and future land use map, including a map of the inconsistencies. If inconsistencies exist, the local government shall identify:

(i) specific implementation actions necessary to amend the zoning regulations and the zoning map to bring the zoning regulations and zoning map into substantial compliance with the land use plan and future land use map;

(ii) a schedule for amending the zoning regulations and zoning map to be in substantial compliance with the land use plan and future land use map, in accordance with the deadlines set forth in 76-25-105;

(iii) a schedule for adopting a capital improvements program or for amending an existing capital improvements program to be in substantial compliance with the land use plan and future land use map;

(iv) a schedule for expanding or replacing public facilities and the anticipated costs and revenue sources proposed to meet those costs, which must be reflected in a jurisdiction's capital improvement program;

(v) if applicable, a schedule for updating the plan for extension of services required in 7-2-4732 to be in substantial compliance with the land use plan; and

(vi) a schedule for implementing any other specific actions necessary to achieve the components of the land use plan, including a timeframe or prioritization of each specific public action; and

(c) procedures for monitoring and evaluating the local government's progress toward meeting the implementation schedule.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

Part 3
Zoning

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

76-25-301. Authority to adopt local zoning regulations. (1) (a) A local government subject to this chapter, within its respective jurisdiction, has the authority to and shall regulate the use of land in substantial compliance with its adopted land use plan by adopting zoning regulations.

(b) The governing body of a county or city has the authority to adopt zoning regulations in accordance with this part by an ordinance that substantially complies with 7-5-103 through 7-5-107.

(c) A municipality shall adopt zoning regulations for the portions of the jurisdictional area outside of the boundaries of the municipality that the governing body anticipates may be annexed into the municipality over the next 20 years. Unless otherwise agreed to by the applicable jurisdictions, zoning regulations on property outside the municipal boundaries may not apply or be enforced until those areas are annexed or are being annexed into the municipality.

(2) Local zoning regulations authorized in subsection (1) include but are not limited to ordinances prescribing the:

(a) uses of land;

(b) density of uses;

(c) types of uses;

(d) size, character, number, form, and mass of structures; and

(e) development standards mitigating the impacts of development, as identified and analyzed during the land use planning process and review and adoption of zoning regulations pursuant to this chapter.

(3) The local government shall incorporate any existing zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, into the zoning regulations meeting the requirements of this chapter.

(4) The local government shall adopt a zoning map for the jurisdiction in substantial compliance with the land use plan and future land use map and the zoning regulations adopted pursuant to this section, graphically illustrating the zone or zones that a property within the jurisdiction is subject to.

(5) The local government may provide for the issuance of permits as may be necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(6) (a) The zoning regulations and map must identify areas that may necessitate the denial of a development or a specific type of development, such as unmitigable natural hazards, insufficient water supply, inadequate drainage, lack of access, inadequate public services, or the excessive expenditure of public funds for the supply of the services.

(b) The regulations must prohibit development in the areas identified in subsection (6)(a) unless the hazards or impacts may be eliminated or overcome by approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures identified in the zoning regulations.

(c) Approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures described in subsection (6)(b) may not include building regulations as defined in 50-60-101 other than those identified by the department of labor and industry as provided in 50-60-901.

(7) The zoning regulations and map must mitigate the hazards created by development in areas located within the floodway of a flood of 100-year frequency, as defined by Title 76, chapter 5, or determined to be subject to flooding by the governing body. If the hazards cannot be mitigated, the zoning regulations and map must identify those areas where future development is limited or prohibited.

(8) The zoning regulations must allow for the continued use of land or buildings legal at the time that any zoning regulation, map, or amendment thereto is adopted, but the local government may provide grounds for discontinuing nonconforming uses based on changes to or abandonment of the use of the land or buildings after the adoption of a zoning regulation, map, or amendment.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-302. Encouragement of development of housing. (1) The zoning regulations authorized in 76-25-301 must include a minimum of five of the following housing strategies, applicable to the majority of the area, where residential development is permitted in the jurisdictional area:

(a) allow, as a permitted use, for at least a duplex where a single-unit dwelling is permitted;

(b) zone for higher density housing near transit stations, places of employment, higher education facilities, and other appropriate population centers, as determined by the local government;

(c) eliminate or reduce off-street parking requirements to require no more than one parking space per dwelling unit;

(d) eliminate impact fees for accessory dwelling units or developments that include multi-unit dwellings or reduce the fees by at least 25%;

(e) allow, as a permitted use, for at least one internal or detached accessory dwelling unit on a lot with a single-unit dwelling occupied as a primary residence;

(f) allow for single-room occupancy developments;

(g) allow, as a permitted use, a triplex or fourplex where a single-unit dwelling is permitted;

(h) eliminate minimum lot sizes or reduce the existing minimum lot size required by at least 25%;

(i) eliminate aesthetic, material, shape, bulk, size, floor area, and other massing requirements for multi-unit dwellings or mixed-use developments or remove at least half of those requirements;

(j) provide for zoning that specifically allows or encourages the development of tiny houses, as defined in Appendix Q of the International Residential Code as it was printed on January 1, 2023;

(k) eliminate setback requirements or reduce existing setback requirements by at least 25%;

(l) increase building height limits for dwelling units by at least 25%;

(m) allow multi-unit dwellings or mixed-use development as a permitted use on all lots where office, retail, or commercial are primary permitted uses; or

(n) allow multi-unit dwellings as a permitted use on all lots where triplexes or fourplexes are permitted uses.

(2) If a local government's existing zoning ordinance adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 2, before May 17, 2023, does not contain a zoning regulation that is listed as a regulation to be eliminated or reduced in subsection (1), that strategy is considered adopted by the local government.

(3) If the adoption of a housing strategy allowed in subsection (1) subsumes another housing strategy allowed in subsection (1), only one strategy may be considered to have been adopted by the local government.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-303. Limitations on zoning authority. (1) A local government acting pursuant to this part may not:

(a) treat manufactured housing units differently from any other residential units;

(b) include in a zoning regulation any requirement to:

(i) pay a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(ii) dedicate real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices, including a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices;

(c) prevent the erection of an amateur radio antenna at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur radio service communications by a person who holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio station license and operator's license, "technician" or higher class, issued by the federal communications commission of the United States;

(d) establish a maximum height limit for an amateur radio antenna of less than 100 feet above the ground;

(e) subject to subsection (2) and outside of incorporated municipalities, prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resources identified in the land use plan, except that the use, development, or recovery may be reasonably conditioned or prohibited within residential zones;

(f) except as provided in subsection (3), treat the following differently from any other residential use of property:

(i) a foster home, kinship foster home, youth shelter care facility, or youth group home operated under the provisions of 52-2-621 through 52-2-623, if the home or facility provides care on a 24-hour-a-day basis;

(ii) a community residential facility serving eight or fewer persons, if the facility provides care on a 24-hour-a-day basis; or

(iii) a family day-care home or a group day-care home registered by the department of public health and human services under Title 52, chapter 2, part 7;

(g) except as provided in subsection (3), apply any safety or sanitary regulation of the department of public health and human services or any other agency of the state or a political subdivision of the state that is not applicable to residential occupancies in general to a community residential facility serving 8 or fewer persons or to a day-care home serving 12 or fewer children; or

(h) prohibit any existing agricultural activities or force the termination of any existing agricultural activities outside the boundaries of an incorporated city, including agricultural activities that were established outside the corporate limits of a municipality and thereafter annexed into the municipality.

(2) Regulations that condition or prohibit uses pursuant to subsection (1)(e) must be in effect prior to the filing of a permit application or at the time a written request is received for a preapplication meeting pursuant to 82-4-432.

(3) Except for a day-care home registered by the department of public health and human services, a local government may impose zoning standards and conditions on any type of home or facility identified in subsections (1)(f) and (1)(g) if those zoning standards and conditions do not conflict with the requirements of subsections (1)(f) and (1)(g).

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-304. Adoption and amendment of zoning regulations. (1) (a) The governing body shall adopt or amend a zoning regulation or map only after consideration by and on the recommendation of the planning commission.

(b) An amendment to an adopted zoning regulation or map may be initiated:

(i) by majority vote of the governing body;

(ii) on petition of at least 15% of the electors of the local government jurisdiction to which the regulations apply, as registered at the last general election; or

(iii) by a property owner, as related to an application for any zoning, subdivision, or other land use permit or approval.

(2) Prior to making a recommendation to the governing body to adopt or amend a zoning regulation or map, the planning commission shall:

(a) provide public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106;

(b) accept, consider, and respond to public comment on the proposed zoning regulation, map, or amendment. All public comment must be part of the administrative record transmitted to the governing body.

(c) make a preliminary determination as to whether the zoning regulation and map as proposed or as amended would be in substantial compliance with the land use plan, including whether the zoning regulation or map:

(i) accommodates the projected needed housing types identified in 76-25-206;

(ii) contains five or more specific strategies from 76-25-302 to encourage the development of housing within the jurisdiction;

(iii) reflects allowable uses and densities in areas that may be adequately served by public safety, emergency, utility, transportation, education, and any other local facilities or services identified by the local government in 76-25-207;

(iv) allows sufficient area for existing, new, or expanding commercial, industrial, and institutional enterprises the local government has identified in 76-25-208 for targeted economic growth in the jurisdiction;

(v) protects and maximizes the potential use of natural resources within the area, as identified in 76-25-209;

(vi) minimizes or avoids impacts to the natural environment within the area, as identified in 76-25-209; and

(vii) avoids or minimizes dangers associated with natural hazards in the jurisdiction, as identified in 76-25-209; and

(d) preliminarily determine whether the proposed zoning regulation, map, or amendment results in new or increased impacts to or from local facilities, services, natural resources, natural environment, or natural hazards from those previously described and analyzed in the assessment conducted for the land use plan.

(3) If the planning commission finds new or increased impacts from the proposed regulation, map, or amendment, as provided in subsection (2)(d), the local government shall collect additional data and conduct additional analysis necessary to provide the planning commission and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider all potential impacts resulting from adoption of the zoning regulation, map, or amendment.

(4) After meeting the requirements of subsections (2) and (3), the planning commission shall make a final recommendation to the governing body to approve, modify, or reject the proposed zoning regulation, map, or amendment.

(5) (a) The governing body shall consider each zoning regulation, map, or amendment that the planning commission recommends to the governing body.

(b) After providing public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106, the governing body may adopt, adopt with revisions the governing body considers appropriate, or reject the zoning regulation, map, or amendment as proposed by the planning commission.

(c) The governing body may not condition an amendment to a zoning regulation or map.

(d) The governing body may not adopt or amend a zoning regulation or map unless the governing body finds that:

(i) the regulation, map, or amendment is in substantial compliance with the land use plan; and

(ii) the impacts resulting from development in substantial compliance with the proposed zoning regulation, map, or amendment have been made available for public review and comment and have been fully considered by the governing body.

(6) After the zoning regulation, map, or amendment has been adopted by the governing body, there is a presumption that:

(a) all permitting in substantial compliance with the zoning regulation, map, or amendment is in substantial compliance with the land use plan; and

(b) the public has been provided a meaningful opportunity to participate.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-305. Effect on zoning regulations and map. (1) After the adoption of a zoning regulation, map, or amendment pursuant to 76-25-304, any application proposing development of a site is subject to the process set forth in this section.

(2) (a) When a proposed development lies entirely within an incorporated city, or is proposed for annexation into the city, the application must be submitted to and approved by the city.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (2)(a) or (2)(c), when a proposed development lies entirely in an unincorporated area, the application must be submitted to and approved by the county.

(c) If a proposed development lies within an area subject to increased growth pressures, higher development densities, or other urban development influences identified by either jurisdiction in 76-25-213, the jurisdiction shall provide other impacted jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the application.

(d) If the proposed development lies partly within an incorporated city, the application and materials must be submitted to and approved by both the city and the county governing bodies.

(3) Zoning compliance permits and other ministerial permits may be issued by the planning administrator or the planning administrator's designee without any further review or analysis by the governing body, except as provided in 76-25-503.

(4) If a proposed development, with or without variances or deviations from adopted standards, is in substantial compliance with the zoning regulations or map and all impacts resulting from the development were previously analyzed and made available for public review and comment prior to the adoption of the land use plan, zoning regulation, map, or amendment thereto, the application must be approved, approved with conditions, or denied by the planning administrator and is not subject to any further public review or comment, except as provided in 76-25-503.

(5) (a) If a proposed development, with or without variances or deviations from adopted standards, is in substantial compliance with the zoning regulations and map but may result in new or significantly increased potential impacts that have not been previously identified and considered in the adoption of the land use plan or zoning regulations, the planning administrator shall proceed as follows:

(b) request that the applicant collect any additional data and perform any additional analysis necessary to provide the planning administrator and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider the impacts identified in subsection (5)(a);

(c) collect any additional data or perform additional analysis the planning administrator determines is necessary to provide the local government and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider the impacts identified in subsection (5)(a); and

(d) provide notice of a 15-business day written comment period during which the public has the reasonable opportunity to participate in the consideration of the impacts identified in subsection (5)(a).

(6) (a) Any additional analysis or public comment on a proposed development described in subsection (5) must be limited to only any new or significantly increased impacts potentially resulting from the proposed development, to the extent the impact was not previously identified or considered in the adoption or amendment of the land use plan or zoning regulations.

(b) The planning administrator shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application. The planning administrator's decision is final and no further action may be taken except as provided in 76-25-503.

(7) If an applicant proposes to develop a site in a manner or to an extent that the development is not in substantial compliance with the zoning regulations or map, the applicant shall propose an amendment to the regulations or map and follow the process provided for in 76-25-304.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-306. Zoning and annexation. (1) A municipality shall review and consider a proposed annexation in conjunction with the zoning regulations for the property to be annexed adopted pursuant to 76-25-301(1)(c) following the procedures set forth in 76-25-305.

(2) The joint public process authorized in subsection (1) fulfills the notice and public hearing requirements for a proposed annexation required in Title 7, chapter 2, parts 42 through 47.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-307. Interim zoning ordinances. (1) A local government, to protect the public safety, health, and welfare and without following the procedures otherwise required prior to adopting a zoning regulation, may adopt an interim zoning ordinance as an urgency measure to regulate or prohibit uses that may conflict with a zoning proposal that the governing body is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time.

(2) Before adopting an interim zoning ordinance, the governing body shall first hold a public hearing upon notice reasonably designed to inform all affected parties. A notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 7 days before the public hearing.

(3) An interim zoning ordinance takes effect immediately on passage and approval after first reading and may be in effect no longer than 1 year from the date of its adoption.

(4) A local government may not act under the authority provided for in this section until the local government has adopted a land use plan and zoning regulations pursuant to this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

Part 4
Subdivision Regulations

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

76-25-401. Authority to adopt local subdivision regulations — limitations. (1) (a) Within its respective jurisdiction, a local government shall regulate the creation of lots in substantial compliance with its adopted land use plan and zoning regulations by adopting subdivision regulations.

(b) The governing body of a county or city has the authority to adopt subdivision regulations in accordance with this part by an ordinance that substantially complies with 7-5-103 through 7-5-107.

(c) A municipality shall adopt subdivision regulations for those portions of the jurisdictional area outside the boundaries of the municipality that the governing body anticipates may be annexed into the municipality over the next 20 years. Unless otherwise agreed to by the applicable jurisdictions, subdivision regulations on property outside the municipal boundaries may not apply or be enforced until the areas are annexed or being annexed into the municipality.

(2) The subdivision regulations must provide a process for the application and consideration of subdivision exemptions, certificates of survey, preliminary plats, and final plats as necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(3) (a) A local governing body may not require, as a condition for approval of a subdivision under this part:

(i) the payment of a fee for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices; or

(ii) the dedication of real property for the purpose of providing housing for specified income levels or at specified sale prices.

(b) A dedication of real property prohibited in subsection (3)(a)(ii) includes a payment or other contribution to a local housing authority or the reservation of real property for future development of housing for specified income levels or specified sale prices.

(4) The local governing body may not change, in the subdivision regulations or in the process for subdividing, any timelines or procedural requirements for an application to subdivide other than provided for in this part.

History: **En. Sec. 25, Ch. 500, L. 2023.**

76-25-402. Exemptions to subdivision review. (1) The following divisions of land, if made in substantial compliance with zoning regulations adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 25, part 3, are not subject to the requirements of this chapter:

(a) subject to subsection (2), the creation of four or fewer new lots or parcels from an original lot or parcel:

(i) by order of a court of record in this state;

(ii) by operation of law; or

(iii) that, in the absence of agreement between the parties to a sale, could be created by court order in this state pursuant to the law of eminent domain, Title 70, chapter 30;

(b) subject to subsection (3), the creation of a lot to provide security for mortgages, liens, or trust indentures for the purpose of construction, improvements to the land being divided, or refinancing, if the land that is divided is not conveyed to any entity other than the financial or lending institution to which the mortgage, lien, or trust indenture was given or to a purchaser upon foreclosure of the mortgage, lien, or trust indenture;

(c) the creation of an interest in oil, gas, minerals, or water that is severed from the surface ownership of real property;

(d) the creation of cemetery lots;

(e) the reservation of a life estate on a portion of a tract of record;

(f) the lease or rental of a portion of a tract of record for farming and agricultural purposes;

(g) the division of property over which the state does not have jurisdiction;

(h) the creation of rights-of-way or utility sites;

(i) the creation of condominiums, townhomes, townhouses, or conversions, as those terms are defined in 70-23-102, when any applicable park dedication requirements as set forth in Title 76, chapter 25, part 3, are complied with;

(j) the lease or rental of contiguous airport-related land owned by a city, a county, the state, or a municipal or regional airport authority;

(k) subject to subsection (4), a division of state-owned land, unless the division creates a second or subsequent residential parcel from a single tract for sale, rent, or lease after July 1, 1974;

(l) the creation of lots by deed, contract, lease, or other conveyance executed prior to July 1, 1974;

(m) the relocation of common boundary lines between or aggregations of adjoining properties that does not result in an increase in the number of lots;

(n) a single gift or sale in each county to each member of the landowner's immediate family; or

(o) subject to subsection (5), the creation of lots by deed, contract, lease, or other conveyance in which the landowner enters into a covenant with the governing body that runs with the land that provides that the divided land must be used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

(2) Before a court of record orders a division of land under subsection (1)(a), the court shall notify the governing body of the pending division and allow the governing body to present written comment on the division.

(3) A transfer of divided land by the owner of the property at the time that the land was divided to any party other than those identified in subsection (1)(b) subjects the division of land to the requirements of this chapter.

(4) Instruments of transfer of land that is acquired for state highways may refer by parcel and project number to state highway plans that have been recorded in compliance with 60-2-209 and are exempted from the surveying and platting requirements of this chapter. If the parcels are not shown on highway plans of record, instruments of transfer of the parcels must

be accompanied by and refer to appropriate certificates of survey and plats when presented for recording.

(5) The governing body, in its discretion, may revoke the covenant provided for in subsection (1)(o) without subdivision review if the original lot lines are restored through aggregation of the covenanted land prior to or in conjunction with the revoking of the covenant.

History: **En. Sec. 26, Ch. 500, L. 2023.**

76-25-403. Adoption and amendment of subdivision regulations. (1) (a) The governing body shall adopt or amend subdivision regulations only after consideration by and on the recommendation of the planning commission.

(b) An amendment to adopted subdivision regulations may be initiated:

(i) by majority vote of the governing body;

(ii) on petition of at least 15% of the electors of the local government jurisdiction to which the regulations apply, as registered at the last general election; or

(iii) by a property owner, as related to an application for any zoning, subdivision, or other land use permit or approval.

(2) Prior to making a recommendation to the governing body to adopt or amend subdivision regulations, the planning commission shall:

(a) provide public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106;

(b) accept, consider, and respond to public comment on the proposed subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation. All public comment must be part of the administrative record transmitted to the governing body.

(c) make a preliminary determination as to whether the subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation is in substantial compliance with the land use plan and zoning regulations, including whether the regulation or amendment:

(i) enables the development of projected needed housing types identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations;

(ii) reflects applicable strategies from the land use plan and zoning regulations to encourage the development of housing within the jurisdiction;

(iii) facilitates the adequate provision of public safety, emergency, utility, transportation, education, and any other local facilities or services for proposed development, as identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations;

(iv) reflects standards that provide for existing, new, or expanding commercial, industrial, and institutional enterprises identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations for economic growth;

(v) protects and maximizes the potential use of natural resources within the area, as identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations;

(vi) contains standards that minimize or avoid impacts to the natural environment within the area, as identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations; and

(vii) contains standards that avoid or minimize dangers associated with natural hazards in the jurisdiction, as identified in the land use plan and zoning regulations; and

(d) preliminarily determine whether the proposed subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation results in new or increased potential impacts to or from local facilities, services, natural resources, natural environment, or natural hazards from those previously described and analyzed in the assessments conducted for the land use plan and zoning regulations.

(3) If the planning commission finds new or increased potential impacts from the proposed regulation or amendment to a regulation pursuant to subsection (2)(d), the local government shall collect additional data and conduct additional analysis necessary to provide the planning commission and the public with the opportunity, pursuant to 76-25-106, to comment on and consider all potential impacts resulting from adoption of the subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation.

(4) After meeting the requirements of subsection (2), the planning commission shall make a final recommendation to the governing body to approve, modify, or reject the proposed subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation.

(5) (a) The governing body shall consider each subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation that the planning commission recommends to the governing body.

(b) After providing public notice and participation in accordance with 76-25-106, the governing body may adopt, adopt with revisions that the governing body considers appropriate, or reject the subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation as proposed by the planning commission.

(c) The governing body may not adopt or amend a subdivision regulation unless the governing body finds:

(i) the subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation is in substantial compliance with the land use plan and zoning regulations; and

(ii) the impacts resulting from development in substantial compliance with the proposed subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation have been made available for public review and comment, which have been fully considered by the governing body.

(6) After the subdivision regulation or amendment to a subdivision regulation has been adopted by the governing body, there is a presumption that:

(a) all subdivisions in substantial compliance with the adopted regulation or amendment are in substantial compliance with the land use plan and zoning regulations; and

(b) the public has been provided a meaningful opportunity to participate.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-404. Contents of local subdivision regulations. (1) The subdivision regulations adopted under this part are limited to the following requirements:

(a) the date the regulations initially become effective under this chapter and the effective dates and the ordinance numbers for all subsequent amendments;

(b) design standards for all subdivisions in the jurisdiction, which may be incorporated by reference or may be based on the information and analysis contained in the land use plan and zoning regulations, including:

(i) standards for grading and erosion control;

(ii) standards for the design and arrangement of lots, streets, and roads;

(iii) standards for the location and installation of public utilities, including water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal;

(iv) standards for the provision of other public improvements; and

(v) legal and physical access to all lots;

(c) when a subdivision creates parcels with lot sizes averaging less than 5 acres, a requirement that the subdivider:

(i) reserve all or a portion of the appropriation water rights owned by the owner of the subject property, transfer the water rights to a single entity for use by landowners within the subdivision who have a legal right to the water, and reserve and sever any remaining surface water rights from the land;

(ii) if the land to be subdivided is subject to a contract or interest in a public or private entity formed to provide the use of a water right on the subdivision lots, establish a landowner's water use agreement that is administered through a single entity and that specifies administration and the rights and responsibilities of landowners within the subdivision who have a legal right and access to the water; or

(iii) reserve and sever all surface water rights from the land;

(d) except as provided in subsection (2), a requirement that the subdivider establish ditch easements that:

(i) are in locations of appropriate topographic characteristics and sufficient width to allow the physical placement and unobstructed maintenance of open ditches or belowground pipelines for the delivery of water for irrigation to persons and lands legally entitled to the water under an appropriated water right or permit of an irrigation district or other private or public entity formed to provide for the use of the water right on the subdivision lots;

(ii) unless otherwise provided for under a separate written agreement or filed easement, provide for the unobstructed use and maintenance of existing water delivery ditches, pipelines, and facilities in the subdivision that are necessary to convey water through the subdivision to lands adjacent to or beyond the subdivision boundaries in quantities and in a manner that are consistent with historic and legal rights;

(iii) are a sufficient distance from the centerline of the ditch to allow for construction, repair, maintenance, and inspection of the ditch; and

(iv) prohibit the placement of structures or the planting of vegetation other than grass within the ditch easement without the written permission of the ditch owner;

(e) criteria that the planning administrator must use to determine whether a proposed method of disposition using the exemptions provided in this chapter is an attempt to evade the requirements of this chapter;

(f) a list of the materials that must be included in order for the application to be determined complete;

(g) subject to subsection (4), identification of circumstances or conditions that may necessitate the denial of any or specific types of development, such as unmitigable natural hazards, insufficient water supply, inadequate drainage, lack of access, inadequate public services, or the excessive expenditure of public funds for the supply of the services;

(h) subject to subsection (5), a list of public utilities and agencies of local, state, and federal government that the local government must seek input from during review of an application and for what information or analysis; or

(i) subject to subsection (6), requirements for the dedication of land, cash-in-lieu thereof, or a combination of both for parks and recreation purposes, not to exceed 0.03 acres per dwelling unit.

(2) A land donation under this section may be inside or outside of the subdivision.

(3) The regulations may not require ditch easements if:

(a) the average lot size is 1 acre or less and the subdivider provides for disclosure, in a manner acceptable to the governing body, that adequately notifies potential buyers of lots that are classified as irrigated land that the lots may continue to be assessed for irrigation water delivery even though the water may not be deliverable; or

(b) the water rights are removed or the process has been initiated to remove the water rights from the subdivided land through an appropriate legal or administrative process and the removal or intended removal is denoted on the preliminary plat. If removal of water rights is not complete upon filing of the final plat, the subdivider shall provide written notification to prospective buyers of the intent to remove the water right and shall document that intent, when applicable, in agreements and legal documents for related sales transactions.

(4) (a) The regulations must prohibit development in circumstances or conditions identified in subsection (1)(g) unless the hazards or impacts may be eliminated or overcome by approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures identified in the subdivision regulations.

(b) Approved construction techniques or other mitigation measures described in subsection (4)(a) may not include building regulations as defined in 50-60-101 other than those identified by the department of labor and industry as provided in 50-60-901.

(5) If a proposed subdivision is situated within a rural school district, as described in 20-9-615, the local government shall provide a copy of the application and preliminary plat to the school district.

(6) (a) A park dedication may not be required for:

(i) land proposed for subdivision into parcels larger than 5 acres;

(ii) subdivision into parcels that are all nonresidential;

(iii) a subdivision in which parcels are not created, except when that subdivision provides multiple permanent spaces for recreational camping vehicles, mobile homes, or condominiums; or

(iv) a subdivision in which only one additional parcel is created.

(b) Subject to the approval of the local governing body and acceptance by the school district trustees, a subdivider may dedicate a land donation provided in subsection (6)(a) to a school district to be used for school facilities or buildings.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-405 through 76-25-407 reserved.

76-25-408. Local review procedure for divisions of land. (1) An applicant may request a preapplication submittal and response from the planning administrator prior to submitting a subdivision application. The preapplication review must take place no more than 30 business days from the date that the planning administrator receives a written request for a preapplication review from the subdivider.

(2) On receipt of an application for an exemption from subdivision review under 76-25-402 that contains all materials and information required by the governing body under subsection (5), the local government:

(a) shall approve or deny the application within 20 business days;

(b) may not impose conditions on the approval of an exemption from subdivision review except for conditions necessary to ensure compliance with the survey requirements of 76-25-412(1); and

(c) may require the certificate of survey to be reviewed for errors and omissions in calculation or drafting by an examining land surveyor before filing with the county clerk and recorder. The examining land surveyor shall certify compliance in a printed or stamped certificate signed by the surveyor on the certificate of survey. A professional land surveyor may not act as an examining land surveyor in regard to a certificate of survey in which the surveyor has a financial or personal interest.

(3) (a) When a proposed subdivision lies entirely within an incorporated city or is proposed for annexation into the city, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by the city.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), when a proposed subdivision lies entirely in an unincorporated area, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by the county.

(c) If the proposed subdivision lies within an area subject to increased growth pressures, higher development densities, or other urban development influences identified by either jurisdiction in 76-25-213, the jurisdiction shall provide other impacted jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the application.

(d) If the proposed subdivision lies partly within an incorporated city, the application and preliminary plat must be submitted to and approved by both the city and the county governing bodies.

(4) A subdivision application is considered received on the date the application is delivered to the reviewing agent or agency if accompanied by the review fee.

(5) (a) The planning administrator has 20 business days to determine whether the application contains all information and materials necessary to complete the review of the application as set forth in the local subdivision regulations.

(b) The planning administrator may review subsequent submissions of the application only for information found to be deficient during the original review of the application under subsection (5)(a).

(c) A determination that an application contains sufficient information for review as provided in subsection (5)(a) does not ensure approval or conditional approval of the proposed subdivision and does not limit the ability of the planning administrator to request additional information during the review process.

(6) A subdivider may propose a phasing plan for approval with a preliminary plat. The phasing plan must include a phasing plan and map that demonstrates what lots will be included with each phase, what public facilities will be completed with each phase, and the timeline for the proposed phases.

(7) (a) If an application proposes a subdivision of a site that, with or without variances or deviations from adopted standards, is in substantial compliance with the zoning and subdivision regulations and all impacts resulting from the development were previously analyzed and made available for public review and comment prior to the adoption of the land use plan, zoning regulations, and subdivision regulations, or any amendment thereto, the planning administrator shall issue a written decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the preliminary plat.

(b) The application is not subject to any further public review or comment, except as provided in 76-25-503.

(c) The decision by the planning administrator must be made no later than 15 business days from the date the application is considered complete.

(8) (a) If an application proposes subdivision of a site that, with or without variances or deviations from adopted standards, is in substantial compliance with the zoning and subdivision regulations but may result in new or significantly increased potential impacts that have not been previously identified and considered in the adoption of the land use plan, zoning regulations, or

subdivision regulations, or any amendments thereto, the planning administrator shall proceed as follows:

(i) request the applicant to collect additional data and perform additional analysis necessary to provide the planning administrator and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider the impacts identified in this subsection (8)(a);

(ii) collect additional data or perform additional analysis that the planning administrator determines is necessary to provide the local government and the public with the opportunity to comment on and consider the impacts identified in this subsection (8)(a); and

(iii) provide notice of a written comment period of 15 business days during which the public must have a reasonable opportunity to participate in the consideration of the impacts identified in this subsection (8)(a).

(b) Any additional analysis or public comment on the proposed development is limited to only new or significantly increased potential impacts resulting from the proposed development to the extent that the impact was not previously identified in the consideration and adoption of the land use plan, zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, or any amendments thereto.

(9) Within 30 business days of the end of the written comment period provided in subsection (8)(a)(iii), the planning administrator shall issue a written decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed subdivision application.

(10) The basis of the decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed preliminary plat is based on the administrative record as a whole and a finding that the proposed subdivision:

(a) meets the requirements and standards of this chapter;

(b) meets the survey requirements provided in 76-25-412(1);

(c) provides the necessary easements within and to the proposed subdivision for the location and installation of any planned utilities; and

(d) provides the necessary legal and physical access to each parcel within the proposed subdivision and the required notation of that access on the applicable plat and any instrument of transfer concerning the parcel.

(11) (a) The written decision must identify each finding required in subsection (10) that supports the decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed preliminary plat, including any conditions placed on the approval that must be satisfied before a final plat may be approved.

(b) The written decision must identify all facts that support the basis for each finding and each condition and identify the regulations and statutes used in reaching each finding and each condition.

(c) When requiring mitigation as a condition of approval, a local government may not unreasonably restrict a landowner's ability to develop land. However, in some instances, the local government may determine that the impacts of a proposed development are unmitigable and preclude approval of the subdivision.

(12) The written decision to approve, conditionally approve, or deny a proposed subdivision must:

(a) be provided to the applicant;

(b) be made available to the public;

(c) include information regarding the appeal process; and

(d) state the timeframe the approval is in effect.

(13) The planning administrator's decision is final, and no further action may be taken except as provided in 76-25-503.

(14) Any changes to an approved preliminary plat that increases the number of lots or redesigns or rearranges six or more lots must undergo consideration and approval of an amended plat following the requirements of this section.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-409. Effect of preliminary plat approval. (1) (a) An approved or conditionally approved preliminary plat must be in effect for not more than 5 calendar years and not less than 1 calendar year.

(b) At the end of the period, the planning administrator may, at the request of the subdivider, extend the approval once by written agreement.

(c) On receipt of a request for an extension, the planning administrator shall determine whether the preliminary plat remains in substantial compliance with the zoning and subdivision regulations. If the preliminary plat is no longer in substantial compliance with the zoning or subdivision regulations, the extension may not be granted.

(d) After a preliminary plat is approved, the local government may not impose any additional conditions as a prerequisite to final plat approval if the approval is obtained within the original or extended approval period.

(e) Any subsequent requests by the subdivider for extension of the approval must be reviewed and approved by the governing body.

(2) An approved or conditionally approved phased preliminary plat must be in effect for 20 calendar years.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-410. Local review procedure for final plats. (1) The following must be submitted with a final plat application:

(a) information demonstrating the final plat conforms to the written decision and all conditions of approval set forth on the preliminary plat;

(b) a plat that meets the survey requirements provided in 76-25-412(1); and

(c) confirmation the county treasurer has certified that all real property taxes and special assessments assessed and levied on the land to be subdivided have been paid.

(2) The final plat may be required to be reviewed for errors and omissions in calculation or drafting by an examining land surveyor before filing with the county clerk and recorder. The examining land surveyor shall certify compliance in a printed or stamped certificate signed by the surveyor on the final plat. A professional land surveyor may not act as an examining land surveyor in regard to a plat in which the surveyor has a financial or personal interest.

(3) A final plat application is considered received on the date the application is delivered to the governing body or the agent or agency designated by the governing body if accompanied by the review fee.

(4) (a) Within 10 business days of receipt of a final plat, the planning administrator shall determine whether the final plat contains the information required under subsection (1) and shall notify the subdivider in writing.

(b) If the planning administrator determines that the final plat does not contain the information required under subsection (1), the planning administrator shall identify the final plat's defects in the notification.

(c) The planning administrator may review subsequent submissions of the final plat only for information found to be deficient during the original review of the final plat under subsection (4)(a).

(d) A determination that the application for a final plat contains sufficient information for review as provided in subsection (4)(a) does not ensure approval of the final plat and does not limit the ability of the planning administrator to request additional information during the review process.

(5) Once a determination is made under subsection (4) that the final plat contains the information required under subsection (1), the governing body shall review and approve or deny the final plat within 20 business days.

(6) The subdivider or the subdivider's agent and the governing body or its reviewing agent or agency may mutually agree to extend the review periods provided for in this section.

(7) (a) For a period of 5 years after approval of a phased preliminary plat, the subdivider may apply for final plat of any one or more phases following the process set forth in subsections (1) through (6).

(b) After 5 years have elapsed since approval of a phased preliminary plat, the planning administrator shall review each remaining phase to determine if a phase may result in new or significantly increased potential impacts that have not been previously identified and considered in the adoption of the land use plan, zoning or subdivision regulations, or review and approval of the phased preliminary plat. If the planning administrator identifies any new or significantly increased potential impacts not previously identified and considered, the planning administrator shall proceed as set forth in 76-25-408(8).

(c) If necessary to mitigate impacts identified in subsection (7)(b), the planning administrator may impose conditions on any phase before final plat approval is sought.

History: **En. Sec. 31, Ch. 500, L. 2023.**

76-25-411. Filing and recordation of plats and certificates of survey. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), every final plat or certificate of survey must be filed for record with the county clerk and recorder before title to the land may be sold or transferred in any manner. The clerk and recorder of the county may not accept any final plat or certificate of survey for record that has not been approved in accordance with this part unless the final plat or certificate of survey is located in an area over which the state does not have jurisdiction.

(b) After the preliminary plat of a subdivision has been approved or conditionally approved, the subdivider may enter into contracts to sell lots in the proposed subdivision if all of the following contract conditions are imposed and met:

(i) the purchasers of lots in the proposed subdivision make payments to an escrow agent, which must be a bank or savings and loan association chartered to do business in the state of Montana;

(ii) the payments made by purchasers of lots in the proposed subdivision may not be distributed by the escrow agent to the subdivider until the final plat of the subdivision is filed with the county clerk and recorder;

(iii) if the final plat of the proposed subdivision is not filed with the county clerk and recorder within the approval period of the preliminary plat, the escrow agent shall immediately refund to each purchaser any payments the purchaser has made under the contract;

(iv) the county treasurer has certified that no real property taxes assessed and levied on the land to be divided are delinquent; and

(v) the following language is conspicuously set out in each contract: "The real property that is the subject of this contract has not been finally platted, and until a final plat identifying the property has been filed with the county clerk and recorder, title to the property may not be transferred in any manner".

(2) (a) Subject to subsection (2)(b), no division of land may be made unless the county treasurer has certified that all real property taxes and special assessments assessed and levied on the land to be divided have been paid.

(b) (i) If a division of land includes centrally assessed property and the property taxes applicable to the division of land are not specifically identified in the tax assessment, the department of revenue shall prorate the taxes applicable to the land being divided on a reasonable basis. The owner of the centrally assessed property shall ensure that the prorated real property taxes and special assessments are paid on the land being sold before the division of land is made.

(ii) The county treasurer may accept the amount of the tax prorated pursuant to this subsection (2)(b) as a partial payment of the total tax that is due.

(3) (a) The county clerk and recorder shall maintain an index of all recorded and filed subdivision plats and certificates of survey.

(b) The index must list plats and certificates of survey by the quarter section, section, township, and range in which the platted or surveyed land lies and must list the recording or filing numbers of all plats or certificates of survey depicting lands lying within each quarter section. Each quarter section list must be definitive to the exclusion of all other quarter sections. The index must also list the names of all subdivision plats in alphabetical order and the place where filed.

(4) The recording of any plat made in compliance with the provisions of this chapter must serve to establish the identity of all lands shown on and being part of the plat. When lands are conveyed by reference to a plat, the plat itself or any copy of the plat properly certified by the county clerk and recorder as being a true copy thereof must be regarded as incorporated into the instrument of conveyance and must be received in evidence in all courts of this state.

(5) (a) Any plat prepared and recorded as provided in this part may be vacated either in whole or in part as provided by 7-5-2501, 7-5-2502, 7-14-2616(1) and (2), 7-14-2617, 7-14-4114(1) and (2), and 7-14-4115. Upon vacation, the governing body or the district court, as provided in 7-5-2502, shall determine to which properties the title to the streets and alleys of the vacated

portions must revert. The governing body or the district court, as provided in 7-5-2502, shall take into consideration:

(i) the previous platting;

(ii) the manner in which the right-of-way was originally dedicated, granted, or conveyed;

(iii) the reasons stated in the petition requesting the vacation;

(iv) the parties requesting the vacation; and

(v) any agreements between the adjacent property owners regarding the use of the vacated area. The title to the streets and alleys of the vacated portions may revert to one or more of the owners of the properties within the platted area adjacent to the vacated portions.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5)(a), when any poleline, pipeline, or any other public or private facility is located in a vacated street or alley at the time of the reversion of the title to the vacated street or alley, the owner of the public or private utility facility has an easement over the vacated land to continue the operation and maintenance of the public utility facility.

History: En. Sec. 32, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-412. Survey requirements. (1) Divisions of land under this chapter must follow the uniform standards governing monumentation, certificates of survey, and subdivision plats prescribed and adopted by the board of professional engineers and professional land surveyors.

(2) All division of sections into aliquot parts and retracement of lines must conform to United States bureau of land management instructions, and all public land survey corners must be filed in accordance with Title 70, chapter 22, part 1. Engineering plans, specifications, and reports required in connection with public improvements and other elements of the subdivision required by the governing body must be prepared and filed by a registered engineer or a registered land surveyor, as their respective licensing laws allow, in accordance with this part and regulations adopted pursuant to this part.

(3) All divisions of land for sale other than a subdivision created after July 1, 1974, divided into parcels that cannot be described as 1/32 or larger aliquot parts of a United States government section or a United States government lot must be surveyed by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor. Surveys required under this section must comply with the requirements of subsection (8).

(4) Except as provided in 70-22-105, within 180 days of the completion of a survey, the professional land surveyor responsible for the survey, whether the surveyor is privately or publicly employed, shall prepare and submit for filing a certificate of survey in the county in which the survey was made if the survey:

(a) provides material evidence not appearing on any map filed with the county clerk and recorder or contained in the records of the United States bureau of land management;

(b) reveals a material discrepancy in the map;

(c) discloses evidence to suggest alternate locations of lines or points; or

(d) establishes one or more lines not shown on a recorded map, the positions of which are not ascertainable from an inspection of the map without trigonometric calculations.

(5) A certificate of survey is not required for any survey that is made by the United States bureau of land management, that is preliminary, or that will become part of a subdivision plat being prepared for recording under the provisions of this chapter.

(6) It is the responsibility of the governing body to require the replacement of all monuments removed in the course of construction.

(7) (a) A registered land surveyor may administer and certify oaths when:

(i) it becomes necessary to take testimony for the identification of old corners or reestablishment of lost or obliterated corners;

(ii) a corner or monument is found in a deteriorating condition and it is desirable that evidence concerning it be perpetuated; or

(iii) the importance of the survey makes it desirable to administer an oath to the surveyor's assistants for the faithful performance of their duty.

(b) A record of oaths must be preserved as part of the field notes of the survey and noted on the certificate of survey filed under subsection (4).

(8) (a) (i) A surveyor who completes a survey identified in subsection (8)(b) that establishes or defines a section line and creates a parcel that crosses the established or defined section line

so that an irrigation district assessment boundary is included in more than one section shall note on the survey the acreage of the farm unit or created parcel in each section.

(ii) The surveyor shall notify the appropriate irrigation district of the existence of the survey and the purpose of the survey.

(b) The requirements of subsection (8)(a) apply only to surveys for which the surveyor determines that, based on available public records, the survey involves land:

(i) traversed by a canal or ditch owned by an irrigation district; or

(ii) included in an irrigation district.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-413. Public improvements and extension of capital facilities. (1) Except as provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(c), the governing body shall require the subdivider to complete required improvements within the proposed subdivision prior to the approval of the final plat.

(a) (i) In lieu of the completion of the construction of any public improvements prior to the approval of a final plat, the governing body shall, at the subdivider's option, allow the subdivider to provide or cause to be provided a bond or other reasonable security, in an amount and with surety and conditions satisfactory to the governing body, providing for and securing the construction and installation of the improvements within a period specified by the governing body and expressed in the bonds or other security. The governing body shall reduce bond or security requirements commensurate with the completion of improvements. Failure of the local government to require the renewal of a bond does not waive the subdivider's responsibility to complete the required improvements prior to the approval of the final plat.

(ii) In lieu of requiring a bond or other means of security for the construction or installation of all the required public improvements under subsection (2)(a)(i), the governing body may enter into a subdivision improvements agreement with the subdivider that provides for an incremental payment, guarantee plan, or other method of completing the necessary improvements to serve the development as set forth in the preliminary plat approval.

(b) Approval by the governing body of a final plat prior to the completion of required improvements and without the provision of the security required under subsection (1)(a) is not an act of a legislative body for the purposes of 2-9-111.

(c) The governing body may require a percentage of improvements or specific types of improvements necessary to protect public health and safety to be completed before allowing bonding, other reasonable security, or entering into a subdivision improvements agreement for purposes of filing a final plat. The requirement is applicable to approved preliminary plats.

(2) (a) A local government may require a subdivider to pay or guarantee payment for part or all of the costs of extending capital facilities related to public health and safety, including but not limited to public roads, sewer lines, water supply lines, and storm drains to a subdivision. The costs must reasonably reflect the expected impacts directly attributable to the subdivision. A local government may not require a subdivider to pay or guarantee payment for part or all of the costs of constructing or extending capital facilities related to education.

(b) All fees, costs, or other money paid by a subdivider under this subsection (2) must be expended on the capital facilities for which the payments were required.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

Part 5
Fees, Variances, Appeals, Enforcement, and Penalties

Compiler's Comments

Effective Date: Section 41, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] is effective on passage and approval." Approved May 17, 2023.

Applicability: Section 42, Ch. 500, L. 2023, provided: "[This act] applies to local governments that currently meet the population thresholds in [section 5] [76-25-105]."

76-25-501. Fees. The governing body may establish reasonable fees to be paid by an applicant for a zoning permit, subdivision application, appeals, or any other review performed by the local government pursuant to this chapter to defray the expense of performing the review.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-502. Variances. (1) All land use regulations must include a process for the submission and review of variances.

(2) The application for a variance must be for relief from land or building form design standards or subdivision design and improvement standards.

(3) Variance applications must be considered and approved or approved with conditions before application or in conjunction with application for a zoning permit or subdivision approval.

(4) The granting of a variance must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) the variance is not detrimental to public health, safety or general welfare;

(b) the variance is due to conditions peculiar to the property, such as physical surroundings, shape, or topographical conditions;

(c) strict application of the regulations to the property results in an unnecessary hardship to the owner as compared to others subject to the same regulations and that is not self-imposed;

(d) the variance may not cause a substantial increase in public costs; and

(e) the variance may not place the property in nonconformance with any other regulations.

(5) Additional criteria may apply if the variance is associated with a floodplain or floodway pursuant to the requirements of Title 76, chapter 5.

(6) Variance requests must be reviewed and determined by the planning administrator. The planning administrator's decision is final and no further action may be taken except as provided in 76-25-503.

History: En. Sec. 35, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-503. Appeals. (1) Appeals of any final decisions made pursuant to this chapter must be made in accordance with this section.

(2) For a challenge to the adoption of or amendment to a land use plan, zoning regulation, zoning map, or subdivision regulation, a petition setting forth the basis for the challenge must be presented to the district court within 30 days of the date of the resolution or ordinance adopted by the governing body.

(3) (a) Any final administrative land use decision, including but not limited to approval or denial of a zoning permit, preliminary plat or final plat, imposition of a condition on a zoning permit or plat, approval or denial of a variance from a zoning or subdivision regulation, or interpretation of land use regulations or map may be appealed by the applicant or any aggrieved person to the planning commission.

(b) An appeal under subsection (3)(a) must be submitted in writing within 15 business days of the challenged decision, stating the facts and raising all grounds for appeal that the party may raise in district court.

(c) The planning commission shall hear the appeal de novo. The planning commission is not bound by the decision that has been appealed, but the appeal must be limited to the issues raised on appeal. The appellant has the burden of proving that the appealed decision was made in error.

(d) A decision of the planning commission on appeal takes effect on the date when the planning commission issues a written decision.

(4) (a) Any final land use decision by the planning commission may be appealed by the applicant, planning administrator, or any aggrieved person to the governing body.

(b) An appeal under subsection (4)(a) must be submitted in writing within 15 business days of the challenged decision, stating the facts and raising all grounds for appeal that the party may raise in district court.

(c) The governing body shall hear the appeal de novo. The governing body is not bound by the decision that has been appealed, but the appeal must be limited to the issues raised on appeal. The appellant has the burden of proving that the appealed decision was made in error.

(d) A decision of the governing body on appeal takes effect on the date when the governing body issues a written decision.

(5) (a) No person may challenge in district court a land use decision until that person has exhausted the person's administrative appeal process as provided in this section.

(b) Any final land use decision of the governing body may be challenged by presenting a petition setting forth the grounds for review of a final land use decision with the district court within 30 calendar days after the written decision is issued.

(c) A challenge in district court to a final land use decision of the governing body is limited to the issues raised by the challenger on administrative appeal.

(6) Every final land use decision made pursuant to this section must be based on the administrative record as a whole and must be sustained unless the decision being challenged is arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

(7) Nothing in this chapter is subject to any provision of Title 2, chapter 4.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

76-25-504. Enforcement and penalties. (1) A local government may, by ordinance, establish civil penalties for violations of any of the provisions of this chapter or of any ordinances adopted under the authority of this chapter.

(2) Prior to seeking civil penalties against a property owner, a local government shall provide:

(a) written notice, by mail or hand delivery, of each ordinance violation to the address of the owner of record on file in the office of the county recorder;

(b) a reasonable opportunity to cure a noticed violation; and

(c) a schedule of the civil penalties that may be imposed on the owner for failure to cure the violation before expiration of a time certain.

(3) A local government may, in addition to other remedies provided by law, seek:

(a) an injunction, mandamus, abatement, or any other appropriate action provided for in law;

(b) proceedings to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove an unlawful building, use, occupancy, or act; or

(c) criminal prosecution for violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or of any ordinances adopted under the authority of this chapter as a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $500 per day for each violation.

(4) In any enforcement action taken under this section or remedy sought thereunder, the parties shall pay their own costs and attorney fees.

History: En. Sec. 38, Ch. 500, L. 2023.

TITLE 77

STATE LANDS

Ch.
1. Administration of State Lands.
2. Transfers and Reservations of Property Interests.
3. Rock, Mineral, Coal, Oil, and Gas Resources.
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ADMINISTRATION OF STATE LANDS

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77-1-1117. Board to adopt rules.

Part 1
General Provisions

Part Cross-References

State lands — public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2, Mont. Const.
Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Income from state lands — public school fund, Art. X, sec. 5, Mont. Const.
State university funds from state lands, Art. X, sec. 10, Mont. Const.
Public land trust — disposition, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Public land access, Title 76, ch. 17.
Income from land not held in trust — credit to general fund, 77-3-436.

77-1-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise and except for the definition of state land in 77-1-701, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Board" means the board of land commissioners provided for in Article X, section 4, of the Montana constitution.

(2) "Commercial or concentrated recreational use" means any recreational use that is organized, developed, or coordinated, whether for profit or otherwise. Commercial or concentrated recreational use includes all outfitting activity and all activities not included within the definition of general recreational use.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 33.

(4) "Distributable revenue" applies to all land trusts managed by the board, except property held pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329, and includes:

(a) 95% of all revenue from the management of school trust lands and the common school permanent fund, except for mineral royalties or land sale proceeds that are deposited directly in the permanent fund;

(b) the interest and income described in 20-9-341, less any unrealized gains or losses;

(c) the interest and income received from the leasing, licensing, or other use of state trust lands; and

(d) subject to 17-3-1003, the proceeds and income from the sale of timber from capitol building land grant and university system lands.

(5) (a) "General recreational use" includes noncommercial and nonconcentrated hunting, fishing, and other activities determined by the board to be compatible with the use of state lands.

(b) The term does not include the use of streams and rivers by the public under the stream access laws provided in Title 23, chapter 2, part 3.

(6) "Legally accessible state lands" means state lands that can be accessed by:

(a) dedicated public road, right-of-way, or easement;

(b) public waters;

(c) adjacent federal, state, county, or municipal land if the land is open to public use; or

(d) adjacent contiguous private land if permission to cross the land has been secured from the landowner. The granting of permission by a private landowner to cross private property in a particular instance does not subject the state land that is accessed to general recreational use by members of the public, other than those granted permission.

(7) "Noxious weeds" or "weeds" means any exotic plant species established or that may be introduced in the state that may render land unfit for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife, or other beneficial uses or that may harm native plant communities and that is designated:

(a) as a statewide noxious weed by rule of the department of agriculture; or

(b) as a district noxious weed by a district weed board organized under 7-22-2103.

(8) (a) "State land" or "lands" means:

(i) lands granted to the state by the United States for any purpose, either directly or through exchange for other lands;

(ii) lands deeded or devised to the state from any person; and

(iii) lands that are the property of the state through the operation of law.

(b) The term does not include:

(i) lands that the state conveys through the issuance of patent;

(ii) lands that are used for building sites, campus grounds, or experimental purposes by a state institution and that are the property of that institution;

(iii) lands that the board of regents of higher education has authority to dispose of pursuant to 20-25-307; or

(iv) lands acquired through investments under the provisions of 17-6-201.

(9) "State trust land" means lands or property interests held in trust by the state:

(a) under Article X, sections 2 and 11, of the Montana constitution;

(b) through The Enabling Act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended; and

(c) through the operation of law for specified trust beneficiaries.

(10) "Weed management" or "control" has the meaning provided in 7-22-2101.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 203, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-102; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 370, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 313, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 32, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 164, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 93, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Lands granted to state by United States, The Enabling Act (see anno. vol. 1): sec. 4 (title to; jurisdiction over); sec. 10 (school support); sec. 11 (sale and lease of); sec. 12 (in aid of public buildings); sec. 14 (selection of; for universities); sec. 15 (for Deer Lodge prison); sec. 16 (agricultural college); sec. 17 (in aid of public buildings); and sec. 19 (manner of selection).

Capitol building lands, 18-2-107.
Property of state — what included, 70-1-202.
Acceptance of federal land by Board of Land Commissioners, 77-1-211.

77-1-102. Ownership of certain islands and riverbeds. (1) The following lands belong to the state of Montana to be held in trust for the benefit of the public schools of the state:

(a) all islands existing in the navigable streams or lakes in this state that have not been surveyed by the government of the United States; and

(b) all lands that at any time in the past constituted an island or part of an island in a navigable stream or lake.

(2) This section does not apply to lands that are occupied by and belong to riparian landowners if the lands were formed by accretions.

(3) State-owned riverbeds are public lands of the state that are held in trust for the people as provided in Article X, section 11, of the Montana constitution.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 36, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2301; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 371, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 210, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Ownership of land bounded by water, 70-16-201.
Islands and accretion, Title 70, ch. 18, part 2.
Navigable waters, 85-1-112.

77-1-103. Administration of lands. (1) The board shall sell lands under 77-1-102(1) in the same manner as other school lands of the state are sold.

(2) The board may sell the lands under 77-1-102(1) or lease the lands under 77-1-102 without having them surveyed unless the board considers it to be to the best interests of the state to have the lands surveyed as in 77-1-104.

(3) The proceeds from the leasing and sale of the lands under 77-1-102 must be disposed of in the same manner as disposition is made of the proceeds from the leasing and sale of school lands of the state.

(4) The income received from the leasing, licensing, or other use of lands under 77-1-102(1) or riverbeds under 77-1-102(3) must be deposited in accordance with 17-3-1003(5).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 36, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2302; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 371, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

Cross-References

Disposition of proceeds from sale, 77-2-337.
Disposition of proceeds from lease, 77-3-106 (mining leases); 77-3-206 (nonmetallic minerals); 77-3-318 (coal); 77-3-436 (oil); 77-4-127 (geothermal).

77-1-104. Survey of lands. If the board considers it necessary that any of the lands mentioned in 77-1-102 be surveyed, it must have the lands surveyed by the county surveyor of the county in which the lands are located. If there is no county surveyor, if the county surveyor is unable to make the survey, or if the best interests of the state require, the board shall appoint a qualified surveyor to make the surveys. The county surveyor or other surveyor appointed shall make an actual survey establishing four corners of every quarter section and connecting the same with a United States survey and within 30 days after the survey file with the county clerk and recorder of that county a copy under oath of the surveyor's field notes and plat and a certified copy of the field notes and plat with the department. For the services required in connection with the survey, the county surveyor or other surveyor appointed is entitled to fees as prescribed in 7-4-2821. The fees must be paid in the same manner as other expenses of the department.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 36, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 105, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2303; amd. Sec. 2535, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

County Surveyor, Title 7, ch. 4, part 28.
Engineers and land surveyors, Title 37, ch. 67.

77-1-105. Determining title. The board may take all proper proceedings for the purpose of determining the title to the beds of lakes and other bodies of water and of streams within the state and to that end may bring or defend suits or other proceedings in court or before other proper tribunals.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 148, L. 1937; Sec. 81-614, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-2305 and amd. by Sec. 46, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2305.

Cross-References

Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3, Mont. Const.
Suits affecting title — Governor may require Attorney General to appear, 2-15-201.
Limitations on actions concerning real property — state, Title 70, ch. 19, part 3.
Quieting title to real property, Title 70, ch. 28.

77-1-106. *(Temporary)* **Setting of rates or fees — rules.** (1) In setting the lease rental rates, agreement rates, or fees for the use of state lands and cabin sites, the board shall consider the impact of the uses on the school trust asset, lessee expenses for management, water development, weed control, fire control, the term of the lease, the production capabilities, the conditions on the lease payment, and any other required expenses reasonably borne by the lessee. In setting cabin site lease rates, the board shall consider expenses that are commonly incurred by the lessees to preserve the value of the state land or to provide services commonly provided by private lessors in the area.

(2) All lease rental rates, agreement rates, and fees established by the board under 77-1-208, 77-1-802, 77-1-815, 77-6-202, 77-6-501, 77-6-502, and 77-6-507 must consider the trust asset and be in the best interests of the state with regard to the long-term productivity of the school trust lands, while optimizing the return to the school trust.

(3) The board shall comply with Title 2, chapter 4, part 3, in setting rental rates, agreement rates, and license fees pursuant to 77-1-208, 77-1-802, 77-1-815, 77-6-202, 77-6-501, 77-6-502, and 77-6-507. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

77-1-106. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Setting of rates or fees — rules.** (1) In setting the lease rental rates or fees for the use of state lands and cabin sites, the board shall consider the impact of the uses on the school trust asset, lessee expenses for management, water development, weed control, fire control, the term of the lease, the production capabilities, the conditions on the lease payment, and any other required expenses reasonably borne by the lessee. In setting cabin site lease rates, the board shall consider expenses that are commonly incurred by the lessees to preserve the value of the state land or to provide services commonly provided by private lessors in the area.

(2) All lease rental rates and fees established by the board under 77-1-208, 77-1-802, 77-6-202, 77-6-501, 77-6-502, and 77-6-507 must consider the trust asset and be in the best interests of the state with regard to the long-term productivity of the school trust lands, while optimizing the return to the school trust.

(3) The board shall comply with Title 2, chapter 4, part 3, in setting rental rates and license fees pursuant to 77-1-208, 77-1-802, 77-6-202, 77-6-501, 77-6-502, and 77-6-507.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 586, L. 1993; (3)En. Sec. 10, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 596, L. 2003.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

77-1-107. Purchase of historic easement across state land for benefit of private land. If a historic easement or right-of-way for access to private land exists across state land, the person owning the private land may purchase the nonexclusive easement as a permanent, nonexclusive easement. Upon receipt of the fair market value of the easement and proof of the existence of the easement or right-of-way and the purpose and proposed purchaser's use of the nonexclusive easement, the board may sell a permanent nonexclusive easement if it is across school land or other land granted to the state for the support and benefit of a state institution and shall sell a permanent nonexclusive easement if it is across other state land.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1999.**

77-1-108. Trust land administration account — administrative costs — appropriation. (1) There is a trust land administration account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the account is available to the department by appropriation and must be used to pay the costs of administering state trust lands. This includes the cost of managing assets, including but not limited to real property and monetary assets.

(2) Appropriations from the account for each fiscal year may not exceed an amount equal to 25% of the distributable revenue, as defined in 77-1-101, generated in the fiscal year completed prior to the legislative session that will appropriate money for the next biennium. This excludes revenue generated by the forest improvement fee provided for in 77-5-204.

(3) (a) Pursuant to subsection (1), the administrative costs must be determined for each land trust. The department may adopt rules regarding the calculation of administrative costs as necessary.

(b) Each fiscal year, the department shall compare administrative costs for each land trust to the amount of revenue that land trust generates for the account. If the amount of revenue deposited pursuant to 77-1-109(2) exceeds the administrative costs for a specific land trust, the excess revenue must be distributed as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(c) If revenue deposited from a specific land trust is insufficient to defray the administrative costs associated with managing that land trust and the money held for that trust in the earnings reserve account established in 77-1-132 is also insufficient, the board may receive a general fund loan pursuant to 17-2-107 to offset the difference. A general fund loan made pursuant to this subsection (3)(c) must be repaid within 5 years and must bear interest at a rate of return equal to that earned by the board of investments' short-term investment pool during that period.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (5), up to one-third of the unreserved distributable revenue remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year may be transferred to the earnings reserve account provided for in 77-1-132 and accounted for by trust. The remaining unreserved revenue must be transferred to each of the permanent funds in proportionate shares to each fund's contribution to the account.

(b) At the end of the fiscal year, unreserved funds received pursuant to 77-1-109(2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii) must be transferred to each of the permanent funds or to the appropriate trust or distributed to the beneficiary in proportionate shares to each fund's contribution to the account.

(5) (a) The amount of $80,000 each biennium is transferred from the state general fund to an account in the state special revenue fund. The account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for the purposes of administering the land granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329. Any unexpended portion of the statutory appropriation may be retained in the account and used for the administration of the Morrill Act land.

(b) At the end of each fiscal year, the department shall pay from the appropriation in subsection (5)(a) to the trust containing proceeds derived from land granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329, an amount calculated to be the cost of administering the investment of the fund derived from that trust. The payment must be based upon the percentage that the Morrill Act fund constitutes of the total fund derived from all trust lands. If the appropriation in subsection (5)(a) is insufficient to pay the calculated administrative cost, a general fund loan may be used pursuant to 17-2-107 to offset the difference.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 34, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 465, L. 2009.**

77-1-109. Deposits of proceeds in trust land administration account. (1) The amount of money that is deposited into the trust land administration account established in 77-1-108 may not exceed an amount equal to 25% of distributable revenue generated in the fiscal year completed prior to the legislative session that will appropriate money for the next biennium. This excludes revenue generated by the forest improvement fee provided for in 77-5-204.

(2) (a) Subject to subsection (1), the department shall deposit into the trust land administration account the following:

(i) distributable revenue;

(ii) the proceeds or income from the sale of easements and timber, except timber from public school and Montana university system lands;

(iii) mineral royalties; and

(iv) fees collected pursuant to 77-2-328.

(b) As deposits are made, they must be identified and accounted for by trust.

(c) The department may not make deductions from interest or income generated from lands granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329.

(3) After the deposits in subsection (2) have been made, the remainder of the proceeds, other than proceeds from timber from Montana university system lands, must be deposited in accordance with 17-3-1003, 18-2-107, and 20-9-341(2). Timber proceeds from university system lands must be paid over to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the money to the credit of the proper fund for use as provided in 17-3-1003.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 34, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 420, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 291, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 17, L. 2013.

77-1-110. Written undertaking required in legal action for challenge to use or disposition of state lands. (1) The purpose of this section is to advance the legitimate state interest in the protection of state trust assets as provided for in Article X, section 11, of the Montana constitution.

(2) In any civil action seeking an injunction or restraining order concerning a decision of the board or department approving a use or disposition of state lands that would produce revenue for any state lands trust beneficiary, the court shall require a written undertaking for the payment of damages that may be incurred by the trust beneficiary if the board or the department is wrongfully enjoined or restrained.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 504, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Undertakings for security, Title 25, ch. 1, part 4.
Injunctions, Title 27, ch. 19.

77-1-111. Court actions. (1) All actions for the recovery of money due under this title or for the cancellation of leases or for the cancellation of certificates of purchase or patents or for the recovery of state lands, actions of forcible entry and detainer, actions for ejectment, and all other actions affecting any state lands are controlled, as to venue, by the provisions of the rules of civil procedure relating to the place of trial of civil actions and must be conducted by the attorney general.

(2) When requested by the attorney general, the county attorney of each county in the state shall represent the state in all foreclosure proceedings, collections of delinquent rentals, actions for trespass on state lands, and in all other state land matters that may arise in the county attorney's county. The county attorney is not entitled to charge the state any compensation for services beyond the county attorney's regular salary.

(3) The use of a ford or crossing on a navigable river or stream may not be considered a trespass.

History: (1)En. Sec. 100, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1921, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1921, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 79-1503, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 112, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.112, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1015, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 79-1503, 81-1015; amd. Sec. 2536, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Suits affecting title — Governor may require Attorney General to appear, 2-15-201.
Duties of Attorney General, 2-15-501.
Duties of County Attorney to state, 7-4-2716, 7-4-2717.
Venue — real property actions, 25-2-123.
Action for recovery of real property, 70-19-102.
Provisions relating to state in real property actions, Title 70, ch. 19, part 3.
Forcible entry and detainer, Title 70, ch. 27.
Procedure for default in land purchases from state, 77-2-332.
State land patents — generally, 77-2-341 through 77-2-345.

77-1-112. Violations classified. (1) Any officer, employee, or representative of the state who directly or indirectly accepts any money or any other valuable thing, except the officer's, employee's, or representative's regular and lawful compensation, for performing or not performing an official act under the provisions of this title or for modifying the performance of an official act is guilty of a felony and is punishable as provided in 77-1-115.

(2) Any officer, employee, or representative of the state who knowingly and willfully makes any false classification or appraisal of any state land or of any land offered the state for sale or offered as security for a loan from the state or who falsely classifies or scales any timber on state lands or from state lands or any timber in which the state is interested or who knowingly and willfully makes any false report of any classification or appraisal or scaling is guilty of a felony and is punishable as provided in 77-1-115.

(3) (a) Any officer, employee, or representative of the state who otherwise violates any of the provisions of this title:

(i) is guilty of a felony if the violation results in a loss to the state of $1,000 or more; or

(ii) is guilty of a misdemeanor if the violation results in a loss to the state of less than $1,000 or in no pecuniary loss.

(b) The punishment shall be as provided in 77-1-115.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 118, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.118, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1111, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 106, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1927, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1927, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 79-1504, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 79-1504, 81-1111; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2537, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Public employee standards of conduct, Title 2, ch. 2.
Bribery, 45-7-101.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

77-1-113. Restrictions on who may buy or lease state lands. It is unlawful for any member of the board, any person appraising lands or in the employ of the state for the selection, classification, appraisal, sale, or leasing of any state lands or the timber on state lands, or any officer or employee of the department to purchase or lease, directly or indirectly, any state lands or any timber on state lands.

History: En. Sec. 117, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.117, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 75, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1110; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 314, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Public officers not to have interest in contracts, 2-2-201.

77-1-114. Prosecutions. (1) Whenever an arrest is made for any violation of the provisions of this title or whenever any information of a violation is given to the the county attorney of the county in which this act was committed, the county attorney shall prosecute the offender or offenders if in the county attorney's judgment the facts warrant the prosecution.

(2) If a county attorney fails to comply with the provisions of this section, the county attorney is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than $100 or more than $1,000. Upon the county attorney's conviction, the district court in which the county attorney is convicted shall declare the county attorney's office vacant and notify the proper appointing power. Actions against the county attorney must be brought by the attorney general in the name of the state.

(3) The penalties of this section also apply to any magistrate with proper authority who refuses or neglects to cause the arrest and prosecution of any person when a complaint under oath of a violation of any of the provisions of this title has been lodged with the magistrate.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1839, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1839, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1416; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2538, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Forfeiture of office — criminal conviction, 2-16-501, 45-7-401.
Vacancies in office, 7-4-2206.
Duties of County Attorney to state, 7-4-2716.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

77-1-115. Punishments. (1) An officer, employee, or representative of the state who is found guilty of a felony as defined in 77-1-112 is punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary for not less than 1 or more than 10 years, by a fine that may not be less than $500 or less than twice the amount of the loss that resulted to the state through the crime of which the officer, employee, or representative has been convicted, or by both.

(2) An officer, employee, or representative of the state who is found guilty of a misdemeanor as defined in 77-1-112 is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed 1 year, by a fine that may not be less than $100 or less than twice the amount of the loss that resulted to the state through the crime of which the officer, employee, or representative has been convicted, or by both.

History: En. Sec. 119, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.119, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1112; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2539, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Forfeiture of office — criminal conviction, 2-16-501, 45-7-401.

77-1-116. Additional penalty. In addition to the penalties provided for in this code against those committing trespass upon any of the lands owned or held in trust or otherwise by the state, the board is hereby authorized and empowered, without legal process, to seize and take or cause to be seized and taken any and all lumber, wood, grass, or other property unlawfully severed from the lands, whether the same has been removed from said lands or not, and may dispose of the same at either public or private sale in such manner as will be most conducive to the interests of the state, and all moneys arising therefrom, after deducting the reasonable and necessary expenses of such seizure and sale, shall be a part of the permanent fund to which such lands may belong.

History: En. Sec. 7, p. 49, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 3566, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2219, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1879, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1879, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1602.

Cross-References

Criminal trespass to land, 45-6-203.
Trespass for taking timber, 70-16-107.

77-1-117. Disposition of fines and judgment proceeds. (1) Unless otherwise provided, all money received as fines, fees, and forfeitures under this title or as penalties for the violation of any of the land laws of this state, except money received by a justice's court, must be paid to the department of revenue for deposit in the general fund.

(2) Unless otherwise provided, all money, including interest, awarded by a court as compensatory damages under this title or any of the land laws of this state for the wrongful use or occupation of state lands must be deposited in the account or fund in which the money would have been deposited had the party assessed with the damages complied with the land laws of this state and may be paid out of the account or fund only through an appropriation by the legislature.

History: En. Sec. 104, Ch. 147, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1917; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1919; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1919, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1919, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 79-1502; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 557, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 257, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 413, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Collection and disposition of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and fees, 3-10-601.
General fund, 17-2-102.

77-1-118. Use of exploding targets prohibited — definition — penalty. (1) The use of exploding targets on properties managed pursuant to this title is prohibited when the department of natural resources and conservation determines that fire danger is high, very high, or extreme.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "exploding targets" means commercial targets that explode when impacted by a high-velocity projectile or targets created by combining components, including but not limited to ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder, that explode when impacted by a high-velocity projectile.

(3) A person convicted of a violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than $500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 513, L. 2021.

77-1-119 reserved.

77-1-120. Terminated. Sec. 17, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

77-1-121. Environmental review compliance — exemptions. (1) Except as provided in 77-1-122, 77-1-1112, and subsection (2) of this section, the department and board are required to comply with the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when implementing provisions within this title only if the department is actively proposing a sale or exchange or to issue a right-of-way, easement, placement of improvement, lease, license, or permit or is acting in response to an application for an authorization for a proposal.

(2) The department and board are exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when issuing any lease or license that expressly states that the lease or license is subject to further permitting under any of the provisions of Title 75 or 82.

(3) Except for rulemaking and as provided in subsection (1), the department and board are otherwise exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when implementing provisions within this title, including but not limited to the issuance of lease renewals. The department and board do not have an obligation to comply with the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when implementing provisions within this title if the department or board chooses not to take any action, even though either may have the authority to take an action.

(4) The department and board are exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when taking actions, including preparing plans or proposals, in relation to and in compliance with the following local government actions:

(a) development or adoption of a growth policy or a neighborhood plan pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1;

(b) development or adoption of zoning regulations;

(c) review of a proposed subdivision pursuant to Title 76, chapter 3;

(d) actions related to annexation;

(e) development or adoption of plans or reports on extension of services; and

(f) other actions that are related to local planning.

(5) The department and board are exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, when authorizing the following actions related to agricultural or grazing leases under Title 77, chapter 6, part 1:

(a) the repair, maintenance, or replacement of infrastructure;

(b) water developments that have a de minimis impact on the environment, including but not limited to placement of stockwater tanks and pipeline; and

(c) routine herbicide applications.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 223, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 478, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 318, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 239, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 359, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 63, L. 2023. Amendment effective March 16, 2023.

77-1-122. Environmental review of energy development projects on state land. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the scope of any environmental review under Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, for a proposed action on state land is limited to the impacts of the proposed action within the boundaries of the state land parcel or parcels in which the proposed state action is taking place if the:

(a) board or the department, pursuant to this title, is proposing a sale or exchange or to issue a right-of-way, easement, placement of improvement, lease, license, or permit or if the department or board is acting in response to an application for an authorization for a proposal; and

(b) state action is part of a larger energy development project that includes private or federal land that is not subject to permitting or certification under Title 75 or Title 82.

(2) If more than 33% of the total land area physically occupied by the proposed energy development project provided for in subsection (1) is state land, then the scope of the environmental review under Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2, for the proposed action must include the total land area, including federal and private land, that will be occupied by the proposed energy development project.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 239, L. 2009.

77-1-123 and 77-1-124 reserved.

77-1-125. Liability for unauthorized installation or construction of facility or structure on state trust land — penalty. (1) A person, other than the lessee of the affected state trust land, may not, after September 30, 1997:

(a) install or construct a road, pipeline, ditch, utility line, fence, building, or other facility or structure on state trust land without obtaining an easement, lease, license, or other written permission of the department; or

(b) disturb state trust land in anticipation of the installation or construction of the facility or structure.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) is liable to the department for a civil penalty in an amount determined by the board. The penalty may be an amount up to three times the full market value of the land disturbed or affected or $500, whichever is greater.

(3) In addition to the penalty provided for in subsection (2), a person who installs or constructs a facility or structure on state trust land without permission is liable for any permanent damage to the state trust land and may be required to remove the facility or structure and to reclaim the disturbed land to the satisfaction of the department or to pay the department's cost of removal and reclamation.

(4) If the department allows the facility or structure to remain on state trust land, the department shall also require payment of full market value of any easement, lease, or license required for the facility or structure.

(5) The penalties provided in this section do not apply to the lessee of the affected state trust land. The remedies and penalties provided in a state trust easement, lease, or license and the statutes and regulations under which the easement, lease, or license was entered are the exclusive remedies and penalties that may be applied to a lessee.

(6) The penalties provided in this section do not apply to persons who have inadvertently installed or constructed pipelines or utility lines within 20 feet of the easement boundaries granted by the state.

(7) The penalties provided in this section do not apply to facilities or structures installed on lands acquired by the state through exchange or purchase that were authorized with the permission of the previous landowner or through authority granted by an appropriate government agency.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 460, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 275, L. 2017.

77-1-126. Notice of noncompliance. (1) When the department finds that noxious weeds on leased state land or on state land subject to a license or permit have not been controlled as required by 7-22-2116, the lease, the license, or the permit, the department shall contact the lessee, licensee, or permittee and require that a weed management and control program be implemented. The lessee, licensee, or permittee may request that an inspection of the state land be made with department staff. The department shall seek voluntary compliance with a noxious weed management and control program for the state lands prior to issuing a notice of noncompliance. If the lessee, licensee, or permittee fails to implement a weed management and control program when directed by the department, the department shall notify the lessee, licensee, or permittee by mail of the noncompliance. The notice must specify:

(a) the basis for the determination of noncompliance;

(b) the geographic location of the area of noncompliance by legal description or other reasonably identifiable description;

(c) measures to be undertaken in order to comply with the weed control responsibilities of the lease, license, or permit;

(d) a reasonable period of time, not less than 15 days, in which compliance measures must be initiated;

(e) the right of the person to request, within 15 days, an administrative hearing as provided by 77-1-128; and

(f) the right of the person to request an extension if the measures in subsection (1)(c) cannot be implemented due to climatic or growing conditions.

(2) At least 2 weeks prior to sending a notice of noncompliance, the department shall send by certified mail to the lessee, licensee, or permittee a final notice that the weed management and control program has not been implemented.

(3) This section may not be construed to interfere with the right of the owner of property adjacent to a navigable river or stream to control noxious weeds on the land adjacent to the navigable river or stream.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 164, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

77-1-127. Department authorized to control weeds — billing for weed control. (1) If the lessee, licensee, or permittee fails to take corrective action or if a request for an administrative hearing is not made within the time specified in the notice, the department may enter state land covered by the lease, license, or permit and institute appropriate weed control measures. The department may enter into an agreement with a commercial applicator, as defined in 80-8-102, or with the appropriate weed management district organized under 7-22-2102 to control the weeds. The commercial applicator or the weed management district shall agree to carry any insurance required by the department.

(2) The department shall submit a bill to the lessee, licensee, or permittee itemizing the hours of labor, material, and equipment time and listing the actual total cost incurred by the department to take the weed control measures, together with a penalty not exceeding 50% of the total cost. The bill must specify and order a payment due date of 30 days from the date the bill is sent. If payment is not received within 30 days, the department may cancel the lease, license, or permit. Money recovered under this section must be placed in the trust land administration account established in 77-1-108, except that penalties collected must be distributed annually to the trusts for the lands on which the weed control action was taken.

(3) If a person receiving an order to take corrective action requests an administrative hearing, the department may not institute control measures until the matter is finally resolved, except in case of an emergency. In an emergency, the person is liable for department costs allowed by this section only to the extent determined appropriate by the director or the court that finally resolves the matter.

(4) This section may not be construed to interfere with the right of the owner of property adjacent to a navigable river or stream to control noxious weeds on the land adjacent to the navigable river or stream.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 164, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

77-1-128. Administrative hearings. (1) A person adversely affected by any notice, action, or order of the department may, within the timeframe stated in the notice of noncompliance provided for in 77-1-126, request an administrative hearing before the director or the director's designee. The director or the director's designee shall hold a hearing within 30 days of the request. Participants may be represented by legal counsel. The director or the director's designee shall make a record of the proceeding and enter an order and findings within 30 days after the hearing.

(2) Within 30 days after the director or the director's designee renders an order and findings, the person adversely affected may file a petition in district court requesting that the order and findings be set aside or modified. The court may affirm, modify, or set aside the order complained of, in whole or in part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 164, L. 2007.

77-1-129. Rulemaking authority. The department may adopt rules to implement 77-1-126 through 77-1-128.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 164, L. 2007.

77-1-130. *(Temporary)* **Recognition of historic right-of-way — criteria for right-of-way deed — conditions — fees.** (1) A person or a county may apply to the department for a historic right-of-way deed to provide access to the applicant's private property, to provide continuation of a county road, or to provide for authorization of existing utilities by filing an application with the department by October 1, 2021, on a form prescribed by the department. An application must be accompanied by:

(a) an application fee of $50;

(b) a notarized affidavit:

(i) demonstrating that the applicant or the applicant's predecessor in interest used the right-of-way applied for before 1997 and that the use has continued to the present;

(ii) describing the purpose for which the right-of-way was used before 1997; and

(iii) demonstrating that the historic right-of-way applied for is the right-of-way demonstrated in the evidence provided in subsection (1)(c); and

(c) (i) aerial photographs or images taken by an agency of the United States demonstrating use of the right-of-way applied for; or

(ii) other evidence of the use of the right-of-way applied for.

(2) The department shall review an application and other evidence submitted pursuant to subsection (1) and shall issue a historic right-of-way deed in the name of the applicant if:

(a) the applicant pays the application fee provided in subsection (1)(a) and the full market value of the historic right-of-way as provided in subsection (4);

(b) the applicant has shown by substantial evidence the matters required in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c)(i) or (1)(c)(ii);

(c) the department has, if necessary, made a field inspection of the right-of-way applied for; and

(d) the deed is approved by the board.

(3) A historic right-of-way deed issued in the name of the applicant must contain the description of the property of the applicant to which it is appurtenant as provided in the application, and the right-of-way must thereafter be considered appurtenant to that dominant estate. A deed may be assigned by the applicant to the applicant's successor in interest with the approval of the department. The department may not withhold approval for any reason other than that the use of the historic right-of-way is contrary to subsection (5).

(4) (a) At the time of issuing the historic right-of-way deed, the department shall collect from the applicant the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of for the historic right-of-way.

(b) The amount collected pursuant to subsection (4)(a) must be deposited in the appropriate trust fund established for receipt of income from the land over which a historic right-of-way is granted.

(5) If application is made in accordance with this section, a historic right-of-way deed must be issued by the department, subject to the approval of the board, on the following terms:

(a) the right-of-way is only for the minimum width necessary, as negotiated by the department and the applicant; and

(b) the right-of-way is only for the physical condition of the road or utility facilities existing on the date the historic right-of-way deed is issued by the department.

(6) Issuance of a historic right-of-way deed pursuant to this section is exempt from the requirements of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2.

(7) The survey requirements of 77-2-102 may be waived by the department for the issuance of a historic right-of-way deed if the department determines that there is sufficient information available to define the boundaries of the right-of-way for the purposes of recording the easement.

(8) The department may attach conditions to a historic right-of-way deed necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter.

(9) For the purposes of this section, "historic right-of-way deed" means a document issued by the department granting to the applicant a nonexclusive easement over state land. *(Terminates October 1, 2031—secs. 2 through 7, Ch. 325, L. 2015.)*

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 461, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 270, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 57, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 325, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 411, L. 2017.**

Cross-References

Antiquities, Title 22, ch. 3, part 4.
General provisions, Title 75, ch. 1, part 1.
Environmental impact statements, Title 75, ch. 1, part 2.
Application for easement, 77-2-102.

77-1-131. *(Temporary)* **State lands historic right-of-way account.** There is a state lands historic right-of-way account in the state special revenue fund. The application fee collected by the department pursuant to 77-1-130(1)(a) must be deposited in the account. Money in the account must be used for the expenses of the department in administering 77-1-130. Money in the account on the termination date of the account must be deposited in the general fund. *(Terminates October 1, 2031—secs. 2 through 5, Ch. 325, L. 2015.)*

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 461, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 389, L. 1999.**

77-1-132. Earnings reserve account. (1) There is an earnings reserve account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) Funds are deposited in the earnings reserve account in accordance with the provisions of 77-1-108(4)(a) and must be accounted for by trust.

(3) The balance of this account may not exceed two times the appropriation to the trust land administration account for the last completed fiscal year prior to the legislative session that will appropriate money for the next biennium.

(4) The earnings reserve account must be invested. Any interest earned must be deposited in the earnings reserve account in proportionate share to each fund's contribution to the account.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

77-1-133 reserved.

77-1-134. Irrigation structures, utility structures, and bridges of formerly taxable land — water rights. (1) If an irrigation structure, a utility structure, or a bridge was placed on land that consists of the bed of a navigable river or stream, the irrigation structure, utility structure, or bridge remains the property of the original owner or the original owner's successors in interest or assignees. Subject to 77-1-1112(10), access to the irrigation structures, utility structures, and bridges described in this section for the purposes of operation, maintenance, repair, enhancement, or improvement may not be impeded by the state.

(2) Subject to 77-1-1112(10), the change of designation of the bed of a navigable river or stream from a taxable to a nontaxable status may not interfere with or impede the exercise of a water right, including a livestock watering right for which a claim was not required to be filed pursuant to 85-2-212 and 85-2-222.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 472, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 359, L. 2011.

77-1-135. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

77-1-136. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

77-1-137. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

77-1-138. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

77-1-139. Terminated. Sec. 7, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 380, L. 1999.

77-1-140 reserved.

77-1-141. Determination of date of delivery. The date of delivery for a lease, license, permit, or agreement issued by the board or department under this title or under a rule implementing this title or for a document or payment required by the terms of the lease, license, permit, or agreement is:

(1) for mailing by means of the United States postal service, the date of the postmark stamped on the cover in which the document or payment is transmitted; or

(2) for delivery by means other than by the United States postal service or if there is no postmark stamped on a mailing delivered by the United States postal service, the date of actual physical receipt by the department.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 2001.

77-1-142 through 77-1-144 reserved.

77-1-145. Enabling Act enforcement — findings. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) section 13 of The Enabling Act requires that 5% of the proceeds from public lands in Montana sold by the United States, after deduction of expenses, must be paid to the state for the support of the common schools;

(b) the United States incorrectly interprets The Enabling Act provision cited in subsection (1)(a) to only include the sale of lands managed by the secretary of the interior; and

(c) the United States owes Montana 5% of the proceeds of all public land in Montana sold by the United States government since November 8, 1889.

(2) The attorney general shall pursue, to the extent feasible using available state resources, payment of the funds owed to Montana pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) Any money paid to the state pursuant to this section must be deposited in the permanent fund for the support of common schools as referenced in section 13 of The Enabling Act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 345, L. 2015.

Part 2
Board of Land Commissioners

77-1-201. Board — meetings and officers. (1) The board shall hold regular meetings at least once each month and may hold special meetings whenever considered necessary upon call of the president or a majority of the members.

(2) Three members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The governor is the president of the board. In the governor's absence, the lieutenant governor shall preside, and in the lieutenant governor's absence, the superintendent of public instruction shall preside.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-104; amd. Sec. 2540, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Constitutional establishment and membership of Board, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Governor as member of Board, 2-15-201.
Secretary of State as member of Board, 2-15-401.
Attorney General as member of Board, 2-15-501.

77-1-202. Powers and duties of board. (1) The board shall exercise general authority, direction, and control over the care, management, and disposition of state lands and, subject to the investment authority of the board of investments, the funds arising from the leasing, use, sale, and disposition of those lands or otherwise coming under its administration. In the exercise of these powers, the guiding principle is that these lands and funds are held in trust for the support of education and for the attainment of other worthy objects helpful to the well-being of the people of this state as provided in The Enabling Act. The board shall administer this trust to:

(a) secure the largest measure of legitimate and reasonable advantage to the state; and
(b) provide for the long-term financial support of education.

(2) It is consistent with the powers and duties provided in subsection (1) that the people are entitled to general recreational use of state lands to the extent that the trusts are compensated for the value of the recreation.

(3) When acquiring land for the state, the board shall determine the value of the land after an appraisal by a qualified land appraiser.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-103(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 222, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 335, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Support of education, Art. X, sec. 2, 4, 5, and 11, Mont. Const.
Disposition of public land trust, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Investment authority of Board of Investments, Title 17, ch. 6, part 2.
Interest and income money to schools — deposit by Board, 20-9-341.
Interest and income money part of state equalization aid to schools, 20-9-343.
Board to prescribe rules for appraisal, 77-1-206.
Classification of state lands, 77-1-402.
Exchange or sale of state lands within Indian reservations, 77-2-201.
Limitation on overriding royalties and payments out of production allowed — state oil and gas leases, 77-3-444.

77-1-203. Multiple-use management. (1) The board shall manage state lands under the multiple-use management concept defined as the management of all the various resources of the state lands so that:

(a) they are utilized in that combination best meeting the needs of the people and the beneficiaries of the trust, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of those resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions and realizing that some land may be used for less than all of the resources; and

(b) harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, will result without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources.

(2) If a parcel of state land in one class has other multiple uses or resource values which are of such significance that they do not warrant classification for the value, the land shall, nevertheless, be managed insofar as is possible to maintain or enhance these multiple-use values.

(3) State lands, including those lands that are leased primarily for other purposes, are open to general recreational use subject to legal access and to closures and restrictions pursuant to rules adopted under 77-1-804.

(4) The department shall include in all new or renewal leases and licenses a provision that leased lands may not be closed at any time to the public for general recreational purposes without advance written permission of the department.

History: (1)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 113, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 67, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-103, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 16, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1974; Sec. 81-302, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-103(part), 81-302(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 609, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Classification of state lands, 77-1-402.

77-1-204. Power to sell, lease, or exchange certain state trust lands. (1) The board is authorized to lease state trust lands for uses other than agriculture, grazing, timber harvest, or mineral production under terms and conditions that best fulfill the duties of the board as specified in 77-1-202 and 77-1-203. The lease period for these leases, except for power and school site leases, may not be for longer than 99 years.

(2) The board may sell, exchange, or lease lands under its jurisdiction by virtue of 77-1-214 when, in the board's judgment, it is advantageous to the state to do so in the highest orderly development and management of state trust land. The sale, lease, or exchange may not be contrary to the terms of any contract that the board has entered into.

History: (1)En. 81-103.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 135, L. 1974; Sec. 81-103.1, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 159, L. 1937; Sec. 81-1107, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-103.1, 81-1107; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 404, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Authority to lease and exchange state lands, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

77-1-205. Board to correct errors. The board shall correct errors, mistakes, and misdescriptions in deeds and conveyances of property to the state. Deeds or other conveyances shall be made and executed in the manner provided for the execution of patents by the state. The board may also correct errors in leases, certificates of purchase, patents, and other conveyances of property from the state upon satisfactory proof that an error or mistake has been made.

History: En. Sec. 115, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.115, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1108, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-106 and amd. by Sec. 73, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-106.

Cross-References

Refunding of money paid by mistake, 77-1-303.

Execution of patents by state, 77-2-342.

77-1-206. Board to prescribe further rules for appraisal. The board shall prescribe such further rules for the appraisal of state lands as it may deem necessary, not inconsistent with the provisions of this title or the state constitution.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.18, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-303.

Cross-References

Adoption of rules governed by Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-1-207. Board to defend suits. For the purpose of determining the title to any property seized and taken under the provisions of 77-1-116, the board is hereby authorized and empowered to defend, in the name of the state, any and all actions that may be brought for that purpose and to do and perform all things necessary to protect the interests of the state.

History: En. Sec. 8, p. 49, L. 1893; re-en. Sec. 3567, Pol. C. 1895; re-en. Sec. 2220, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 60, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1880, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1880, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1603.

Cross-References

Actions affecting title to state property — Governor may require Attorney General to appear, 2-15-201.

77-1-208. Cabin site licenses and leases — method of establishing value. (1) The board shall set the annual fee based on full market value for each cabin site and for each licensee or lessee who at any time wishes to continue or assign the license or lease. The fee must attain full market value based on one of the following methods:

(a) appraisal of the cabin site value as determined by the department of revenue. The licensee or lessee has the option to pay the entire fee on March 1 or to divide the fee into two equal payments due March 1 and September 1. The value may be increased or decreased as a result of the statewide reappraisal of property pursuant to 15-7-111. An appeal of a cabin site value determined by the department of revenue must be conducted pursuant to Title 15, chapter 15.

(b) establishing full rental market value through the use of an open competitive bidding process as provided in 77-1-235.

(2) A current licensee or lessee may complete or renew the licensee's or lessee's current lease based on valuation methods provided in subsection (1)(a), or at the end of the lease or license contract, the licensee or lessee may choose to proceed with the valuation option provided in subsection (1)(b).

(3) The board shall set the fee of each initial cabin site license or lease or each current cabin site license or lease of a person who does not choose to retain the license or lease. The initial fee must be based upon a system of competitive bidding. The fee for a person who wishes to retain that license or lease must be determined under the method provided for in subsection (1).

(4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the board shall follow the procedures set forth in 77-6-302, 77-6-303, and 77-6-306 for the disposal or valuation of any fixtures or improvements placed upon the property by the then-current licensee or lessee and shall require the subsequent licensee or lessee whose bid is accepted by the board to purchase those fixtures or improvements in the manner required by the board.

(b) (i) A subsequent licensee or lessee may not take occupancy unless the license or lease contract and the sale of improvements have been finalized. If a winning bidder has been identified and the transaction for the sale of the improvements is in process, the current lessee shall pay a prorated lease fee based on the current lease until the date that the sale of the improvements is finalized.

(ii) The valuation of improvements must be applicable to residential property inclusive of all improvements.

(iii) A licensee or lessee may assign or rent any improvements.

(iv) Within 3 years of canceling, terminating, or abandoning a cabin site lease, the owner of the improvements shall sell the improvements, remove the improvements, or transfer ownership of the improvements to the state. If ownership is transferred to the state, proceeds from the sale of the improvements must be paid to the owner who transferred the improvements. The board shall set the conditions of the sale of transferred improvements in order to sell the improvements in an expedient manner.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 459, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 705, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 463, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 11, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 270, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 401, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 361, L. 2015.

77-1-209. Leasing rules. The board may prescribe rules relating to the leasing of state lands as it considers necessary in order that the use and proceeds of these lands may contribute in the highest attainable measure to the purposes for which they are granted to the state of Montana. The rules should prescribe a procedure for setting all fees and rental rates for the use of state lands for any purpose. The procedure should establish provisions for notice, public comment, public hearings, and appeal.

History: En. Sec. 37, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.37, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-423; MCA 1981, 77-6-104; redes. 77-1-209 by Code Commissioner, 1983; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-1-210 reserved.

77-1-211. Acceptance of federal land grants. (1) The board may accept any grant of lands from the United States to the state made in carrying out the provisions of The Enabling Act and also any other grant for any special purpose that may be made by the United States to the state, except as provided in subsection (2).

(2) Legislative approval is required for any acceptance of land by the state of Montana from the United States if the land was acquired by the United States through condemnation procedures.

(3) Notwithstanding any provisions of this title, the board, after consultation with the director of the department of environmental quality, may accept any lands, including buildings, granted to the state by the United States pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq. Legislative approval is not required for acceptance.

History: En. Sec. 113, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.113, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1101(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 452, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 274, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 315, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Secretary of State to record conveyances to state, 2-15-401.

77-1-212. Acceptance of federal facilities and installations — title in state. The board may, on behalf of the state, accept donations of federal installations, facilities, lands, or properties. All title to the installations or facilities shall be vested in the name of the state for its use. This section does not limit, reduce, or supersede Title 18, chapter 5, part 2.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 252, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1101.1.

Cross-References

Secretary of State to record conveyances to state, 2-15-401.

77-1-213. Acceptance of gifts, donations, grants, legacies, and devises to the state. (1) The board is hereby authorized and empowered to accept on behalf of the state from any natural person gifts, donations, grants, legacies, and devises having a value of not less than $250 from each person. All lands passing to the state under these provisions or through the operation of law shall be managed as other state lands, and the rents and earnings shall be applied in accordance with the object and purpose specified by the grantor, subject to all constitutional limitations.

(2) All money realized from the sale of such lands and from other property and all gifts, donations, grants, legacies, and devises made in money or the equivalent of money shall be administered by the board for the benefit of the specific purposes designated by the person from whom they were received and as further regulated by this title. The provisions of this section shall apply to gifts, donations, grants, legacies, and devises already made to the state and now under the administration of the board if not contrary to any specific provisions made therein by the persons from whom they were received.

History: En. Sec. 114, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.114, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 100, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1102.

Cross-References

Secretary of State to record conveyances to state, 2-15-401.

Escheated real property, 72-14-206.

77-1-214. Donations of land for forestry purposes. The board may accept gifts, donations, or contributions of land suitable for forestry or park purposes and enter into agreements with the federal government or other agencies for acquiring by lease, purchase, or otherwise such lands as in the judgment of the board are desirable for state forests.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 72, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1103.

Cross-References

Secretary of State to record conveyances to state, 2-15-401.

77-1-215. Expenditures authorized. When lands are acquired or leased under 77-1-214, the board is hereby authorized to:

(1) make expenditures from any funds not otherwise obligated for the management, development, and utilization of such areas;

(2) sell or otherwise dispose of products from such lands; and

(3) make such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of 77-1-214 through 77-1-217 and 77-1-204(2).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 159, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1104.

Cross-References

Adoption of rules governed by Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-1-216. Disposition of revenues and profits. All revenues derived from lands acquired under the provisions of 77-1-214 shall be segregated by the state treasurer for the use of the board in the acquisition, management, development, and use of such lands until all obligations incurred have been paid in full. Thereafter, 50% of all net profits accruing from the administration of such lands shall be applicable for such purposes as the legislature may prescribe and 50% shall be paid into the school fund of the county in which lands are located.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 159, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1105.

Cross-References

School funds from state lands, Art. X, sec. 2 through 5, and 11, Mont. Const.
County schools equalization revenue, 20-9-331.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341 through 20-9-343.

77-1-217. Payment of certain obligations. Obligations for the acquisition of land incurred by the board under the authority of 77-1-214 shall be paid solely and exclusively from revenues derived from such lands and shall not impose any liability upon the general credit and taxing power of the state.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 159, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1106.

77-1-218. Public school land acquisition account. (1) There is a public school land acquisition account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. The account must be administered by the department.

(2) Money in the account may be used only for the purpose of purchasing and managing interests in and appurtenances to real property in accordance with 77-1-219.

(3) After deductions are made pursuant to 77-1-109 and 77-1-613, the net interest and income earned on real property and appurtenances purchased with funds from the account must be distributed to the school facility and technology account provided for in 20-9-516.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 55, L. 2015.

77-1-219. Public school land purchases — considerations — distributions. (1) The board may request the board of examiners to issue bonds for the purpose of purchasing interests in and appurtenances to real property selected by the board in accordance with the requirements of this section. Upon issuance of the bonds, the board shall purchase the real property and its appurtenances.

(2) Prior to requesting the issuance of bonds under subsection (1), the board shall consider the following:

(a) the income-generating potential of the real property and appurtenances;

(b) the opportunity for sustainable forest management activities and outcomes as described in 76-13-701 and 76-13-702; and

(c) the opportunity for recreational use of the real property and appurtenances consistent with Title 77, chapter 1, part 8.

(3) Prior to requesting the issuance of bonds, the board or the department, at the board's direction, shall complete a cost-benefit analysis of potential real property and appurtenance purchases. This cost-benefit analysis must be made available to the public upon request.

(4) Prior to purchasing any real property and appurtenances, the board shall determine that the benefits of the purchase are significant and that the financial risks are prudent. In order to reach that determination, the board shall examine the purchase of any real property and appurtenances as if the board had a fiduciary duty as a reasonably prudent trustee of a perpetual trust. For the purposes of this section, that duty requires the board to:

(a) discharge its duties with the care, skill, and diligence that a prudent person acting in a similar capacity with the same resources and familiar with similar matters should exercise in the conduct of an enterprise of similar character and aims;

(b) manage the land holdings purchased pursuant to 77-1-218 and this section in accordance with an asset management plan to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the sustained rate of return;

(c) discharge its duties and powers solely in the interest of and for the benefit of the trust; and

(d) discharge its duties subject to the fiduciary standards set forth in 72-38-801.

(5) All interests in real property and appurtenances acquired under this section must be managed pursuant to this title.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 485, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 156, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

77-1-220. Offsetting purchases — proceeds — records. (1) To the extent practical and consistent with the board's powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, the board shall offset purchases made pursuant to 77-1-218, 77-1-219, and 77-1-229 by selling an equal amount of land.

(2) Proceeds received from offsetting sales may not be used for:

(a) purchasing additional lands; or

(b) the land banking process under 77-2-361 through 77-2-367.

(3) A separate record of the proceeds received from each sale of land must be maintained.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 485, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 362, L. 2011.**

77-1-221. Repealed. Sec. 315, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 691, L. 1989.**

77-1-222. Repealed. Sec. 74, Ch. 18, L. 1995.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 691, L. 1989.**

77-1-223. State trust land report to trust beneficiaries and legislature — contents. (1) The board shall annually prepare a report on state trust lands that summarizes the land held in trust for each beneficiary by land classification.

(2) The report must include the asset value and financial performance of the land held for each beneficiary as calculated using the best available methodology and data.

(3) The board shall provide a copy of the report to the beneficiary of each trust and to the legislature in accordance with 5-11-210 at the end of each fiscal year.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 462, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 195, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

77-1-224. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 462, L. 1999.**

77-1-225. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 195, L. 2015.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 462, L. 1999.**

77-1-226 and 77-1-227 reserved.

77-1-228. Public land trust acquisition account. (1) There is a public land trust acquisition account in the state special revenue fund established in 17-2-102. Any funds recovered by the state as a result of the claim that PPL Montana, LLC, owes compensation to the state for using state-owned riverbeds from 2000 through 2007 and any interest that accumulates on the funds must be deposited in the account. The account must be administered by the department and is subject to the provisions of Article X, section 11, of the Montana constitution.

(2) Money deposited in the account pursuant to subsection (1) may be used only for costs associated with evaluating potential purchases and for the purpose of purchasing interests in and appurtenances to real property in accordance with 77-1-229. Any interest earned on money deposited in the account must be deposited in the guarantee account provided for in 20-9-622 for distribution to public schools on a monthly basis.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 362, L. 2011.**

77-1-229. Public land trust purchases. (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the board is authorized to evaluate potential purchases and purchase interests in and appurtenances to real property from the proceeds of the account established in 77-1-228 pursuant to the limitations of 77-1-220, 77-1-228, and this section. Transactional costs may not exceed 7% of the purchase price of acquired property. Prior to purchasing interests in and appurtenances to real property, the board shall consider the following:

(a) the income-generating potential of the real property and appurtenances;

(b) the opportunity for sustainable forest management activities and outcomes as described in 76-13-701 and 76-13-702;

(c) the opportunity for recreational use of the real property and appurtenances consistent with Title 77, chapter 1, part 8; and

(d) the cost-benefits of potential real property and appurtenance purchases. This cost-benefit analysis must be made available to the public upon request.

(2) Prior to purchasing any real property and appurtenances, the board shall determine that the benefits of the purchase are significant and outweigh the financial risks. In order to reach that determination, the board shall examine the purchase of any real property and appurtenances as if the board had a fiduciary duty as a reasonably prudent trustee of a perpetual trust. For the purposes of this section, that duty requires the board to:

(a) discharge its duties with the care, skill, and diligence that a prudent person acting in a similar capacity with the same resources and familiar with similar matters should exercise in the conduct of an enterprise of similar character and aims;

(b) manage the land holdings purchased pursuant to this section in accordance with an asset management plan to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the sustained rate of return;

(c) discharge its duties and powers solely in the interest of and for the benefit of the public land trust;

(d) discharge its duties subject to the fiduciary standards set forth in 72-38-801; and

(e) determine the potential for job creation.

(3) All interests in real property and appurtenances acquired under this section must be managed pursuant to this title and are subject to the provisions of Article X, section 11, of the Montana constitution.

(4) After deductions for administrative costs pursuant to 77-1-109, the net interest and income earned on real property and appurtenances purchased with funds from the account established in 77-1-228 must be distributed to the guarantee account provided for in 20-9-622 for distribution to public schools.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 362, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 157, Ch. 264, L. 2013.

77-1-230 through 77-1-234 reserved.

77-1-235. Alternative rental market valuation — open competitive bidding process — rules. (1) (a) In order to establish full rental market value, the board shall establish an open competitive bidding process for all vacant cabin site properties. Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), the minimum bid must be initially set at 2% of the most recent cabin site appraisal value as determined by the department of revenue.

(b) (i) The board shall, within 180 days from the date that a cabin site property becomes vacant, put that site up for open competitive bidding.

(ii) In providing notice of the open competitive bidding process, the board shall notify prospective bidders that a bidder other than the current lessee or licensee is obligated to purchase the improvements pursuant to 77-1-208(4) if that bidder offers the highest bid.

(iii) A lease or license term for a bidder that offers the highest bid and acquires a lease or license must be for a minimum period of 15 years.

(iv) The fee for each subsequent year must be adjusted using the average annual consumer price index as published by the U.S. bureau of labor statistics.

(c) If pursuant to subsection (1)(a) the board does not receive the minimum bid within 180 days, the board may reduce the bid incrementally until a bid is received.

(2) Subject to 77-1-236, a lessee or licensee may voluntarily put the lessee's or licensee's cabin site up for open competitive bid as provided in subsection (1) of this section. A lessee choosing to voluntarily place a cabin site lease up for competitive bid is not entitled to a preference right to meet the high bid. Prior to the open competitive bidding process, the board shall follow the procedures provided in 77-1-208(3) to establish the market value of improvements.

(3) By January 1, 2012, the board shall adopt rules to ensure that:

(a) the open competitive bidding process authorized pursuant to this section is orderly and consistent with the board's constitutional fiduciary duties and that the number of leased cabin or home sites or city or town lots made available for competitive bid at any given time is consistent with the board's constitutional fiduciary duty of attaining full rental market value; and

(b) the information used to determine the rental market percentage pursuant to this section is posted on the department's website and periodically updated.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 401, L. 2011.

77-1-236. Rental market valuation lease program — transition — rules. (1) (a) Subject to subsection (2), the board shall offer all existing cabin site lessees or licensees the option of 15-year lease contracts based on the rental market valuation process provided in 77-1-235.

(b) (i) At least three winning bids made pursuant to 77-1-235 must be referenced against the most recent appraised value of the cabin site property by the department of revenue in order to establish a rental market percentage. All rental market percentages that have been determined pursuant to 77-1-235 must be grouped together by geographic location and averaged together to determine a final rental market percentage for each geographic location. If there are not three winning bids in any one geographic location, then three bids from similar locations may be averaged to establish a rental market percentage.

(ii) The final rental market percentage determined for each geographic location pursuant to this subsection (1)(b) must be applied to the department of revenue's most recent appraised value for each cabin site property in that location that did not go through the open competitive bidding process to determine the initial lease amount for each cabin site property.

(c) If no properties in a particular geographic location go through an open competitive bidding process, the most applicable comparable location, as determined based on professional appraisal standards, must be chosen and the final rental market percentage must be applied as provided in subsection (1)(b).

(2) The lease amount for the first year must be set as provided in subsection (1). The annual lease rental fee for each subsequent year must be adjusted using the average annual consumer price index as published by the U.S. bureau of labor statistics.

(3) By January 1, 2012, the board shall adopt rules for the orderly transition for cabin site lessees or licensees who have chosen the lease option pursuant to subsection (1) that is consistent with the board's constitutional fiduciary duty of attaining full rental market value.

(4) Nothing in this chapter prevents:

(a) an existing lessee or licensee from completing or renewing the lessee's or licensee's current lease or license based on existing methods of valuation as provided in 77-1-208; or

(b) a lessee or licensee that has abandoned a lease or license from bidding on the abandoned lease or license.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 401, L. 2011.

Part 3
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Part Cross-References

Cooperative agreements with district weed boards, 7-22-2151.

77-1-301. Powers and duties of the department. (1) Under the direction of the board, the department has charge of the selecting, exchange, classification, appraisal, leasing, management, sale, or other disposition of the state lands. It shall perform such other duties the board directs, the purpose of the department demands, or the statutes require.

(2) It shall collect and receive all moneys payable to the state through its office as fees, rentals, royalties, interest, penalties, or payments on mortgages or lands purchased from the state or derived from any other source. It shall issue a receipt for each cash payment or whenever requested by the payer.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 26, L. 1971; Sec. 81-204, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-105 and amd. by Sec. 5, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-105.

Cross-References

Duty to identify, protect, and develop heritage properties and paleontological remains on state lands, 22-3-424.
Department to administer abandoned railroad right-of-way until needed for transportation, 60-11-111.
Transportation of coniferous trees — Department authority, 76-13-601.

77-1-302. Setting fees. The department may prescribe fees, with the approval of the board, for the issuance, filing, or making of a copy of any instrument or for any other service.

History: En. Sec. 120, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.120, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 22, L. 1971; Sec. 81-1113, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-108 and amd. by Sec. 76, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-108.

77-1-303. Refunding of money paid by mistake. If any money is erroneously paid to the state on any permit, lease, certificate of purchase, patent, loan, or in any other transaction, the department shall refund that money to the person entitled to it from the proper fund.

History: En. Sec. 116, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.116, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1109, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-107 and amd. by Sec. 74, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-107.

77-1-304. Selection and location of lands granted by United States. Under the general direction of the board and as rapidly as the appropriations for the work will permit, the department shall select and locate all lands granted to this state by the United States for any purpose and not located by the grant itself. It shall also select and locate lands in lieu of all those lands in sections 16 and 36 and in the other federal land grants which for any reason have been lost to the state. All selections shall as far as possible be in legal subdivisions. In the selection and location of these lands, careful attention shall be given to the water available and which may be appropriated for these lands for domestic use, livestock, and irrigation.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-301; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Appropriations, permits, and certificates of water rights, Title 85, ch. 2, part 3.

Part 4
Classification of State Lands

77-1-401. Classes of land. The state lands are classified as follows:

(1) Class 1—lands which are principally valuable for grazing purposes;

(2) Class 2—lands which are principally valuable for the timber that is on them or for the growing of timber or for watershed protection;

(3) Class 3—lands which are principally valuable for the production of crops;

(4) Class 4—lands which are principally valuable for uses other than grazing, crop production, timber production, or watershed protection.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-302(1).

Cross-References

Classification required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-1-402. Basis for classification or reclassification. (1) The classification or reclassification shall be so made as to place state land in the class which best accomplishes the powers and duties of the board as specified in 77-1-202 and 77-1-203. When state lands are classified or reclassified in accordance with these duties and responsibilities, special attention shall be paid to the capability of the land to support an actual or proposed land use authorized by each classification.

(2) It is the duty of the department to classify or reclassify state lands so that no state land will be sold, leased, or used under a different classification from that to which it actually belongs.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-302(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 609, L. 1991.

77-1-403. Capability inventory. A capability inventory shall be made prior to changing the classification of state lands. Such inventory shall include, when appropriate to the classification, information on soils capability, vegetation, wildlife use, mineral characteristics, public use, aesthetic values, cultural values, surrounding land use, and any other resource, zoning, or planning information which is related to the classification.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-302(part).

77-1-404. Records of state lands. All field books, plats, maps, and records of the department shall show the class to which each tract therein belongs and whether it belongs to the public schools of the state or to a state institution or other entity according to the grant or instrument by which title to the land has passed to the state. They shall also show whether or not the coal or other minerals in the land are reserved by the United States and shall contain any other information the department considers necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 8, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-302(4).**

77-1-405. Island parks established — development limited. (1) In order to retain the integrity of the recreational experience associated with Montana's river and lake islands, development of undisputed state-owned or state-leased island property, which is hereby designated as island parks, including islands designated as state property under 70-18-203, lying within and surrounded by a navigable river, stream, or lake is limited, after April 30, 1997, to:

(a) the installation of minimal signage indicating that the island is a designated island park in which development has been limited and encouraging the public to help in maintaining the island park's primitive character by packing out trash;

(b) necessary latrine facilities if approved by the state parks and recreation board established in 2-15-3406;

(c) footings or pilings necessary for the construction of a bridge;

(d) oil and gas leasing; and

(e) development of a boat dock at Wild Horse Island state park.

(2) Improvements made to and agricultural operations on state-owned or state-leased island property prior to April 30, 1997, may be maintained or continued, but further development is limited as provided in this section.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of 77-1-203 regarding multiple-use management, the legislature finds that the highest and best use of island property administered as school trust land, except islands designated as natural areas pursuant to Title 76, chapter 12, is for recreation and grazing and that those islands should be left in as primitive a state as possible to protect from the loss of potential future revenue that could result from the failure to leave the islands in an undeveloped condition.

(4) For purposes of this section, state ownership or state lease of island property is disputed if the dispute arises before, on, or after April 30, 1997.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 449, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 235, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 2015.**

Cross-References

Island formed in navigable stream, 70-18-203.
Island formed by division of stream, 70-18-205.
Wild and scenic resources, Title 76, ch. 12.
Ownership of certain islands and abandoned riverbeds, 77-1-102.
Recreational use of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 8.
Oil and gas leases, Title 77, ch. 3, part 4.
Agricultural, grazing, and other surface leases, Title 77, ch. 6.
Navigable waters, 85-1-112.

Part 5
State Land Equalization
(Repealed)

77-1-501. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 77, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1115; amd. Sec. 140, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993.**

77-1-502. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 391, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1116; amd. Sec. 200, Ch. 574, L. 2001.**

77-1-503. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 78, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1117; amd. Sec. 141, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 201, Ch. 574, L. 2001.**

77-1-504. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 144, L. 2017.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 79, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1118; amd. Sec. 142, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993; amd. Sec. 202, Ch. 574, L. 2001.**

77-1-505. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 80, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1119; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

77-1-506. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 235, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1120.

77-1-507. Repealed. Sec. 253, Ch. 574, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 235, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 81, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1121.

77-1-508. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 214, L. 1979.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.9, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-205, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-1122 and amd. by Sec. 6, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1122.

Part 6
Development of State Lands

77-1-601. Statement of policy. It is in the best interest and to the great advantage of the state of Montana to seek the highest development of state-owned lands in order that they might be placed to their highest and best use and thereby derive greater revenue for the support of the common schools, the university system, and other institutions benefiting therefrom, and that in so doing the economy of the local community as well as the state is benefited as a result of the impact of such development.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 295, L. 1967; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2401.

Cross-References

Board to direct and control state lands, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

Use of coal severance tax proceeds for development, operation, and maintenance of state parks, recreational areas, monuments, or historic sites, 15-35-108.

77-1-602. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 106, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2402; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 14, Sp. L. January 1992; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 34, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 2007.

77-1-603. Rules. The board shall adopt such rules as it considers necessary and proper for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 112, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2408.

Cross-References

Adoption of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-1-604. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2403(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983.

77-1-605. Types of resource developments. (1) The developments contemplated by this part may include those projects that will develop or conserve the various state land resources, including water, both surface and underground, grazing land, agricultural land, timber land, and other land to the benefit of the state. They may also include expenses necessary to perfect title to lands claimed by the state that are suitable for development and other expenses or costs that in the judgment of the board are desirable or necessary in order to develop or increase the value of the land or the revenue from the land.

(2) The department may use funds appropriated from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108 for the purposes of subsection (1).

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 107, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2403(part); amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

77-1-606. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2404; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 533, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 2007.

77-1-607. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 109, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2405; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 533, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1997.

77-1-608. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 110, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2406; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 533, L. 1993.

77-1-609. Repealed. Sec. 26, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 295, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 111, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2407.

77-1-610 through 77-1-612 reserved.

77-1-613. Administrative costs associated with sale of timber from state trust lands. (1) The department may use funds appropriated from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108 for timber sale preparation, documentation, administration, and contract harvesting costs.

(2) In order to increase the volume of timber sold at the earliest possible time while continuing to meet the requirements of applicable state and federal laws and in order to avoid unnecessary delays and extra costs that would result from increasing its permanent staff, the department may contract for services that will enable achievement of the purposes of this section and that will achieve the highest net return to the trusts.

(3) To maximize overall return to the trusts, the timely salvage of timber must be considered. However, salvage timber sales may not adversely affect the implementation of green timber sales programs conducted pursuant to 77-5-201.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 533, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 494, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

77-1-614 through 77-1-616 reserved.

77-1-617. Management of isolated trust lands — reciprocal access. (1) To facilitate the management of isolated tracts of all classifications of state lands, the department may negotiate reciprocal access agreements that may include easements. For an easement granted pursuant to this subsection, the board may waive all or a portion of the survey requirements of 77-2-102, subject to any conditions that the board may impose.

(2) In granting access, the department is not required to analyze or consider the potential impacts of activities that may occur on private or federal lands in conjunction with or as a result of granting access.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 1999.

Part 7
Ownership Records of State-Owned Land

77-1-701. Definitions. When used in this part, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Ownership record" means the original deed, abstract, and any other instrument signifying state ownership or other interest in real property.

(2) "State agency" means any board, bureau, department, commission, or officer of the state.

(3) "State land" means land held, possessed, or administered by the state by virtue of fee simple title, grant, or deed. This term does not include:

(a) land acquired through investments under the provisions of 17-6-201;

(b) land used by virtue of an interest temporary in nature, such as a lease, license, or permit; or

(c) land used for easements and rights-of-way.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 32, L. 1997.

77-1-702. Transfer of records. The secretary of state shall transfer all ownership records on file in the secretary of state's office to the department. The department shall transfer the records of land held or administered by the department of transportation for highway rights-of-way and maintenance to the department of transportation and any remaining ownership records, other than those of state lands, to the state agency administering the interest or property described in the records.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2541, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Duties of Secretary of State, 2-15-401.

Custody and reproduction of records by Secretary of State, 2-15-406.

77-1-703. Filing of ownership records. Except as provided in 77-1-706, state agencies shall file with the department ownership records of state lands held by the agency.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 467, L. 1987.

77-1-704. Department to maintain repository. The department shall provide a secure yet accessible repository for the ownership records of state land.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 467, L. 1987.

77-1-705. Index and verification of ownership records. (1) The department shall establish and maintain a filing system and index of the following information on state land:

(a) legal description of the land;

(b) when the land was acquired or disposed of;

(c) name of the state agency administering or disposing of the land; and

(d) name of the grantor or grantee.

(2) To the extent feasible within available funding and personnel, the department shall:

(a) verify the accuracy of information contained in the ownership records; and

(b) perfect title to state land whenever necessary.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 467, L. 1987.

77-1-706. Treatment of highway lands. The department of transportation is not required to file with the department records of land used for highway rights-of-way and maintenance but is required to file with the department ownership records of state land held for administrative purposes.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 316, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

77-1-707. Rules. The department may adopt rules for implementing and administering this part concerning transfer and filing of ownership records.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 467, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 317, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 8
Recreational Use of State Lands

77-1-801. *(Temporary)* **Recreational use license required to use state lands for general recreational purposes — penalty — exemption.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person 12 years of age or older shall obtain an annual recreational use license pursuant to 77-1-802 to use state lands, as defined in 77-1-101, for general recreational purposes.

(2) If the department and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks consent to and sign an agreement for general recreational use pursuant to 77-1-815, a person is only required to obtain a conservation license for general recreational use of legally accessible state trust land.

(3) A person shall, on the request of a peace officer or fish and game warden, present for inspection the person's conservation license.

(4) A person found in violation of this section pertaining to the use of state trust land:

(a) for a first offense, shall be given a warning;

(b) for a second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twice the cost of a conservation license; and

(c) for a third offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than $500. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

77-1-801. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Recreational use license required to use state lands for general recreational purposes — penalty.** (1) A person 12 years of age or older shall obtain an annual recreational use license pursuant to 77-1-802 to use state lands, as defined in 77-1-101, for general recreational purposes.

(2) A person shall, upon the request of a peace officer or fish and game warden, present for inspection the person's recreational use license.

(3) A person found in violation of subsection (1) or (2) pertaining to the use of state trust land:

(a) for first offense, shall be given a warning;

(b) for second offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twice the cost of a recreational use license; and

(c) for a third offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than $500.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 596, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2542, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 507, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 5, Ch. 507, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

Cross-References

Peace officer defined, 1-1-207, 46-1-202.

77-1-802. *(Temporary)* **Recreational use — fee.** (1) The fee for general recreational use on state trust land must attain full market value whether the license is sold pursuant to 77-1-801 or under an agreement with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks as provided in 77-1-815.

(2) Money received by the department for general recreational use of state lands must be credited as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), fees must be apportioned on a pro rata basis to the land trusts, in proportion to the respective trust's percentage of acreage in the total acreage of all state land trusts.

(b) Revenue from recreational use license fees, less 50 cents from the fee for each license that must be returned to the license dealer as a commission, is distributable revenue and must be deposited pursuant to 77-1-109 and used to pay for administrative costs as provided in 77-1-108.

(3) The department may contract with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for the distribution and sale of recreational use licenses through the license agents appointed by and the administrative offices of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and in accordance with the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 9. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

77-1-802. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Recreational use license — fee.** (1) The fee for a recreational use license must attain full market value.

(2) Money received by the department for general recreational use of state lands must be credited as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), fees must be apportioned on a pro rata basis to the land trusts, in proportion to the respective trust's percentage contribution to the total acreage of all state land trusts.

(b) Revenue from recreational use license fees, less 50 cents from the fee for each license that must be returned to the license dealer as a commission, is distributable revenue and must be deposited pursuant to 77-1-109 and used to pay for administrative costs as provided in 77-1-108.

(3) The department may contract with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for the distribution and sale of recreational use licenses through the license agents appointed by and the administrative offices of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and in accordance with the provisions of Title 87, chapter 2, part 9.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 596, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 507, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 6, Ch. 507, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

77-1-803 reserved.

77-1-804. Rules for recreational use of state lands — penalty. (1) The board shall adopt rules authorizing and governing the recreational use of state lands allowed under 77-1-203. The board shall use local offices of the department to administer this program whenever practical.

(2) Rules adopted under this section must address the circumstances under which the board may close legally accessible state lands to recreational use. Action by the board may be taken upon its own initiative or upon petition by an individual, organization, corporation, or governmental agency. Closures may be of an emergency, seasonal, temporary, or permanent nature. State lands may be closed by the board only after public notice and opportunity for public hearing in the area of the proposed closure, except when the department is acting under rules adopted by the board for an emergency closure. Closed lands must be posted by the lessee or by the department at the request of the lessee at customary access points, with signs provided or authorized by the department.

(3) Closure rules adopted pursuant to subsection (2) may categorically close state lands whose use or status is incompatible with recreational use. Categorical or blanket closures may be imposed on state lands due to:

(a) cabin site and home site leases and licenses;

(b) the seasonal presence of growing crops; and

(c) active military, commercial, or mineral leases.

(4) The board shall adopt rules that provide an opportunity for any individual, organization, or governmental agency to petition the board for purposes of excluding a specified portion of state land from a categorical closure that has been imposed under subsection (3).

(5) Under rules adopted by the board, state lands may be closed on a case-by-case basis for certain reasons, including but not limited to:

(a) damage attributable to recreational use that diminishes the income-generating potential of the state lands;

(b) damage to surface improvements of the lessee;

(c) the presence of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or plant communities;

(d) the presence of unique or special natural or cultural features;

(e) wildlife protection;

(f) noxious weed control; or

(g) the presence of buildings, structures, and facilities.

(6) (a) Rules adopted under this section may impose restrictions on general recreational activities, including the discharge of weapons, camping, open fires, vehicle use, and any use that will interfere with the presence of livestock.

(b) The board may also by rule restrict access on state lands in accordance with a block management program administered by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks.

(c) Motorized vehicle use by recreationists on state lands is restricted to federal, state, and dedicated county roads, trails developed by the department for motorized use, and roads designated by the department to be open to motorized vehicle use.

(d) Recreational overnight use of state lands in a 30-day period is limited to 16 days:

(i) in a designated campground; and

(ii) on unleased, unlicensed lands outside a campground unless otherwise allowed by the department.

(e) Pets on state lands must be on a leash or otherwise controlled to prevent harassment of livestock or wildlife.

(f) Horses may be kept overnight on state lands if:

(i) the horses do not remain in a stream riparian zone for more than 1 hour; and

(ii) only feed certified as noxious weed seed free is present on state lands.

(g) A horse kept overnight on state lands where there is a lease or license must be kept in compliance with the provisions of subsection (6)(f) and must be restrained.

(h) Restrictions on general recreational activities must comply with the following:

(i) at least 30 days prior to a restriction, except in the case of emergency, the lessee or the department if requested by the lessee shall:

(A) post notice of the proposed restriction at frequent access points to the land where the restriction is proposed; and

(B) issue a press release or a public service announcement detailing the proposed restriction;

(ii) except for seasonal restrictions and unless required for public safety, a restriction in an area may not exceed 1 year; and

(iii) if a misuse of the land, including littering, may lead to a restriction, common access points must be posted with notice of the possible restriction for 30 days with information detailing the misuse of land and stating the penalties for the violation. If the misuse persists at the end of 30 days, a proposed restriction notice may be posted in accordance with subsection (6)(h)(i).

(7) The board shall adopt rules providing for the issuance of a recreational special use license. Commercial or concentrated recreational use, as defined in 77-1-101, is prohibited on state lands unless it occurs under the provisions of a recreational special use license. The board may also adopt rules requiring a recreational special use license for recreational use that is not commercial, concentrated, or within the definition of general recreational use.

(8) (a) For a violation of rules adopted by the board pursuant to this section, the department may assess a civil penalty of up to $1,000 for each day of violation. The board shall adopt rules providing for notice and opportunity for hearing in accordance with Title 2, chapter 4, part 6.

(b) If the department and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks consent to and sign an agreement for general recreational use as provided in 77-1-815, a person who violates a department rule that governs general recreational use is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $500. In addition, the person, upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail, may be subject to forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, or trap in this state or to use state lands, as defined in 77-1-101, for recreational purposes for a period of time set by the court.

(c) Penalties collected under this subsection (8) must be deposited as provided in 87-1-601(8).

(9) Unauthorized dumping of refuse on state lands and destruction of property, which includes land and improvements, are misdemeanor crimes punishable by a fine of not more than $1,500.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 284, Ch. 42, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 62, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 394, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 507, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 7, Ch. 507, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-1-805. Liability of state and lessee. (1) The provisions of 70-16-302 that limit the liability of a landowner or the landowner's tenant for the recreational use of property apply to the state and any lessee of state lands used for general recreational purposes.

(2) The lessee is not responsible for the suppression of or for damages resulting from a fire on the leased land caused by a general recreational user, except that a lessee who observes a fire caused by a general recreational user shall make reasonable efforts to suppress the fire or report it to the proper firefighting authority.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2543, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

77-1-806. Prior notification to lessee of recreational use — trespass — penalty. (1) If a lessee of state lands under this part desires to be notified prior to anyone entering upon the leasehold, the lessee shall post, at customary access points, signs provided or authorized by the department. The signs must set forth the lessee's or the lessee's agent's name, address, telephone number, and method of notification. The lessee or the lessee's agent must be available to receive notice from recreational users or provide an alternative means for notice as prescribed by rule. When state land is posted, recreational users shall contact and identify themselves to the lessee or the lessee's agent for the purposes of minimizing impact upon the leasehold interest and learning the specific boundaries of adjacent unfenced private property.

(2) Each recreational user of state lands shall obtain permission of the lessee or the lessee's agent before entering the adjacent private property owned by the lessee. Entry to private property from adjacent state lands without permission of the landowner or the landowner's agent is an absolute liability offense. A violator of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than $50 or more than $500 or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both.

(3) A person may be found guilty of the offense described in subsection (2) regardless of the absence of fencing or failure to post a notice in accordance with 45-6-201.

(4) The use of a ford or crossing on a navigable river or stream by the adjacent landowner may not be considered a trespass for the purposes of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2544, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 472, L. 2009.**

77-1-807 reserved.

77-1-808. *(Temporary)* **State lands recreational use.** Money appropriated for the purpose of managing recreational use of state lands must be used by the department for the following purposes:

(1) compensation pursuant to 77-1-809 for damage to the improvements of leases that has been proved to be caused by recreational users;

(2) assistance in weed control management necessary as a result of recreational use of state lands;

(3) protection of the resource value of the trust assets;

(4) administration and management for the implementation of recreational use of state lands; and

(5) maintenance of roads necessary for public recreational use of state trust land. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

77-1-808. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **State lands recreational use.** Money appropriated for the purpose of managing recreational use of state lands must be used by the department for the following purposes:

(1) compensation pursuant to 77-1-809 for damage to the improvements of leases that has been proved to be caused by recreational users;

(2) assistance in weed control management necessary as a result of recreational use of state lands;

(3) protection of the resource value of the trust assets; and

(4) administration and management for the implementation of recreational use of state lands.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 596, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

77-1-809. Compensation for damage to improvements, growing crops, or livestock. A lessee may apply to the department for reimbursement of documented costs of repair to or replacement of improvements, growing crops, or livestock damaged by recreational users of state lands. For the purpose of this section, improvements include the structures described in 77-1-134. The application must include an affidavit by the applicant setting forth the nature of the loss, allegations and reasonable proof supporting the involvement of recreational users, and documentation of repair or replacement costs. Upon review of the application and supporting proof and upon additional investigation as required, the department shall grant, modify, or deny the claim. The department, by reason of payment to the lessee for damage to improvements, is entitled to be subrogated to the rights of the lessee to recover the amount paid from the party causing the damage. Payments under this section must be made from appropriations from the trust land administration account established by 77-1-108, and the liability of the department for damage payments is limited to 10% of revenue received from the recreational use fee and deposited in the account. Claim applications are to be considered in the order they are received.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

77-1-810. Weed control management. (1) The department shall establish a weed control management program for the control of noxious weeds reasonably proved to be caused by the recreational use of state lands. The department may by rule establish a noxious weed management program that may include direct compensation for noxious weed control activities or participation in district and county weed control projects or department-initiated weed control activities.

(2) Funding for this program must come from appropriations from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 609, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 509, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

77-1-811 through 77-1-814 reserved.

77-1-815. *(Temporary)* **Agreement for general recreational use on legally accessible state trust land.** (1) The board is authorized to enter into an agreement with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with general recreational uses as defined in 77-1-101 on legally accessible state trust land as defined in 77-1-101. The department may impose restrictions it considers necessary to coordinate the uses of state trust land or to preserve the purposes of the various trust lands.

General recreational uses as defined in 77-1-101 on state trust land must be conducted in accordance with rules and provisions provided in this part.

(2) An agreement may be entered into with the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for a term of up to 10 years. Through this agreement, the board shall recover for the beneficiaries of the trust the full market value for the use and impacts associated with general recreational use on trust land, as defined in 77-1-101 The department may use funds appropriated from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108 to implement and manage the agreement. Except as provided for in 17-7-304, any unexpended amount in the account that resulted from recreational use fees must be apportioned on a pro rata basis to the land trusts, in proportion to the respective trust's percentage of acreage in the total acreage of all state land trusts.

(3) Any agreement entered into is subject to the following conditions:

(a) The department maintains sole discretion, throughout the term of the agreement, with regard to identifying legally accessible parcels, coordinating uses on state trust land, and making any other necessary state trust land management decisions.

(b) An agreement between the department and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks may not convey any additional authority to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks. *(Void on occurrence of contingency—sec. 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003.)*

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 596, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 507, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 8, Ch. 507, L. 2023. Amendment effective July 1, 2023.

Contingent Voidness: Section 8, Ch. 596, L. 2003, provided: "(1) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not sign an agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land by [the effective date of this act] [effective March 1, 2004], then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the failure to reach an agreement. [An agreement was entered into effective December 8, 2003.]

(2) (a) If an agreement between the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust land is terminated prior to the expiration date of the agreement, then [this act] is void upon termination. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the termination.

(b) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks do not enter into a renewal agreement prior to the expiration date of an agreement, then [this act] is void on the expiration date of the agreement. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the expiration.

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the agreement to compensate state trust land beneficiaries for the use and impacts associated with hunting, fishing, and trapping on state trust lands is invalid, then [this act] is void on the date the court's judgment is final. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner of the entry of the judgment.

(4) If the department of natural resources and conservation and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks receive written notice from the regional director of the United States fish and wildlife service that [this act] will result in a loss of federal fish and wildlife funds, then [this act] is void. The department of natural resources and conservation shall notify the code commissioner that the department has received a notice and the date upon which the notice was received."

77-1-816 through 77-1-819 reserved.

77-1-820. Reporting requirements. (1) On or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the legislature, the department shall provide a report to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210.

(2) The report must include:

(a) existing road closures and restrictions on state lands;

(b) anticipated road closures and restrictions on state lands; and

(c) ongoing travel management planning on state lands or foreseeable travel management planning by the department or by the department in conjunction with federal agencies conducting travel management planning that may impact state lands.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 394, L. 2015.

Part 9
Commercial Leasing of State Trust Land

77-1-901. Declaration of policy and purpose. (1) Pursuant to Article X of the Montana constitution, the legislature declares that it is the policy of the state that state trust land is to be treated as a sacred trust and is subject to fiduciary principles in its management. It is the intent of the legislature that state trust land be managed in the best financial interest of current and future individual beneficiaries for whom this land is managed and held.

(2) A purpose of this chapter is to implement Article X of the Montana constitution. To fulfill its commitment to the management of state trust land in the best long-term financial interests of the beneficiaries, the Montana legislature finds that the state can prudently maximize the long-term revenue accruing to the beneficiaries by issuing commercial leases on land where the chief value exists in its use for commercial purposes.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-902. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Cancellation" means the cessation of a lessee's possessory rights and privileges under a lease due to the lessee's breach of some term of the lease, applicable statutes, or applicable administrative rules.

(2) "Commercial lease" means a contract to use state trust land for a commercial purpose.

(3) (a) "Commercial purpose" means an industrial enterprise, retail sales outlet, business and professional office building, warehouse, motel, hotel, hospitality enterprise, commercial or concentrated recreational use, multifamily residential development, and other similar business.

(b) The term does not include the following uses:

(i) agriculture;

(ii) grazing;

(iii) exploration or development of oil and gas, minerals, and resources from geothermal, wind, or solar;

(iv) single-family residences, home sites, and cabin sites; and

(v) utility rights-of-way.

(4) "Land value" is the monetary value of the land determined by an appraisal by a certified general appraiser or a department staff appraiser or by a limited valuation.

(5) "Limited valuation" means estimating the land value of commercial lease land by analyzing comparable land valuations conducted within 2 years of the lease commencement date as provided by real estate appraisers, local tax assessors, local realtors, an evaluation of local market rents, or a combination of those methods.

(6) "Termination" means the automatic completion or ending of the term of a contract according to its provisions. Upon termination, the lessee ceases to have any possessory rights or privileges under a lease.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 404, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 412, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 2021.**

77-1-903. Authority of board to determine development. The board shall determine how the development of state trust land for commercial purposes is to proceed before any state trust land is offered for lease. In making this determination, the board may consider the following factors:

(1) the purpose of any development or development plan;

(2) the allocation and location of specific uses of the land, including residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, or other appropriate uses;

(3) the densities and intensities of designated land uses;

(4) the timing and rate of development; and

(5) the timely delivery of adequate facilities and services, including water, wastewater collection and treatment systems, parks and public recreational facilities, drainage facilities, school sites, roads, and transportation facilities.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-904. Commercial leasing authorized. (1) State trust land may be leased for a term not to exceed 99 years for commercial purposes to the highest and best bidder responding to a department request for proposals for commercial uses of a specified tract.

(2) The board may enter into contracts with lessees of state trust land for commercial purposes upon terms and conditions that the board may reasonably determine to be in the best interests of the beneficiary.

(3) A request for proposals for the commercial leasing of state trust land must reserve the board's right to reject any and all bids and the right to reoffer the tract for lease if the bids received are not acceptable to the board.

(4) The board and the department, when preparing plans or proposals under this part, shall implement review criteria in consideration of the following local government provisions except to the extent that the provisions violate Article X, section 4 or 11, of the Montana constitution:

(a) a growth policy or a neighborhood plan adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1;
(b) zoning regulations;
(c) subdivision review as provided in Title 76, chapter 3;
(d) annexation;
(e) plans for the extension of services; and
(f) other actions related to local planning.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 404, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 335, L. 2005.

77-1-905. Rental provisions for commercial leasing — payments and credits — administration — lease options. (1) The first year's annual rental payment for state trust land leased for commercial purposes must be paid by cashier's check or electronic funds transfer, as defined in 32-6-103, and payment is due upon execution of the lease. The department may require the lessee of state trust land for commercial purposes to pay the department's cost of the request for proposals process, including publication and other reasonable expenses. Failure to make the first year's rental payment at the time of lease execution must result in the cancellation of the lease and forfeiture of all money paid. In the event of cancellation or in the event that the successful proposer is offered and does not accept the lease, the board may enter into negotiations with other persons who submitted a proposal for commercial purposes in response to the department request for proposals on that tract.

(2) The annual rental payment is full market value and may not be less than the product of the land value multiplied by a rate that is 2 percentage points a year less than the rate of return of the unified investment program administered by the board of investments pursuant to 17-6-201. The rate of return from the unified investment program used in this subsection must be determined no less than 30 days prior to the execution of the competitive bid. A commercial lease may include a rental adjustment formula established by the board that periodically adjusts the annual rental payment provided for in the lease at frequencies specified in the lease. The board may allow a credit against the annual rental payment for payments made by the lessee on behalf of the state of Montana for construction of structures and improvements, special improvement district assessments, annexation fees, or other city or county fees attributable to the state's property interest in land leased for commercial purposes. The board may accept as lawful consideration in-kind payments of services or materials equal to the full market rental value calculated for any commercial lease. A lease issued under this part may include an amortization schedule to be used to determine the value to the lessee of improvements when the lease is terminated.

(3) The department may use funds appropriated from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108 to contract with realtors, property managers, surveyors, legal counsel, or lease administrators to administer the commercial lease, either singly or in common with other leases, or to provide assistance to the department in the administration of commercial leases.

(4) In anticipation of entering into a commercial lease, the board may issue an option to lease at a rental rate that the board determines to be appropriate. An option to lease may not be construed to grant a right of immediate possession or control over the land but may only preserve the optionholder's exclusive right to obtain a commercial lease on the land in the future.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 404, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 465, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 412, L. 2017.

77-1-906. Requirements for commercial lease — improvements. (1) The board shall require, subject to the board's supervision and jurisdiction, that the lessee be solely responsible for the expense of maintenance and operation of the enterprise, business, or venture and all improvements made and constructed in support of any commercial purpose during the term of the lease. This requirement does not apply to the installation and construction by the lessee of infrastructure and improvements, such as public roads, parks, sewers, or utilities, if they were required by a local government as a condition of development.

(2) Upon expiration of the lease, the title to all permanent improvements and fixtures located on the leased property and used in the operation and maintenance of the enterprise vests in the state. The lease must describe in detail the manner and subject matter of the transfer to the state.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-907. Qualifications for commercial lessees — bonds. (1) Before accepting any offer for a commercial lease, the board shall establish, to its satisfaction, the financial capability of the person seeking the commercial lease and the legal authority of the person to conduct business in the state. Prior to executing a commercial lease, the board may require the posting of bonds, sureties, guarantees, or a letter of credit sufficient to ensure that the commercial purposes will be conducted as proposed with no harm to the financial interests of the beneficiaries.

(2) All commercial leases of which the commercial purpose includes the use of a hazardous substance as defined in 75-10-602 must be bonded to ensure a degree of cleanup of the hazardous substance that ensures protection of public health, safety, and welfare and of the environment in a manner that protects the long-term financial interest of the beneficiaries.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-908. Land use license issuance following reclassification. Following cancellation of a preexisting lease due to a reclassification pursuant to 77-1-401 through 77-1-403, the department may issue a land use license for the commercial lands reclassified for a term the department considers necessary to protect the income to the trust and to protect the state.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-909. Cancellation or termination of commercial lease. A commercial lease may be canceled at the option of the board or its designated representative for any violation of a lease provision. Upon cancellation or termination of a lease, the department may seek a new lessee in accordance with this part. If the costs of the commercial development have not been recovered by the state at the time of cancellation or termination, a subsequent lessee under this section shall reimburse the state for development costs, assessments, or fees only to the extent that the proportionate part of the costs, assessments, and fees to the state for obtaining the development have not been recovered.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-910. Encumbrance on leased land. (1) An encumbrance may not be placed upon the state's interest in land leased for commercial purposes.

(2) A commercial lease of state trust land may contain provisions that will permit the encumbering of the lessee's interest in the lease by mortgage or deed of trust.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-911. Notice and payment of assessments. (1) The lessee of a commercial lease on state trust land shall furnish to the department:

(a) officially certified descriptions of all state trust land included within the boundaries of a city or county improvement district that is the subject of the commercial lease; and

(b) a description and listing of the amount of assessments and charges of every character made against the leasehold interest of the lessee and the leasehold interest of the state, as soon as the assessments or charges are levied.

(2) A promise by the lessee to make timely payment of all assessment charges and an acknowledgment of the assessment must be inserted in any lease for state trust land.

(3) If assessments have been levied against any state trust land prior to commercial lease, the board shall require that all unpaid installments on assessments be paid to the improvement district before executing a lease.

(4) If an installment on an assessment or charge against the leasehold interest of the lessee of land subject to a commercial lease is not paid when due, the nonpayment constitutes a breach of the lease.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 404, L. 2003.**

77-1-912. Rulemaking. The board may adopt rules to:

(1) establish procedures for the issuance of requests for proposals for commercial purposes and the commercial leasing of state trust land;

(2) prescribe the form and content of commercial leases; and

(3) develop any other procedures necessary to fulfill the purposes of this part or to implement the commercial leasing of state trust land.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 404, L. 2003.

Part 10
Management of Crown Butte Land Exchange Property Interests

77-1-1001. Inventories and assessments. (1) The department may, in consultation with appropriate state agencies and the Northern Cheyenne tribe, conduct resource inventories and assessments of all or parts of the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange to assist in the leasing, promotion, and development of those property interests. Those inventories and assessments include but are not limited to:

(a) cultural resource inventories and assessments;

(b) coal resource inventories and assessments;

(c) market analysis of the mineral resources; or

(d) any other inventories and assessments required by law or that the department determines are necessary.

(2) The department may place all or parts of the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange up for lease in accordance with the procedures provided for in Title 77.

(3) Nothing in this section prevents the department from receiving applications to place the tracts for lease prior to the completion of inventories and assessments, and the department may lease the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange in accordance with the applicable provisions of Title 77.

(4) Nothing in this section is intended to alter, diminish, or impair the Otter Creek settlement agreement between the state of Montana and the Northern Cheyenne tribe, and nothing in this section prevents the state from cooperating with the Northern Cheyenne tribe to enforce air and water quality standards through government-to-government reciprocity agreements.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 318, L. 2003.

77-1-1002. Planning of lease actions. (1) The department shall manage the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange consistent with 77-3-102 and consult with the private surface owners and the private mineral owners that control the coal property interests that are located in a checkerboard arrangement with the mineral interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange in the planning of leasing actions.

(2) Consistent with Title 77, the department's leasing actions must:

(a) attain the fair market value and optimize the monetary return to the public school fund; and

(b) facilitate and encourage timely development of the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 318, L. 2003.

Part 11
Use of Beds of Navigable Rivers

77-1-1101. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1102. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1103. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1104. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1105. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1106. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1107. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1108. Void. Sec. 12, Ch. 475, L. 2009.
History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 475, L. 2009.

77-1-1109. Legislative findings — purpose. (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Article IX, section 3, of the Montana constitution provides that the use of all water that is or may be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right-of-way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection with the beneficial use, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water are a public use;

(b) a person who has historically used the bed of a navigable river in conjunction with a legal use of water or for other uses or a person who desires to use the bed of a navigable river in conjunction with a legal use of water or for other uses must be able to do so provided that statutory provisions are met; and

(c) any person who uses the bed of a navigable river after October 1, 2011, shall apply to the state for a lease, license, or easement and pay full market value for the use of the riverbed.

(2) The purpose of this part is to clarify the process for the use of the beds of navigable rivers and how the state should be compensated for that use.

(3) Nothing in this part diminishes the state's ownership of the beds of navigable rivers, streams, or lakes under any other law.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 359, L. 2011.

77-1-1110. Definitions. Solely for the purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Footprint" means a structure or other constructed interruption or modification to the bed of a navigable river below the low-water mark as provided in 70-16-201.

(2) "Full market value" means an amount calculated based upon the area of a footprint and the fair market value as determined by rule or statute. The annual payment for a license issued under this part is $150.

(3) "Navigable river" means a river adjudicated as navigable for title purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 359, L. 2011.

77-1-1111. Use of beds of navigable rivers — authorization requirement restricted. The board or the department may require a lease, license, or easement under this part only for a footprint on the bed of a navigable river.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 359, L. 2011.

77-1-1112. Historic use of navigable riverbeds — authorization required — exemptions. (1) A person using the bed of a navigable river below the low-water mark without written authorization from the department prior to October 1, 2011, who wants to continue use of the bed of a navigable river after October 1, 2011, shall file for authorization of the use on a form prescribed by the department for a lease, license, or easement by July 15, 2025.

(2) A person using the bed of a river below the low-water mark without written authorization from the department who wants to continue use of the bed after the date the river is determined to be a navigable river shall file for authorization of the use on a form prescribed by the department for a lease, license, or easement within 5 years after the date that notice is issued by the department as provided in 77-1-1114.

(3) The application must include:

(a) an application fee of $50;

(b) a notarized affidavit:

(i) demonstrating that the applicant or the applicant's predecessor in interest used the bed of a navigable river and that the use continues;

(ii) describing the acreage covered by the footprint prior to October 1, 2011, or, for applications under subsection (2), the acreage covered by the footprint prior to the date the river was determined to be navigable; and

(iii) demonstrating that the use applied for under this section is the use shown in the evidence provided in subsection (3)(c); and

(c) (i) aerial photographs demonstrating the use to which the application for authorization applies; or

(ii) other evidence of the use to which the application for authorization applies.

(4) The department shall issue the authorization for a lease, license, or easement if:

(a) the applicant provides evidence to satisfy the requirements of subsection (3);

(b) the applicant pays the application fee and the full market value of the footprint acreage;

(c) the department has, if necessary, made a site inspection of the use to which the application for authorization applies;

(d) the authorization is for only the acreage of the footprint historically used by the applicant or the applicant's predecessor in interest; and

(e) the authorization is approved by the board.

(5) Proceeds from the application fee must be deposited in the account in 77-1-1113 and must be used by the department to administer the provisions of this section.

(6) The full market value collected pursuant to subsection (4)(b) must be deposited in the appropriate trust fund established for receipt of income from the land over which an authorized use is granted.

(7) Issuance of an authorization pursuant to this section is exempt from the requirements of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2.

(8) The department shall waive the survey requirements of 77-2-102 if the department determines that there is sufficient information available to define the boundaries of the proposed use for the purposes of recording the easement or issuing a license or lease.

(9) The requirements of this section do not apply to footprints:

(a) related to hunting, fishing, or trapping;

(b) that existed prior to November 8, 1889;

(c) for which the applicant can show an easement obtained from a state agency prior to October 1, 2011, or prior to the date the river was determined to be a navigable river; or

(d) associated with a power site regulated pursuant to Title 77, chapter 4, part 2.

(10) A person using the bed of a navigable river who is subject to this section may continue to use the bed of the navigable river for that purpose while applying for a lease, license, or easement or until the applicable timeframe for obtaining a lease, license, or easement expires. The state may not impede access to a footprint or use of a footprint during the applicable timeframe or after a lease, license, or easement is obtained.

(11) The provisions of this section do not restrict the power of the board to seek adjudication of title pursuant to 77-1-105.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 359, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 2021.**

77-1-1113. Historic riverbed use account. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund into which the application fees collected pursuant to 77-1-1112 must be deposited.

(2) The funds in the account may be used only for administering the provisions of 77-1-1112.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 359, L. 2011.**

77-1-1114. Notice required. (1) Before July 1, 2016, the department shall provide notice of the requirements of this part to owners of property adjacent to rivers that were navigable rivers on October 1, 2011, and provide notice pursuant to subsection (3).

(2) For a river determined to be a navigable river after October 1, 2011, the department shall provide notice of the requirements of this part to owners of property adjacent to the navigable river within 6 months of the determination that the river is navigable. The 5-year period pursuant to 77-1-1112 begins when the department issues this notice and publishes the notice required in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The department shall publish notice of navigable rivers and the requirements of this part twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the navigable river.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 359, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 2015.**

77-1-1115. Navigable riverbed uses — lease, license, or easement required — challenges. (1) (a) After October 1, 2011, the department shall require a person who proposes to use the bed of a navigable river up to the low-water mark to obtain a lease, license, or easement pursuant to the provisions of this title.

(b) The requirements of subsection (1)(a) do not apply to footprints related to hunting, fishing, or trapping.

(2) An applicant for authorization to use the bed of a navigable river pursuant to 77-1-1112 or for a lease, license, or easement under this section may challenge the requirement of the authorization based on the navigability of the river, the location of the footprint related to the low-water mark, or other factors. There is no presumption of navigability because an entity has applied for or received a lease, license, or easement.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 359, L. 2011.**

77-1-1116. Easement transferable — relocation of structure — increased footprint. (1) An easement granted pursuant to 77-1-1112 or 77-1-1115 runs with the benefited land and may be transferred or assigned.

(2) (a) Pursuant to rules adopted under 77-1-1117, the holder of a lease, license, or easement under 77-1-1112 or 77-1-1115 may relocate or increase the size of a footprint and associated facilities due to the natural relocation of a navigable river or other factors.

(b) (i) The holder of a lease, license, or easement shall provide written notice to the department when a footprint or associated facilities are proposed to be relocated or increased in size.

(ii) Without prior board approval, the holder of a lease, license, or easement for water diversion structures associated with a water right may relocate or increase the size of the footprint if the relocation or increase is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the lease, license, or easement was granted. If the footprint is increased in size, the holder shall pay full market value for the portion of the footprint that is greater than the original footprint and shall obtain the appropriate state or federal permits.

(3) Section 77-1-805 applies to the use of navigable rivers for which leases, licenses, or easements for the use of the bed have been granted.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 359, L. 2011.**

77-1-1117. Board to adopt rules. To fulfill the requirement of this part, the board shall adopt rules to:

(1) determine the full market value for the use of the bed of a navigable river and establish a minimum payment for leases and easements;

(2) allow an applicant to choose to apply for a lease, license, or easement depending on the type of proposed use and the duration of the use; and

(3) allow the holder of a lease, license, or easement to relocate or increase the size of a footprint based on natural relocation of a navigable river or other factors.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 359, L. 2011.**

CHAPTER 2
TRANSFERS AND RESERVATIONS OF PROPERTY INTERESTS

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Part 1
Easements

Part Cross-References

Easements of state lands authorized, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).
Servitudes — easements, Title 70, ch. 17.

77-2-101. Easements for specific uses. (1) Upon proper application as provided in 77-2-102(1) through (5), the board may grant easements on state lands for the following purposes:

(a) schoolhouse sites and grounds;
(b) public parks;
(c) community buildings;
(d) cemeteries;
(e) conservation purposes:
(i) to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for parcels that are surrounded by or adjacent to land owned by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks as of January 1, 2001;
(ii) to a nonprofit corporation for parcels that are surrounded by or adjacent to land owned by that same nonprofit corporation as of January 1, 2001; and
(iii) to a nonprofit corporation for the Owen Sowerwine natural area located within section 16, township 28 north, range 21 west, in Flathead County; and
(f) for other public uses.

(2) The board may grant easements on state lands for the following purposes:
(a) right-of-way across or upon any portion of state lands for any public highway or street, any canal, ditch, flume, aqueduct, pipe, reservoir, railroad, private road, telephone line, water conveyance for irrigation purposes, or any other public use as defined in 70-30-102;
(b) any private building or private sewage system that encroaches on state lands;
(c) pursuant to 77-1-1112 or 77-1-1115, the use of the bed of a navigable river; or
(d) pursuant to 77-2-102(6), private access roads, county roads, and utility facilities constructed on state lands prior to October 1, 1997.

History: (1)En. Sec. 57, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.57, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-802, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 62, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.62, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1939; Sec. 81-804, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-802, 81-804(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 230, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 475, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 359, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 309, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Cross-References

State departments — maintenance of facilities throughout state, 2-15-112.
Approval of Department of Administration — acquisition of property in Helena area by state agencies, 2-17-101.
Department of Administration custodian of property in Capitol area, 2-17-811.
Authorization for County Commissioners to obtain property, 7-8-2201.
Authorization for city to erect buildings, 7-8-4101.
City authorized to establish trafficways and public grounds, 7-14-4101.
City authorized to establish parks, 7-16-4101.
Selection of school sites, 20-6-621.
Department of Transportation — acquisition of property, 60-4-102.
Easements allowed on riparian land, 77-2-303.

77-2-102. Application for easement — survey exemptions. (1) Application for an easement on state land must be made to the department. Except as provided in subsections (3) through (5), the application must describe the proposed right-of-way according to survey, show the necessity for the proposed highway or street or other easement, and give any additional information that the department requires.

(2) This application must be accompanied by two exact copies of the official plat of the proposed highway, street, or other easement, verified by the affidavit of the engineer or surveyor who prepared the application. These plats must show the quantity of land taken by the proposed highway or street or other easement for each 40-acre tract or government lot of state land over or through which it passes and also the amount of land remaining in each portion of that 40-acre tract or government lot. When considered necessary by the department, these plats must show all these facts for smaller subdivisions as the circumstances may render desirable for the state.

(3) The application must include the affidavit of a licensed engineer or professional surveyor stating that the methodology used is known to be accurate to within 5 meters. The survey must be tied to an established section corner or 1/4 corner monument. The department may request greater accuracy if the department determines that the information is needed to adequately describe the easement.

(4) If the purpose of the right-of-way applied for is the transmission or distribution of electrical energy or the construction and operation of pipelines or telephone, telegraph, or radio systems, the plats and measurements need not be given. An exact geographical survey is not required, but the application must include the description of the location of the center line of the right-of-way that refers to an established monument within a filed corner recordation form, certificate of survey, or subdivision plat. The accuracy requirements of subsection (3) must be met. The entire right-of-way may be applied for in one application with only one plat of the entire right-of-way required. An archaeological survey is not required if, in the opinion of the department, heritage property would not be impacted.

(5) (a) If the purpose of the right-of-way applied for is a regional water authority provided for in Title 75, chapter 6, part 3, the plats and measurements need not be given. An exact geographical survey is not required, but the application must include the description of the location of the center line of the right-of-way.

(b) The application provided for in subsection (5)(a) must be accompanied by electronic global positioning system data in the Montana coordinate system, the easement location depicted on a topographical map to a scale of 1:24,000, easement coordinates, and the quantity of land taken in each quarter-quarter section.

(6) (a) The department may waive survey requirements for rights-of-way or easements provided for in 77-2-101(2)(d) when there is sufficient information to define the boundaries of the right-of-way or easement to record the right-of-way or easement.

(b) An application for a private access road to private property must include:

(i) a description of appurtenant private lands historically accessed by the access road;

(ii) aerial photographs or images by an agency of the United States government dated prior to October 1, 1997, that depict the access road; and

(iii) easement location depicted on a topographical map to a scale of 1:24,000.

(c) An application for an existing county road must include:

(i) documentation establishing the road pursuant to Title 7, chapter 14, part 26;

(ii) aerial photographs or images by an agency of the United States government dated prior to October 1, 1997, that depict the county road; and

(iii) easement location depicted on a topographical map to a scale of 1:24,000.

(d) An application for an existing public utility infrastructure must include:

(i) evidence of installation prior to October 1, 1997, through submission of plant staking sheets, photographic evidence of dated infrastructure tags, or similar evidence; and

(ii) easement location depicted on a topographical map to a scale of 1:24,000.

History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.61, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-803(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 300, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 7, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 160, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 2, Ch. 309, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

77-2-103. Processing of application. (1) Upon the filing of an application and plats, the department shall, whenever it considers it necessary, examine the proposed right-of-way and report its findings to the board. The board shall consider the application and report and take any action it considers proper, including the fixing of compensation and damages to be paid to the state. The compensation must be the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of through the granting of the right-of-way easement, and the damages must be the actual damages resulting to the remaining land as nearly as they can be ascertained. If the right-of-way is granted according to the plat, the plat is the official plat of the right-of-way and must be retained in the office of the department.

(2) If the state land over or through which a right-of-way is applied for is under certificate of purchase or sales contract, the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee must be made a party to the proceedings and the purchaser's or assignee's consent in writing to the laying out and establishment of the proposed highway, street, or other easement and to the amount of compensation and damages to be paid must be filed with the board before the right-of-way is granted. The board is the judge of how much compensation and damages must be paid to the state and applied on the certificate of purchase or sales contract and of how much, if any, must be paid to the purchaser, as the circumstances in each individual case warrant. This subsection applies to all grants of rights-of-way on state lands.

(3) If the purpose of the right-of-way applied for is a regional water authority provided for in Title 75, chapter 6, part 3, the provisions of 77-2-351 related to public entities apply.

(4) A right-of-way easement issued pursuant to 77-2-102(6) is exempt from the requirements of Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2.

(5) Damages for a lessee's improvements, crops, or leasehold interests are not allowed for right-of-way easement applications made pursuant to 77-2-102(6).

History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.61, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-803(2), (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 300, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 141, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 3, Ch. 309, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Full market value for estate or interest in state lands, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-2-104. Nature of easements. Easements granted under 77-2-102 and 77-2-103 include permission to install and maintain poles, anchors, and other appurtenances necessary for the mechanical support of the transmission or distribution lines.

History: En. Sec. 61, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.61, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 99, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 203, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 200, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 54, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-803(part).

77-2-105. Termination of easements. Whenever lands granted for any of the purposes mentioned in 77-2-101(2) cease to be used for those purposes, the easement terminates upon notice to that effect to the person to whom the grant was made, served at the person's last-known post-office address.

History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.62, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 81-804(part); amd. Sec. 2545, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

How easement extinguished, 70-17-111.

77-2-106. Charge for granting of easement — in-kind payments for easements. (1) The board shall charge and collect the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of through the granting of any easement and also fix, charge, and collect the amount of the actual damages resulting to the remaining land from the granting of an easement as nearly as the damages can be ascertained.

(2) The board may accept, as lawful consideration, in-kind payments of services and materials equal to the full market value of any easement upon state trust land.

History: En. Sec. 62, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.62, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 81-804(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 18, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 404, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Full market value for estate or interest in state lands, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-2-107. Involvement of lessee when land subject to prior lease. (1) Except as provided in 77-2-103(5), whenever any kind of right-of-way easement has been granted under this part and the state land in which it is granted is under lease, the party receiving the grant shall give timely notice to the lessee and shall make just settlement with the lessee for any damages resulting to the lessee's improvements, crops, or leasehold interests.

(2) After the settlement is made, the lessee shall open or move any fences that may obstruct the right-of-way over the lands under lease and otherwise cooperate in the opening of the right-of-way. Proof must be filed with the board that the settlement has been made before the deed to the easement is issued.

(3) (a) If the lessee and the party receiving the right-of-way easement are unable to agree on the value of the damages resulting from the easement, the value of the damages must be ascertained and fixed by three arbitrators, one of whom must be appointed by the lessee, one by the party receiving the easement, and the third by the two appointed arbitrators.

(b) If a party refuses to appoint an arbitrator within 15 days of being requested to do so by the director of the department, the director may appoint an arbitrator for that party. An arbitrator appointed by the director has the same duties and powers as if appointed by one of the parties.

(c) The arbitrators may fix reasonable compensation for their services. The compensation must be paid in equal shares by the owner of the easement and the lessee.

(d) The value of the damages as ascertained and fixed by the arbitrators is binding on both parties; however, if either party is dissatisfied with the valuation, the party may, within 10 days, appeal from their decision to the department. The department shall examine the easements, and, except as provided in subsection (3)(e), its decision on the appeal is final. The department shall collect the actual cost of the reexamination from the owner of the easement and the lessee in the proportion that, in its judgment, justice may demand.

(e) If either party is dissatisfied with the valuation fixed by the department, the party may within 30 days after receipt of the department's decision petition the district court in the county in which the majority of the state land is located for judicial review of the decision.

History: En. Sec. 63, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.63, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 108, L. 1939; R.C.M. 1947, 81-805; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 318, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 535, L. 2021; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 4, Ch. 309, L. 2023. Amendment effective May 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Arbitration, Title 27, ch. 5.

77-2-108. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 157, L. 1981.

History: En. Sec. 56, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Secs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Ch. 37, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.56, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-801(2), (3).

Part 2
Exchanges of Land

Part Cross-References

Authority of Board to exchange land, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.

77-2-201. Exchange of land with United States or tribal governments. (1) (a) The board may enter into contracts or agreements with the United States or any department thereof having jurisdiction for the waiving and relinquishment to the United States of any rights of the state in and to sections 16 and 36 of any township and to any other parcel of state lands, provided that the state shall, in lieu of the rights so waived and relinquished, receive from the United States other lands of equal or greater value.

(b) The current user of the land transferred to the United States may continue to enjoy the use of the land under terms and conditions required by the federal government and in accordance with Public Law 88-607, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 1411 through 1418), and the current user of the land received from the United States may continue to utilize the land on the terms and conditions imposed by law or by the board.

(2) The board may enter into a contract or agreement with a tribal government as defined in 18-11-102 or with the United States for the relinquishment to the tribal government or to the

United States in trust for the tribal government of any rights of the state to some or all state lands located wholly within the exterior boundaries of the tribal government's reservation as recognized by the federal government; however, the state, in exchange for these relinquished rights, must receive from the tribal government or the United States lands of equal or greater value. No contract or agreement may be entered into under this section without first consulting with the board of county commissioners of the county or counties in which the lands to be exchanged are located.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.19, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-304(1), (3); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 628, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Restrictions on exchange of lands with United States, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

Status of exchanged lands, 77-2-217.

77-2-202. Repealed. Sec. 3, Ch. 139, L. 2001.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 151, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.19, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 117, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 39, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-304(2).

77-2-203. Exchange for nongovernment, state government, and other state and local public entity land. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the board is authorized to exchange state land for land owned by:

(a) the state or an agency of the state;

(b) a political subdivision of the state, including a county, city, town, public corporation, or district created pursuant to state law;

(c) any other public body of the state; or

(d) a nongovernmental entity, including but not limited to an individual, association, partnership, or corporation.

(2) The board may exchange the land described in subsection (1) if the land is of equal or greater value, as determined by the board after appraisal by a qualified land appraiser, than the state land and as closely as possible equal in area. The contents of the appraisal must be made available to any person who makes a written request to the board. The board shall place priority on exchanges that result in consolidation of state lands into more compact bodies. This section does not apply to exchanges undertaken under 76-12-107.

(3) If the requirements of 77-2-204 and subsections (1) and (2) of this section are met, state lands bordering on navigable lakes and streams or other bodies of water with significant public use value may be exchanged for nongovernment-owned land if the nongovernment-owned land borders on similar navigable lakes, streams, or other bodies of water.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-307(1), (3); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 287, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 2001.

77-2-204. Notification of proposed exchange — hearing. (1) Upon receipt of a proposal for an exchange of land under this part, the board shall give notice of the proposed exchange by certified mail to each person who has leased, under chapter 1 of this title, any portion of land involved in the proposed exchange. Any such leaseholder may present written or oral comments on the proposed exchange to the board before or during the hearing required by subsection (2). The notice must contain a statement informing the recipient of this right to comment.

(2) A public hearing on any exchange under this part shall be held in the county containing the state land to be exchanged. When specific objections to the proposed exchange are raised before or during any such hearing pursuant to subsection (1), the board shall make findings of fact responding to such objections and explaining their action.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-307(2); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 287, L. 1985.

77-2-205. Restriction on exchange for nongovernment-owned land. An exchange for nongovernment-owned land under 77-2-203 may not be made that will induce or encourage large-scale commercial, industrial, or residential development unless the development value is considered in determining the fair market value and unless the proposed development will not adversely affect the resources of the existing state tracts or those tracts that the state would receive under the proposed exchange.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 472, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-307(4); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 139, L. 2001.

77-2-206. Settlement for improvements. If any state land is exchanged on which there are improvements belonging to a lessee and some person other than the lessee is the transferee, that person shall settle with the lessee for all improvements on the land belonging to the lessee before the exchange is completed. The provisions of 77-6-301 through 77-6-303 and 77-6-306 relating to the payment and settlement for improvements on state lands between a former lessee and a new lessee apply to the settlement between a lessee and the transferee in an exchange. If settlement is not reached within 6 months of the date of exchange, all improvements become the property of the state unless the department for good cause shown grants both parties additional time in which to exhaust arbitration.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 287, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 270, L. 2001.

77-2-207. Approval or disapproval of exchanges. All exchanges of state lands are subject to approval and confirmation by the board, and no exchange is considered completed until after such approval and confirmation. The board has the power and it is its duty to disapprove any exchange which in its opinion would be disadvantageous to the state.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 287, L. 1985.

77-2-208 through 77-2-210 reserved.

77-2-211. Exchange of timbered, cut-over, or burned-over lands. The board may accept on behalf of the state title in fee simple to any timbered lands or lands from which the timber has been cut or burned and in exchange may convey lands not to exceed an equal value, as determined by the board after appraisal by a qualified land appraiser, of similar state land. However, an exchange may not be made unless the exchange, in the opinion of the board, will benefit the public interest. For the purpose of an exchange, all state lands, including those referred to in 77-2-303(2), 77-2-311, and 77-5-101, are subject to be offered for exchange, and any restrictions against their sale or disposal are, for the purpose of an exchange, released.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2201; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 18, L. 1999.

77-2-212. Rules. The board shall adopt and promulgate such rules and methods of procedure affecting or touching the exchanges of lands under 77-2-211 through 77-2-217 as in its judgment seems advisable to the end that the public interests may be conserved.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2205.

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-2-213. Department to investigate. (1) When a proposal for an exchange pursuant to 77-2-211 is made and the owners of the respective tracts involved seem agreeable to negotiate exchanges, the proposal must be referred to the department and the department shall thoroughly investigate all the lands involved in the proposal, estimate the value of all of the lands, and consider every factor in connection with the proposal that may affect the public interest.

(2) The estimated fair market value must be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2202; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 456, L. 2007.

77-2-214. Investigation and findings concerning exchange of land. (1) The department shall, as soon as it concludes its investigation thereof, report to the board the facts disclosed by its investigation and include in its report a recommendation concerning the proposal, including its reasons therefor in writing.

(2) After considering the report and recommendation and making such further investigation as it considers advisable, the board shall consider the entire matter, make findings and conclusions concerning the proposal, and make an order:

(a) rejecting and dismissing the proposal if in the judgment of the board the exchange is not in the public interest; or

(b) accepting the proposal and ordering the exchange to be made if in the judgment of the board the exchange is in the public interest and should be made.

(3) An order accepting the proposal shall contain an accurate description of all lands to be exchanged.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.3, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 101, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2203; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 286, L. 1985.

77-2-215. Notice and hearing concerning exchange of timbered lands. If the board approves a proposal for exchange pursuant to 77-2-211, the department shall publish at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which any of the lands involved are located a notice stating in general terms the proposal and describing the lands involved and the ownership of the lands. The notice must fix a day not less than 20 and not more than 60 days from the date of the first publication at which the board will hear objections to the proposed exchange and at which any person, firm, or corporation may appear in person or by representative and be heard.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2204(1); amd. Sec. 319, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

77-2-216. Final order of board. The board shall make a final order describing the terms of the proposal for the exchange of the land involved and shall either dismiss the proposal as not being in the public interest or direct the proper officers to proceed to complete the exchange, as authorized by 77-2-211.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2204(2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1985.

77-2-217. Status of exchanged lands. All lands taken in exchange under 77-2-211 through 77-2-216 for lands granted by the United States to the state of Montana prior to July 1, 1931, shall be subject to the same restrictions, limitations, and provisions as the lands granted by the United States are now subject to. All lands granted by the state in carrying out such exchanges shall thereafter be free from the restrictions and limitations provided by The Enabling Act of the state of Montana or the other grant from the United States.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 180, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1995.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2206(part).

Cross-References

Exchange of lands with United States, 77-2-201.

Part 3
Sales

Part Cross-References

Sale of state lands — disposition, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Public sales of state lands, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).
Authority of Board — sales, 77-1-204.
Sale of leased cabin or home sites or city or town lots, 77-2-318.

77-2-301. Sales of state land under board control. The board may decide when sales of state land are to be held and what state lands are to be offered for sale, subject to the limitations of this title, as the best interests of the state may appear to require.

History: En. Sec. 70, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.70, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-907; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 602, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 355, L. 2003.

77-2-302. Disposition of former institutions and certain federal land grants. (1) Notwithstanding any other section in this chapter, any lands, including buildings, that were formerly used as or by a state institution and that are no longer used for institutional purposes may be disposed of in whole or in part on the terms and in the manner that the board, after consultation with the appropriate legislative committee, may determine to be in the state's best interest, subject to The Enabling Act and constitutional restrictions. Disposal of the property may not be finally concluded until 60 days' public notice of the terms of the proposed disposal has been given.

(2) Notwithstanding any other section in this chapter, any lands, including buildings, granted to the state by the United States pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq., or acquired by the state as remedial action pursuant to 75-10-704, 75-10-711, or 75-10-712 may be disposed of in whole or in part on the terms and in the manner that the board, after consultation with the director of the department of environmental quality, determines to be in the state's best interest.

History: En. 81-907.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 410, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-907.1; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 274, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 320, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References
Use or disposition of facility, 53-20-505.
Who may purchase, 77-2-306.

77-2-303. Restrictions on land available for sale. (1) Land that in the judgment of the department is likely to contain valuable deposits of coal, oil, oil shale, phosphate, metals, sodium, or other valuable mineral deposits is not subject to sale of either the surface land or any of the mineral deposits. However, this subsection does not prohibit the sale of lands containing sand, gravel, building stone, brick clay, or similar materials.

(2) (a) Except any lands previously leased as cabin sites, there is reserved from sale from all state land bordering on navigable lakes, nonnavigable meandered lakes, and navigable streams, that the board considers in the best interests of the state, a strip of land that includes all the land lying between the low-water mark and high-water mark and that extends in width landward from the line of the high-water mark of the lake or stream the full width of the 40-acre tract or government lot abutting the line of the high-water mark. If the width of the abutting government lot at its narrowest point is less than 100 feet, then the strip reserved must extend to and include the next adjoining 40-acre tract or government lot. The land reserved from sale by this subsection is subject to the granting of easements the same as other state lands.

(b) Strips of land bordering on meandering lakes or on navigable streams, except the strip lying between the low-water and high-water mark, whether surveyed and platted into blocks and lots or not, may be leased as provided in this title for the leasing of other state lands.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 64, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.64, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-901, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 66, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.66, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 257, L. 1965; Sec. 81-903, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-901, 81-903(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 602, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 18, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 418, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 17, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 422, L. 2013.

Cross-References
Exchange of state riparian land for private riparian land, 77-2-203.
Exchange of timbered, cut-over, burned-over, or riparian lands, 77-2-211.
Leases:
nonmetallic minerals, excluding coal, oil, and gas, Title 77, ch. 3, part 2.
coal, Title 77, ch. 3, part 3.
oil and gas, Title 77, ch. 3, part 4.
Hydroelectric powersites — sale prohibited, 77-4-201.
State forests, Title 77, ch. 5, part 1.
Riparian ownership subject to fishing rights between highwater lines, 87-2-305.

77-2-304. Mineral reservations in state land. All coal, oil, oil shale, gas, phosphate, sodium, and other mineral deposits in state land, except sand, gravel, building stone, and brick clay, which were not reserved by the United States before July 1, 1927, are reserved to the state. Those deposits are reserved from sale except upon a rental and royalty basis as provided by law. A purchaser of state land acquires no right, title, or interest in or to any of those deposits. The state also reserves for itself and its lessees the right to enter upon state land to prospect for, develop, mine, and remove mineral deposits and to occupy and use so much of the surface of the land as may be required for all purposes reasonably extending to the exploring for, mining, and removal of the deposits from the land, but the lessee shall make just payment to the purchaser for all damage done by reason of entry upon the land and the use and occupancy of the surface of the land.

History: En. Sec. 65, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 28, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 183, L. 1935; re-en. Sec. 1805.65, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 56, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-902; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 418, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 17, L. 2013.

Cross-References
Reservation in certificate of purchase, 77-2-327.
Reservation in patent, 77-2-343.
Mining leases — bond to protect rights of prior purchaser, 77-3-120.
Sales, contracts for sale, and leases subject to mining leases, 77-3-122.
Coal leases — care taken to protect rights of prior purchasers, 77-3-304.
Oil and gas leases — care taken to protect rights of prior purchasers, 77-3-401.
Geothermal leases — compensation for damages to surface lessee, 77-4-107.

77-2-305. Lands within federal irrigation projects. Whenever state lands are located within the boundaries of federal irrigation projects, the land shall be sold in conformity with the classification of farm units as made by the United States, and all certificates of purchase issued for such lands shall show that the lands are located within a federal irrigation project and are or will be liable for their proper share of the reclamation charges.

History: **En. Sec. 69, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.69, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-906.**

Cross-References

Form of patent lien clause, 77-2-343.

77-2-306. Who may purchase. (1) State land may be sold to any person who is 18 years of age or older or any governmental or private entity including tribal governments as defined in 18-11-102.

(2) A sale involving land in excess of 160 acres may not be made under this section without first consulting with the board of county commissioners of the county or counties in which the lands to be sold are located.

(3) State land may not be sold to the federal government or to an agency of the federal government, except for the purpose of building federal facilities and structures. Nothing in this section prohibits the sale of state land to a tribal government as defined in 18-11-102.

(4) A local government that sold or transferred property to the state has the right of first refusal if the state subsequently offers the property for sale. For purposes of this subsection, "right of first refusal" means the right to have the first opportunity to purchase the property for not less than fair market value when the property becomes available or the right to meet any other offer.

History: **En. Sec. 71, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.71, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 94, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-908(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 628, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 313, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 326, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 355, L. 2003.**

77-2-307. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 355, L. 2003.

History: **En. Sec. 71, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.71, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 95, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 10, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 94, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-908(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 628, L. 1985.**

77-2-308. Approval or disapproval of sales. All sales of state lands shall be subject to the approval and confirmation by the board, and no sale shall be deemed completed until after such approval and confirmation. The board shall have the power and it shall be its duty to disapprove any sale which in its opinion would be disadvantageous to the state.

History: **En. Sec. 82, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.82, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-918(part).**

77-2-309. Discretion of board with respect to surveying and platting. The board has the option of determining whether or not state land must be surveyed, platted, and laid off into blocks and lots.

History: **En. Sec. 68, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.68, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 100, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-905(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 355, L. 2003.**

77-2-310. Certain lands to be platted before sale. (1) Any part of state lands that in the opinion of the board may be sold for residential or commercial purposes must before sale, at such time as the board may consider to be in the best interests of the state, be surveyed in conformity with the laws of the state for the survey and platting of townsites and additions. Except to the extent that the following provisions violate Article X, section 4 or 11, of the Montana constitution, the board and the department shall consider the ordinances of the appropriate city or town or the resolutions of the appropriate county regarding:

(a) a growth policy or a neighborhood plan adopted pursuant to Title 76, chapter 1;
(b) zoning regulations;
(c) subdivision review as provided in Title 76, chapter 3;
(d) annexation;
(e) plans for the extension of services; and
(f) other actions related to local planning.

(2) The board shall cause correct maps and plats of the lands to be made and recorded after being surveyed. A fee may not be charged by the county recorder or by any city officer for filing or recording the maps or plats when recorded on behalf of the state.

(3) Before the lands are offered for sale the lands must be appraised, with a separate appraisal to be placed on each lot. The surveyed and platted land may then be sold in the same manner and upon the same terms and conditions as other state lands are sold.

History: En. Sec. 67, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.67, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-904; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 335, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Montana Subdivision and Platting Act — applicability, 76-3-205.

77-2-311. Survey and plat of shore lands. The board may cause any part of the lands bordering on lakes described in 77-2-303(2) and on navigable streams that are reserved from sale to be surveyed and platted into blocks and lots. The lots may not be less than 125 feet in width, measured in the general direction of the abutting water front, except that any former cabin or home sites proposed for sale or sold by the board may possess a width less than 125 feet. In all surveys and plats the strip of 100 feet in width along the water front, referred to in 77-2-303(2)(a), must be reserved for the use and enjoyment of the public. Cabin sites or home sites bordering on meandered lakes or navigable streams may be surveyed and sold consistent with the procedures provided in 77-2-361 through 77-2-367.

History: En. Sec. 66, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.66, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 257, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 81-903(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 18, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 422, L. 2013.

Cross-References

Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Subject to exchange for timbered, cut-over, or burned-over land, 77-2-211.

77-2-312. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 355, L. 2003.

History: En. Sec. 68, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.68, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 100, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-905(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 155, L. 1993.

77-2-313. Land subject to taxation. (1) State lands purchased from the state are subject to taxation. The department of revenue shall assess the purchaser for the full value of the land on January 1 following the date of purchase. The holder of certificates of purchase to lands within an irrigation district is liable for the entire irrigation district tax levied against the land.

(2) The improvements on the land must be assessed and taxed as other improvements on farm lands.

(3) On or before January 15 of each year, the department shall furnish the department of revenue with a complete list of all state lands sold in each county during the previous calendar year. This list must show the name and address of the purchaser, the legal description of the land, and the acreage contained in the purchase.

History: En. Sec. 92, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.92, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 107, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 67, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 388, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-928; amd. Sec. 143, Ch. 27, Sp. L. November 1993.

Cross-References

Property subject to taxation — classification, 15-6-101.
Lands within federal irrigation projects, 77-2-305.
Taxes and assessments — irrigation districts, Title 85, ch. 7, part 21.

77-2-314. Reversion of lands to state. If any lands sold under this title revert to the state for any reason, the department shall notify the department of revenue and the county treasurer of the county in which the land is situated of that fact. Upon the receipt of the notice, the department of revenue shall cancel any assessment of the land for that year, and the county treasurer shall cancel all tax liens against the land.

History: En. Sec. 94, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.94, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 391, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 68, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-930.

Cross-References

Exemption from property taxes — state land, 15-6-201.

77-2-315. Participation in irrigation districts — lien status of land. (1) A purchaser of state lands is authorized and empowered to sign any petition that the purchaser may desire to sign for the creation of an irrigation district and the inclusion of the land purchased from the state in the irrigation district and any other petition relating to irrigation districts affecting the land purchased by the person from the state. The petition or petitions have the effect of making all the interest that the person then has in the land purchased from the state and all interest that the person may subsequently acquire in the land subject to the same liens and charges as privately owned lands under the irrigation district. If for any reason the person's certificate to the state lands and the person's rights under the certificate are canceled and the certificate is reinstated or a new certificate is issued, the liens and charges are valid against the interest in the lands of the holder of the certificate.

(2) The board for and on behalf of the state of Montana may sign a petition for the inclusion of any lands belonging to the state in an irrigation district organized or to be organized for the purpose of cooperating with the United States under the federal reclamation laws or any act of congress relating to reclamation projects and to sign any petition for the execution of a contract between the district and the United States. The interest of the state in any lands within an irrigation district is not subject to assessment or taxation for any purpose, and the state is not liable for the payment of any costs or charges arising from the fact that its lands are included within an irrigation district.

(3) The interest of a purchaser of state lands in the land purchased is subject to the same liens as other real estate. However, in the case of sale, only the interest of the purchaser or of the assignee may be sold. In the case of any sale under the provisions of this section, including the sale for taxes, the purchaser shall succeed to all the rights of the purchaser from the state under the certificate of purchase and a new certificate of purchase must be issued to the person entitled to the certificate upon satisfactory proof being submitted to the board. In the case of sale under execution or court decree, the new certificate of purchase may not be issued by the board until the period of redemption from the sale has expired and the sheriff's deed has been issued. In the case of sale for taxes, the new certificate may not be issued until the tax deed has been issued.

History: **En. Sec. 93, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 58, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 1805.93, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-929; amd. Sec. 2546, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Tax deeds — ownership interests in land sold for taxes, Title 15, ch. 18.
Period of redemption — reinstatement of canceled certificates of purchase, 77-2-333.
Petition for organization of water district, 85-7-104.
Irrigation district special tax or assessment — lien, 85-7-2108.

77-2-316. Repealed. Sec. 4, Ch. 157, L. 1981.

History: **En. Sec. 56, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Secs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Ch. 37, Ex. L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.56, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 80, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-801(1), (5), (6).**

77-2-317. Valuation of cabin or home site and improvements — rulemaking. (1) (a) Prior to the board's approval of any sale of state land leased as a cabin or home site or state land with a vacant cabin or home site as provided in 77-2-318, the board shall separately determine the full market value of the land and the value of the cabin site improvements existing on the land and the value of any necessary access easement across existing state lands from the nearest public road. The appraisal to determine these values must be based upon comparable sales of nearby existing properties with the hypothetical condition that the state parcel to be sold is accessible for all lawful purposes. The appraisal must determine the raw undeveloped value of the parcel and the value of the cabin site improvements.

(b) (i) In determining the value of state land leased as a cabin or home site pursuant to subsection (1)(a), the department shall establish a list that is acceptable to the board of no fewer than two third-party independent appraisers that are available to conduct the appraisal of the land and the cabin site improvements. The department shall provide a copy of the list to the cabin site or home site lessee. The lessee shall provide the department with a list of at least 50% of the appraisers from the department's list. The department shall select the appraiser to conduct the appraisal from the list provided by the lessee.

(ii) The department shall assume the proportionate cost of the appraisal of the state land valuation. The lessee shall assume the proportionate cost of the appraisal of the valuation of the cabin site improvements.

(c) The board shall disclose the results of the appraisal to the cabin site or home site lessee of the land for sale and shall give that lessee notice and opportunity for an administrative hearing before the department to contest those valuations. The department shall review the arguments and evidence received at the hearing to make a recommendation of the values of the land and the cabin site improvements to the board. The board shall make a final determination on the values of the land and cabin site improvements.

(2) (a) If the lessee consents to the terms and conditions of the proposed sale and the valuation of cabin site improvements, the sale must proceed utilizing the board's final determination of the values, and the lessee is obligated to transfer its interest in the cabin

site improvements existing on the cabin or home site lease according to the board's final determination of their value.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits the lessee from accepting a price for the cabin site improvements existing on the cabin or home site that is less than the board's final determination of value.

(3) For purposes of 77-2-318 and this section, "cabin site improvements" includes but is not limited to:

(a) a home or residence;
(b) outbuildings and structures;
(c) sleeping cabins;
(d) utilities;
(e) water systems;
(f) septic systems;
(g) docks; and
(h) landscaping.

(4) The board may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 422, L. 2013.**

77-2-318. Sale of leased cabin or home sites. (1) (a) The board shall, consistent with the board's constitutional fiduciary duty of attaining full market value, make available for sale within a reasonable period of time as provided in this part those lands that were state land cabin or home sites on May 6, 2013, at the request of a lessee or an improvement owner and with the consent of any mortgagee or other owner of an interest in the cabin or home site improvements, only if the requested sale is consistent with the board's constitutional fiduciary duty of attaining full market value and with the provisions of this part and if the sale is approved by the board.

(b) (i) The disposition of proceeds of any sale of state land property pursuant to this section must comply with the provisions of 77-2-337.

(ii) The proceeds of any sale of cabin site improvements pursuant to this part must go to the owner of record of the improvements.

(2) The sale of a cabin or home site is exempt from the subdivision laws, except that the development of any new or additional water supply or sewage disposal system on the property must be approved pursuant to the review procedure, fee, and other requirements of Title 76, chapter 4, part 1.

(3) The board may adopt rules to ensure that the sales process authorized pursuant to this section is orderly and consistent with its constitutional fiduciary duties and that the number of leased cabin or home sites made available for sale at any given time is consistent with the board's constitutional duty of attaining full market value.

(4) Upon a sale of a cabin or home site, the board may:

(a) grant a permanent easement across state lands to secure access using current routes; or

(b) convey an appurtenant, nonexclusive easement to the property from the nearest public road if:

(i) the board has authority to grant the easement; and

(ii) the conveyance of the easement does not overburden a right-of-way held by the board.

(5) The appraised value and minimum bid for a cabin or home site must include the value of the easement granted pursuant to subsection (4).

(6) For purposes of this section, "cabin site improvements" has the meaning provided in 77-2-317.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 602, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 76, Ch. 472, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 401, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 422, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 268, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 184, L. 2017.**

77-2-319. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 401, L. 2011.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 602, L. 1989.**

77-2-320. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 422, L. 2013.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 602, L. 1989.**

77-2-321. Sales to be at public auction. All sales of state lands shall be only at public auction held at the county courthouse of the county in which the lands are located. In case no suitable room can be found in such courthouse at the time for holding the sale, then the sale may be transferred to a more convenient place within a reasonable distance of such courthouse by public announcement made at the courthouse at the time fixed for beginning the sale.

History: **En. Sec. 72, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.72, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 184, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 81-909.**

Cross-References

Public sale after advertising required, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

77-2-322. Notice of sale. (1) The department shall give notice of each sale by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the sale is to be held, once each week through the 4 consecutive weeks preceding the date of sale. The notice shall give the day, date, and time of the beginning of the sale and contain a list of all the tracts to be offered for sale showing the township and range in which they are located, describing them with reference to section number and subdivision of the section or with reference to block and lot if surveyed, the number of acres in unplatted lands, and the appraised value per acre and the appraised value of each lot. As a general rule, nonirrigable farming lands shall be listed in quarter sections; grazing lands may be listed in larger tracts not exceeding one section.

(2) For the convenience of the bidders, the department may assign to the tracts advertised a consecutive series of sales numbers and show the sales number of each tract in the notice of sale.

(3) The notice shall also give the terms and conditions of sale and any additional information the department considers useful.

History: **En. Sec. 73, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.73, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-910.**

Cross-References

Advertising required for sale of state land, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

77-2-323. Sale procedure and limitation. (1) At the time fixed for the sale, state land must be offered for sale at auction in the order that the land appears in the notice of sale. Under the direction of the department, the state land must be sold to the highest qualified bidder. State land may not be sold for less than the value determined by the board after appraisal by a qualified land appraiser.

(2) The state land must be sold as nearly as practicable according to the subdivisions in which it is advertised, and care must be taken not to subdivide any tract in such a way as to separate remaining portions from a water supply or from section lines or public highways.

(3) The sale may be adjourned from day to day until all the state land advertised has been offered for sale.

History: **En. Sec. 75, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.75, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-912(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 136, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 355, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Requirements of minimum prices, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

Initial payment on day of sale, 77-2-329.

77-2-324. Preference to lessee of land. The lessee of the land need not make a higher bid than others, but the lessee has the option to match the high bid and must be given the preference. If the lessee matches the high bid, bidding must be reopened to all bidders, with the lessee retaining the right of preference to match the ultimate high bid and be awarded the sale.

History: **En. Sec. 75, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.75, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-912(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 602, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2547, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Disposition of former institutions, 77-2-302.

77-2-325. Settlement for improvements. Except for the sale of a cabin or home site, if any state land is sold on which there are improvements belonging to a lessee and some person other than the lessee is the purchaser, that person shall settle with the lessee for all improvements on the land belonging to the lessee before the issuance of the certificate of purchase. The provisions of 77-6-301 through 77-6-303 and 77-6-306 relating to the payment and settlement for improvements on state lands between a former lessee and a new lessee apply to the settlement between a lessee and the purchaser. If settlement is not reached within 6 months of the date of sale, all improvements become the property of the state unless the department for good cause shown grants both parties additional time in which to exhaust arbitration.

History: **En. Sec. 83, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.83, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 61, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-919; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 270, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 268, L. 2015.**

77-2-326. Time of possession. In the case of lands under lease the purchaser shall be given possession by the state on March 1 next succeeding the date of sale and not before unless the lease expires prior to that date, except through special agreement between the purchaser and the lessee.

History: **En. Sec. 84, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.84, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-920.**

77-2-327. Certificate of purchase. (1) Upon the approval of the sale and receipt of satisfactory evidence of settlement with the former lessee, if any, for improvements on the land, the department shall execute and mail to the purchaser a certificate of purchase signed by the governor as president of the board and by the director of the department and attested by the seal of the board. The certificate of purchase must contain the date of sale, the name and post-office address of the purchaser, a description of the land, the total purchase price, the amount paid on the day of sale, the balance unpaid, and the amount and due date of each installment of principal and interest to the time of maturity. The certificate must reserve the easements for rights-of-way granted by the statutes in favor of the United States and other easements that have been granted by the board and must contain the reservations in favor of the state provided for in 77-2-304 relating to coal, oil, and mineral rights in the land.

(2) The certificate must also contain information regarding the lien of the state on crops and improvements on the land; installments of principal, interest, and taxes; and any additional conditions, agreements, and information that the board considers necessary in order to carry out the intent of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 85, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.85, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 62, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-921; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 321, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

Cross-References

Easements to pass with land, 70-20-308.

Certificate for land within federal irrigation projects to state liability for share of reclamation charges, 77-2-305.

Approval of sale by Board required, 77-2-308.

77-2-328. Additional rules — deposit of fees. The board may prescribe any additional rules for the conduct of sales of state land as in its judgment the interests of the state may demand. The rules may not include a deduction of fees from land granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329. Any fees collected by a rule adopted pursuant to this section must be deposited in the trust land administration account as provided in 77-1-109.

History: **En. Sec. 76, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.76, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-913; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 422, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 465, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Adoption of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-2-329. Terms of payment. (1) A purchaser of state land shall pay on the day of sale that portion of the purchase price that the purchaser desires, but not less than 10% of the total sales price. If the balance on the purchase price is not an exact multiple of $25, the purchaser shall pay the additional sum that is necessary to reduce the balance to an even multiple of $25.

(2) The purchaser shall pay the balance of the purchase price within 30 days. The department may extend this deadline up to 30 additional days for good cause.

History: **En. Sec. 79, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.79, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 149, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 191, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-915; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2548, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Penalty for failure to make initial payment, 77-2-323.

77-2-330. Computation of interest and payment schedule. The balance of the purchase price shall draw interest from the date on which the sale was confirmed and approved by the board, and all installments on principal and interest shall become due and payable on that date in each succeeding year until payment has been made in full.

History: **En. Sec. 86, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.86, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-922.**

77-2-331. Manner of making payments. (1) The department is not required to accept fractional payments of the installments on certificate of purchase on account of the complications arising from the division of payments.

(2) The purchaser may make payment of one or more installments before the same becomes due, but unless such payments are made at least 6 months before the installments become due, no reduction may be made in the interest payments. If installments on principal and interest are paid more than 6 months prior to the due date, the interest from the date of such payment shall be figured upon the balance of the principal unpaid after the advance payment has been made up to the date on which it comes due.

(3) If for any reason any installment is not paid when due, the total of that installment, including payment on the principal and payment on interest, shall draw penalty interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date due until the date actually paid.

(4) Payment may be made in full at any time before maturity by paying the balance on the principal and interest accrued up to the date of such payment.

History: En. Sec. 87, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.87, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 63, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-923.

77-2-332. Procedure in case of default. (1) If a purchaser or assignee of state land defaults for a period of 30 days or more in the payment of any of the installments due on the certificate of purchase, the certificate is subject to cancellation. The department shall mail to the purchaser at the purchaser's last-known post-office address a notice of default and pending cancellation. The notice must give the purchaser 60 additional days from the date of mailing the notice in which to make payment of the delinquent installment or installments with penalty interest.

(2) If the purchaser fails to make the payment within 60 days, the certificate of purchase from that date and without further notice is void, the duplicate of the certificate in the office of the department must be canceled, and the land under the certificate reverts to and becomes the property of the state to the same extent as other state lands and must be open to lease and sale.

(3) All buildings, fences, and other improvements placed on the land subsequent to the date of execution of the certificate of purchase must be and remain the property of the purchaser named in the certificate of purchase or of the purchaser's heirs, assigns, or devisees and may be removed from the land at any time within 90 days after the date of the cancellation. If the buildings, fences, and other improvements are not removed prior to the expiration of the 90-day period, they become the property of the state.

(4) In case of cancellation of certificate of purchase or surrender of certificate of purchase and when the land is again open to lease, the former lessee has the prior right to lease the tract at the existing rate or at the rate set by competitive bidding if bidding occurs.

History: En. Sec. 88, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.88, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 141, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 159, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 64, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-924; amd. Sec. 2549, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Land foreclosed by Board of Investments not state land, 77-1-101.
Court actions for money due on cancellation of certificates, 77-1-111.
Sale of land under execution, 77-2-315.
Subsequent purchaser may take subject to liens, 77-2-336.

77-2-333. Reinstatement of canceled certificates of purchase. (1) In all cases in which a certificate of purchase of state lands has been canceled and annulled as provided by law and the lands under the certificate have not been resold to another purchaser, the board may in its discretion reinstate the canceled certificate upon:

(a) proper application made in writing by the original purchaser or the original purchaser's heirs, assigns, or devisees, filed within 1 year and 6 months from the cancellation;

(b) payment of all delinquent installments of principal and interest on the certificate, together with penalty interest at the rate of 6% a year upon all delinquent installments from the date due until the date of actual payment; and

(c) the furnishing of proof from the county treasurer showing that there are no tax liens against the land.

(2) This reinstatement does not have the effect of canceling any lease that the state may have issued on the land or affecting any of the provisions of the lease.

History: En. Sec. 89, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1929; re-en. Sec. 1805.89, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-925; amd. Sec. 2550, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

77-2-334. Assignment of certificate. Certificates of purchase may be assigned to a citizen of the United States or to a person who has declared an intention to become a citizen or to a corporation organized under the laws of this state. These assignments must be made on forms prescribed by the department, must be duly acknowledged as other conveyances of real estate, and must be executed in duplicate with one copy to be filed and retained in the office of the department and one copy to be retained by the assignee. A person is not qualified to receive an assignment if the lands that the person has already purchased from the state, together with the lands included in the assignment, exceed one section. The assignee must in all respects possess the same qualifications as an original purchaser.

History: **En. Sec. 90, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.90, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-926; amd. Sec. 2551, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Certificate of purchase voidable for default, 77-2-332.
Subsequent purchaser may take subject to liens, 77-2-336.

77-2-335. Lost certificate. If a certificate of purchase to state land is lost or is wrongfully withheld by any person from the owner of the land, the rightful owner may apply to the board for the issuance of a substitute certificate. This application must be accompanied by an affidavit from the owner of the certificate setting forth the facts in regard to the loss or unlawful withholding of the certificate and by a certificate from the county clerk and recorder of the county in which the land is located showing all instruments of record in the clerk and recorder's office affecting the title to the land under the certificate. The board shall issue a substitute certificate of purchase to the applicant if in the judgment of the board the facts warrant its issue.

History: **En. Sec. 91, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.91, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-927; amd. Sec. 2552, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

77-2-336. Lien on improvements and crops for amount due state. (1) The state has a lien prior and superior to all other liens, except thresher's liens and seed liens as specified in 71-3-701 and 71-3-801, that have priority, but only for the aggregate amount of the indebtedness then existing, including any advances made, interest due, and other charges, as evidenced by the original loan contract and indebtedness accumulating on that basis, exclusive of any other future advances originally contemplated. This lien is upon all buildings, structures, fences, and other improvements upon the land sold and upon all crops growing upon any of the land and also upon crops after they have been separated from the land for all due and delinquent installments of principal and interest and penalty interest and taxes under the certificate of purchase and also for all installments becoming due during the calendar year in which the crop is harvested, and this lien is expressly reserved.

(2) Any person purchasing or otherwise acquiring the improvements or crops or any part of the improvements or crops takes them subject to the lien.

(3) Any representative of the department or the sheriff of the county in which the land is located or the sheriff's deputy may demand of the purchaser or the purchaser's agent payment of the amounts due the state, and if they are not paid upon demand, the officer making the demand or any representative of the department may immediately seize the improvements and crops and, upon giving 3 days' notice, sell and dispose of, either at private or public sale, sufficient of the crops or improvements or of both to pay the amounts due the state, together with cost and expenses of seizure and sale.

History: **En. Sec. 81, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.81, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-917; amd. Sec. 2553, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Sale on execution of judgment, Title 25, ch. 13, part 7.
Liens — generally, Title 71, ch. 3, part 1.
Farm laborers' liens, 71-3-401.
Priority — construction liens, 71-3-541, 71-3-542.
Lien for hail insurance, 71-3-711.
Lien for spraying or dusting crops, 71-3-904.

77-2-337. Disposition of sale proceeds. (1) Except as provided in 77-2-362 and subsection (3) of this section, the proceeds from the state land sold, including all subsequent payments on the principal, must be credited to the permanent fund arising from the grant to which it belongs and must become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part of the permanent fund.

(2) All payments on interest must be credited to the proper income fund and must be available for use as provided by law.

(3) (a) Proceeds from the sale of any state trust land, as authorized by 77-2-361 through 77-2-367, must be deposited into the state land bank fund established in 77-2-362 to be used for the purposes described in 77-2-362 and 77-2-364 for the long-term financial benefit of the beneficiaries for whom the funds were deposited.

(b) If the proceeds from the sale of state trust land, as authorized by 77-2-361 through 77-2-367, are not used for the purposes described in 77-2-362 and 77-2-364, the proceeds from the sale and any earnings on the proceeds must be deposited pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

History: En. Sec. 75, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 177, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.75, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 184, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-912(4); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 355, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341.
Permanent fund type — public school fund, 20-9-601.
Land foreclosed by Board of Investments not state land, 77-1-101.
Board subject to authority of Board of Investments, 77-1-202.
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-2-338 through 77-2-340 reserved.

77-2-341. Patents. When the purchase price has been paid in full together with interest according to the certificate, the owner thereof shall be entitled to receive a patent for the land under such certificate.

History: En. Sec. 95, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.95, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-931.

77-2-342. Execution of patents. (1) The governor and, in the governor's absence or inability, the lieutenant governor shall execute deeds or patents of conveyance transferring without covenants any lands sold by the board under the laws of this state when full payment has been made for the land.

(2) The deed or patent must be attested by the secretary of state, must be countersigned by the director of the department, and must have the great seal of the state and the seal of the board attached to the deed or patent but need not be acknowledged.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.96, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-932(part); amd. Sec. 322, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

Cross-References

Governor executing patents, 2-15-201.
Execution of deeds, 17-6-201(6).

77-2-343. Patent provisions. (1) Such deed or patent shall contain the reservation of easements for rights-of-way to the United States, reservation of all minerals in the land as provided in 77-2-304, and all other reservations to which the particular land conveyed is subject.

(2) If the land is located within the boundaries of a federal irrigation project, the patent shall contain a lien clause substantially in the following form: The land hereby conveyed is located within the boundaries of a federal irrigation project and is subject to all liens which the United States may have thereon by reason of its being located under such irrigation project.

(3) This section does not require any reservation in a patent which was not an express or implied reservation in the certificate of purchase pursuant to which the patent is issued. The statutes in effect when such certificate of purchase was issued must govern.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.96, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-932(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 157, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Irrigation districts — liens and charges, 77-2-315.

77-2-344. Copy of deed or patent as evidence. A certified copy of the record of any such deed or patent shall be received in evidence in all courts of record of this state the same as the original.

History: En. Sec. 96, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.96, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 69, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-932(part).

77-2-345. Limitation for cancellation of patent. No action shall be brought to vacate or cancel any patent issued by the state after the expiration of 2 years from the date of such patent except upon the ground of fraud.

History: En. Sec. 97, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.97, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-933.

Cross-References

Fraud — actual and constructive, 28-2-404 through 28-2-406.

77-2-346 through 77-2-350 reserved.

77-2-351. Sale to or exchange of property with public entity. Notwithstanding any other section in this chapter, any lands may be sold to or exchanged for other land or for other consideration with another public entity on terms and in a manner that the board, after consultation with the appropriate legislative committee, may determine to be in the state's best interest, subject to The Enabling Act and constitutional restrictions. In the case of land that is not granted to or held by the state in trust for the support of the common schools, for a state institution, or for another specific purpose, the board may accept as partial or total consideration for the transfer of the land a binding commitment by the transferee to use the property to provide a community service or a benefit that fulfills a public purpose. The sale or exchange of the property may not be finally concluded until 60 days' public notice of the terms of the proposed sale or exchange has been given. As used in this section, "public entity" means any county, city, municipal corporation, school district, regional water authority provided for in Title 75, chapter 6, part 3, or special improvement or taxing district.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 264, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 141, L. 2011.

77-2-352 through 77-2-360 reserved.

77-2-361. Definitions. As used in 77-2-361 through 77-2-367, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Isolated parcel" means any state land not possessing a legal right of access by the public.

(2) "Land banking" means a process of selling various parcels of state land and using the proceeds from the sales to purchase other land, easements, or improvements that are likely to provide greater or equal trust revenue, as may be reasonably expected over a 20-year accounting period with an acceptable level of risk, for the affected trust and to diversify the land holdings of the various trusts.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 355, L. 2003.

77-2-362. State land bank fund — statutory appropriation — rules. (1) There is a state land bank fund. The proceeds from the sale of state trust land authorized by 77-2-361 through 77-2-367 must be deposited into the state land bank fund. The purpose of the state land bank fund is to temporarily hold proceeds from the sale of trust land pending the purchase of other land, easements, or improvements for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the respective trusts. A separate record of the proceeds received from the sale of trust land for each of the respective trusts must be maintained. Proceeds from the sale of lands that are part of a trust land grant may be used only to purchase land for the same trust.

(2) (a) Proceeds deposited in the state land bank fund, except earnings on those proceeds, are statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, to the department for the purposes described in 77-2-361 through 77-2-367. All earnings on the proceeds deposited in the state land bank fund are subject to the provisions of Article X, sections 5 and 10, of the Montana constitution.

(b) Funds appropriated from the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108 may be used by the department to fund the transactional costs of buying, selling, appraising, or marketing real property. Transactional costs may include realtor's fees, title reports, title insurance, legal fees, and other costs that may be necessary to complete a conveyance of real property.

(c) Proceeds from the sale of lands held pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329, may not be used for any transactional costs or trust administration purposes for those lands.

(d) The department may hold proceeds from the sale of state land in the state land bank fund for a period not to exceed 10 years after the effective date of each sale. If, by the end of the 10th year, the proceeds from the subject land sale have not been encumbered to purchase other lands, easements, or improvements within the state, the proceeds from that sale must be deposited in the public school fund or in the permanent fund of the respective trust as required by law, along with any earnings on the proceeds from the land sale, unless the time period is extended by the legislature.

(3) The board shall adopt rules providing for the implementation and administration of the state land bank fund, purchases, and sales.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 115, Ch. 2, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

77-2-363. Land banking land sales and limitations — sale preparation costs. (1) (a) The board may not cumulatively sell or dispose of more than 250,000 acres of state land. Seventy-five percent of the acreage cumulatively sold must be isolated parcels that do not have a legal right of access by the public. At any one time during the life of the land banking process, the board may not sell more than 20,000 acres of state land unless the board has acted to use the revenue from that land to make purchases pursuant to 77-2-364.

(b) The estimated fair market value must be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser.

(2) (a) A person bidding to purchase state land offered for sale shall 20 days prior to the day of auction deposit with the department a bid bond in the form of a certified check or cashier's check drawn on any Montana bank or an electronic funds transfer, as defined in 32-6-103, equal to at least 20% of the minimum sale price specified by the department pursuant to 77-2-323(1) to guarantee the bidder's payment of the purchase price. Bid bonds submitted to secure a bid on a parcel formerly leased as a cabin or home site need only be equal to 5% of the minimum sale price as specified by the department.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), if the current lessee of the land to be sold has initiated the sale as authorized by 77-2-364, the lessee may cancel the sale by giving notice to the department at least 10 days prior to the day of the auction. When the sale is canceled by the lessee, the lessee shall pay the costs incurred by the department for the preparation of the sale, including any costs incurred for preparation of documents required by 75-1-201.

(c) If the land to be sold is a leased cabin or home site as provided in 77-2-318 and the current lessee has initiated the sale as authorized by 77-2-364, the lessee may cancel the sale by giving notice to the department at least 10 days prior to the day of the auction unless another person has deposited a bid bond per subsection (2)(a), at which point the sale cannot be canceled by the lessee. When the sale is canceled by the lessee, the lessee shall pay the costs incurred by the department for the preparation of the sale, including any costs incurred for preparation of documents required by 75-1-201.

(d) The department shall retain the bid bond of the successful bidder and shall return the bid bonds of the unsuccessful bidders. If the successful bidder fails to comply with the terms of the sale for any reason, the successful bidder's bid bond must be forfeited and credited to the interest and income account of the proper trust.

(3) Except for a sale that is initiated by the lessee of the parcel of land proposed for sale, prior to the proposed sale of any parcel of state land under the land banking process, the board shall give 60 days' notice of the proposed sale to the lessee of the parcel to allow the lessee sufficient time to determine whether the lessee wishes to propose an exchange of the land to the board.

(4) For a sale initiated by the board, the department, or the cabin or home site lessee, the lessee of the land must be afforded all the rights and privileges to match the high bid as provided in 77-2-324.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6), when the lessee has initiated a sale of land under this section, the lessee shall remit to the department the estimated costs of preparing the parcel for sale, including but not limited to appraisals, cultural surveys, environmental review pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, and land surveys, if necessary. Payment must be made within 10 days after the board has provided preliminary approval for the sale of the parcel.

(b) If the parcel is sold to the lessee, the funds remitted for the costs of the sale must be applied to the actual costs at closing. If the parcel is sold to a party other than the lessee, the funds remitted by the lessee must be refunded to the lessee and the actual costs of preparing the parcel for sale must be assessed to the purchaser at closing.

(6) For the sale of a cabin or home site, the department shall prepare and assume the cost of the land survey. The department may allow the survey to be paid for in advance by the lessee or the owner of any improvements if the survey is contracted through the department according to department specifications. If the parcel is sold but the purchaser is other than the lessee or the owner of the improvements, the cost of the survey must be included in the actual costs at closing and the department shall refund the cost of the survey to the former lessee or the owner of the improvements.

(7) The sale of a cabin or home site is exempt from the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 396, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 456, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 209, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 422, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 193, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 268, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 2023.

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 226, L. 2023. Amendment effective April 24, 2023.

77-2-364. Land banking purchases. (1) The board may select and purchase, lease, receive by donation, hold in trust, or in any manner acquire for and in the name of the state of Montana, in trust for the beneficiaries specified in sections 10 through 19 of The Enabling Act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended, any interest in real property and improvements, tracts, and leaseholds of land that the board considers proper in order to best provide prudent, maximum, long-term revenue for the beneficiaries.

(2) Sales of state land may be initiated only by the board, by the department, or at the request of a lessee, pursuant to 77-1-202, 77-1-301, 77-2-301, or 77-2-308. The board shall ensure that the full market value of the land sold is realized for each trust by using the appraisal, sale, advertising, and competitive bid procedures contained within 77-2-303, 77-2-321, 77-2-322, 77-2-323, and 77-2-324. The estimated fair market value must be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser.

(3) When it is not inconsistent with the purpose of the trust, the board shall purchase land possessing legal access for all legal purposes.

(4) When purchasing land, easements, or improvements for the existing trusts, the board shall develop and apply appraisal and revenue projection procedures to ensure that the land or easements proposed for purchase or that the improvements proposed to be acquired are likely to produce more net revenue for the affected trust than the revenue that was produced from the land that was sold. The board may not purchase land, easements, or improvements pursuant to 77-2-361 through 77-2-367 unless it has first prudently determined that the land, easements, or improvements are likely to produce a greater or equal annual rate of return, as may be reasonably expected over a 20-year accounting period for Class 1, 3, and 4 lands and over a 60-year accounting period for Class 2 lands, as described in 77-1-401, with an acceptable level of risk for the affected trust, than the current annual rate of return from the state land that has been sold pursuant to 77-2-363. As guidance, the board shall use generally accepted accounting standards and the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions published by the U.S. department of justice and the appraisal institute.

(5) Prior to purchasing any land, easements, or improvements, the board shall determine that the financial risks and benefits of the purchase are prudent, financially productive investments that are consistent with the board's fiduciary duty as a reasonably prudent trustee of a perpetual trust. For the purposes of implementing 77-2-361 through 77-2-367, that duty requires the board to:

(a) discharge its duties with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence that a prudent person acting in a similar capacity with the same resources and familiar with similar matters should exercise in the conduct of an enterprise of similar character and aims;

(b) diversify the land holdings of each trust to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the sustained rate of return;

(c) discharge its duties and powers solely in the interest of and for the benefit of the trust managed;

(d) discharge its duties subject to the fiduciary standards set forth in 72-38-801; and

(e) maintain, as closely as possible, the existing land base of each trust, consistent with the state's fiduciary duty.

(6) Prior to purchasing a parcel of land in excess of 160 acres in any particular county, the board shall consult with the county commissioners of the county in which the parcel is located.

History: **En. Sec. 14, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 396, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 456, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 158, Ch. 264, L. 2013.**

77-2-365. Right of access not created. Nothing in 77-2-361 through 77-2-367 creates any express or implied right of access, right-of-way, or easement for the benefit of the board, the department, or any purchaser of state land over or through any other property.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 355, L. 2003.**

77-2-366. Land banking and state land cabin and home sites — reports to environmental quality council. (1) (a) The department shall provide a biennial report in accordance with 5-11-210 to the environmental quality council that describes the results of the land banking program in detail.

(b) At a minimum, the report must summarize the sale and purchase transactions made through the program by type, location, acreage, value, and trust beneficiary. The environmental quality council shall make any recommendations that it determines necessary regarding the implementation of the state land banking process, including recommendations for legislation.

(2) Because it is the legislature's intent that the board implement the provisions of 77-2-318(1) in a timely manner, the department, in consultation with the appropriate stakeholders, shall annually report to the environmental quality council in accordance with 5-11-210 by providing a summary of land sales of those lands that were state land cabin or home sites pursuant to 77-2-318 and efforts by the department to comply with the requirements of 77-2-318(1).

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 355, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 396, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 209, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 422, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 108, Ch. 261, L. 2021.**

77-2-367. Road easements on state lands. County roads or easements for county roads on lands purchased from the state of Montana are subject to the provisions of Title 7, chapter 14, part 26, regarding the establishment, alteration, or abandonment of county roads.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 355, L. 2003.**

Part 4
Transfer of Federal Land or Easements

77-2-401. Sale or transfer of federal land — when hearing required. (1) Prior to the sale or transfer of land in the state that is owned or controlled by an agency of the United States government, the director of the department shall determine whether there would be any impact on the management of state lands, on agricultural, wildlife, or recreational resources of the state, or on the cost of government services provided by the state, by any school district, or by any county, city, or other local government unit because of the sale or transfer.

(2) If the director determines under subsection (1) that there would be an adverse impact and that a hearing or public meeting has not been or will not be conducted by a federal agency to provide an opportunity for expression of public opinion regarding the proposed sale or transfer and that further public input would be desirable, the director shall hold a public hearing prior to the sale or transfer in order to provide the opportunity for the expression of public sentiment regarding the proposed disposition of federal land.

(3) If a hearing will be conducted by a federal agency on the proposed sale or transfer of federal land within the state, the director shall require the attendance of a representative of the department for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of 77-2-403.

(4) The sale or transfer of easements by an agency of the United States government and the transfer of land by the United States to the state of Montana in satisfaction of land owed to the state pursuant to The Enabling Act are exempt from the operation of this section.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 670, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 323, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

77-2-402. Hearing requirements. Any hearing required under 77-2-401 must be held in a county in which the land involved in the proposed sale or transfer is located and must be held according to procedural rules that must be adopted by the director of the department in accordance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 670, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 285, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

77-2-403. Action by director. The director of the department shall take action that the director considers appropriate, consistent with federal jurisdiction, to address concerns and issues raised during the hearing. The action may include but is not limited to:

(1) the filing of formal requests for action by the appropriate federal agency that would alleviate concerns expressed at the hearing;

(2) the filing of a formal protest to the proposed sale or transfer.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 670, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 286, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

CHAPTER 3
ROCK, MINERAL, COAL, OIL, AND GAS RESOURCES

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Part 1
Prospecting Permits and Mining Leases

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Duty to notify weed management district when proposed project will disturb land, 7-22-2152.
Minerals, Oil, and Gas, Title 82.
Reclamation and Development Grants Program Act, Title 90, ch. 2, part 11.

77-3-101. Definitions. In this part the following definitions apply:

(1) "Full market value" means the highest net value of products of mining operations in United States markets, less cost of transportation and refining, not including as a deduction any cost of producing or treating at the mine.

(2) "Gems" means sapphires, rubies, and other stones commonly known as "precious stones" or "semiprecious stones", but does not mean stones or other earth materials commonly used in building or construction work.

(3) "Metalliferous minerals" means gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, platinum, iron, and all other metallic minerals.

(4) "Mining" means the carrying on of operations of any kind for the purpose of extracting from the earth ore and other earth material containing metalliferous minerals or gems and includes operations of any kind for the extraction from ores and other earth material of metalliferous minerals or gems.

(5) "Mining lease" means a lease issued by the board for the prospecting for or mining of metalliferous minerals or gems.

(6) "Mining lessee" means the holder of a mining lease whether the holder is the original lessee under the lease or holds the lease as successor of the original lessee.

(7) "Returns" means the net amount received by the shipper from products of mining operations after deducting transportation costs, smelting charges and deductions, and other treatment costs, not including as a deduction any cost of producing or treating at the mine.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 35, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-601.

77-3-102. Mining leases authorized. (1) The board may, in its discretion and subject to the other provisions of this part, lease state lands, including the beds of navigable streams and the beds of navigable bodies of water and the reserved mineral rights of the state in lands sold or leased by the state, to any person, association, or corporation for the purpose of prospecting for or mining metalliferous minerals or gems.

(2) These leases may be for a period of time determined by the board, subject to limitations contained in the grants by which the state has acquired title to lands or mineral rights so leased.

(3) Leases issued under this part must give the lessee, so long as the lessee complies with the terms and conditions of the lease, the exclusive right of possession of the lands or mineral rights leased, subject to any reservations contained in the leases.

(4) In making the leases, the board may exercise business discretion as long as this part is not violated.

History: (1), (2)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-602, R.C.M. 1947; (3),(4) En. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-603, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-602, 81-603(part); amd. Sec. 2554, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Authority to lease, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; 77-1-204.
Leases for production of minerals for term of years as provided by Legislature, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).
Eminent domain — available when surface rights in others, except for strip or open-pit mining, 70-30-102.
Powers and duties of Board, 77-1-202.
Purchaser of state land takes subject to state mineral rights, 77-2-304.
Sales, contracts for sale, and other leases subject to mining leases, 77-3-122.
Leasing preference to prospecting permittee, 77-3-132.
Release of record upon forfeiture of lease — penalty, 82-1-201.
Uranium mining permit required, 82-4-221.
Mine operating permit required, 82-4-335.

77-3-103. Prospecting permits authorized. Prospecting permits without lease may be issued by the board upon the payment of the issuance fee under 77-1-302. The permittee shall also pay an annual fee established by the department and approved by the board at the end of each year during the life of the permit. A permit shall provide for due diligence in the work of prospecting during the life of the permit.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 22, L. 1971; Sec. 81-615, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-601.1 and amd. by Sec. 47, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-601.1(part).**

Cross-References

Geophysical exploration — permits required, 82-1-101.
Exploration license required, 82-4-331.

77-3-104. Notice of permit or lease approval. Upon the approval of an application for a prospecting permit or a mining lease under this part, the department shall promptly give written notice, by ordinary mail, to the permittee or lessee and to any holder of an agricultural or grazing lease embracing the same land or to any holder of a certificate of purchase or patent embracing the same land. The notice must be addressed to the permittee, mining lessee, agricultural or grazing lessee, purchaser, or patentee at the person's last-known post-office address.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-616; amd. Sec. 2555, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

77-3-105. Assignment of leases or permits. In case of the assignment of a mining lease or a prospecting permit by the holder thereof, the mining lessee or permittee executing the assignment is not relieved of any responsibility for operations under the lease or prospecting permit until:

(1) the financial and moral responsibility of the assignee has been approved by the board; and

(2) there is deposited with the department:

(a) the assignment or an executed copy thereof;

(b) an instrument executed by the sureties upon any bonds then held by the board in connection with the mining lease or permit and then in force, consenting to the assignment and containing the agreement of the sureties to be bound by the bonds under the assignment or new bonds conforming to all the requirements of 77-3-119; and

(c) a fee prescribed under 77-1-302.

History: **En. Sec. 13, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 45, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-613.**

77-3-106. Disposition of royalties, fees, and penalties. All fees and penalties collected under this part shall be credited to the state general fund; all rentals shall be credited to the income fund of the grant to which the land belongs; and all moneys collected as royalties shall be credited to the permanent fund arising from the grant to which the land belongs under each particular permit or lease; provided, however, that all rentals and royalties received from "mortgage lands" shall be credited to the same fund or funds as other receipts from such lands and that all rentals and royalties received under or in connection with a lease or permit on other lands or mineral rights not acquired through any grant to the state of Montana from the United States shall be paid into the same funds into which such receipts are paid when the land is part of the grant for the benefit of the public schools of the state of Montana.

History: **En. Sec. 17, Ch. 148, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-617.**

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-3-107 through 77-3-110 reserved.

77-3-111. Applications for mining lease. Application for a mining lease shall be made to the department on a form prescribed by it.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-606.**

77-3-112. Examination of lands prior to leasing. (1) Before the board leases any lands for the mining of metalliferous metals or gems, the department shall investigate the character of the lands and the nature and possible extent of the mineral deposits therein for the purpose of determining whether those lands are of such a character as to warrant the issuance of a mining lease thereon and for the purpose of determining the amount of royalty and other rentals or considerations for which the lands should be leased for mining purposes under this part.

(2) Upon the filing of an application for a mining lease the board may, if the lands covered by the application have not been examined by the department, require the applicant for the lease to deposit with the department an amount of money, not exceeding $500 in any one case, which in its judgment will cover the cost of a special examination to enable the board to pass upon the application in accordance with this part. Such deposit shall be used to reimburse the state for the actual cost of the examination, and any portion of the deposit not required for such reimbursement shall, upon the approval or rejection of the application, be repaid to the applicant by the department.

(3) The department shall make and preserve complete records of all such examinations.

History: **En. Sec. 11, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-611.**

77-3-113. Quantity of lands covered by lease. A mining lease shall cover the quantity of ground the board determines to be reasonable and consistent with the character of the ground, the type of deposit or deposits for which the lands are to be mined, and the character and size of the operation contemplated, necessary, or reasonable in good mining practice for the profitable recovery of the metalliferous minerals or gems therefrom.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 39, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-605.**

77-3-114. Restrictions on mining leases on lands already subject to coal, oil, or gas lease. In the case of lands covered by a lease for the mining of coal, oil, or gas, no lease for the mining upon any such land for metalliferous minerals and/or gems shall be issued to any person, association of persons, or corporation, other than the holder of such coal, oil, or gas lease while such coal, oil, or gas lease is in force, except with the written consent of the holder of such coal, oil, or gas lease.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 148, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-610.**

77-3-115. Lease provisions. (1) A lease may contain reasonable provisions for preliminary prospecting periods and must contain reasonable requirements for the prosecution of work during the prospecting period, if any, and for the prosecution of mining after the prospecting period.

(2) The lease may provide for the payment of rentals in conjunction with the work requirements or may prescribe cash rentals as an alternative or otherwise as the board considers best.

(3) The lease must specify the term of the lease, the royalty to be paid, reasonable forfeiture provisions, and reasonable terms under which the lessee may, within a time limited in the lease, remove property placed upon the leased lands by the lessee in the event of the termination of the lease by forfeiture or by lapse of time.

(4) The lease may contain other provisions that the board and the lessee agree upon that are not inconsistent with this part.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-603(part); amd. Sec. 2556, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

77-3-116. Royalty provisions. In every mining lease the board shall reserve to the state a royalty which shall, together with other considerations to be paid by the mining lessee, constitute the full market value as ascertained by the board of the leasehold interest conveyed by the lease. This royalty may not be less than 5% of the returns from or of the full market value of the metalliferous minerals or gems recovered by the lessee from the state lands or reserved mineral rights covered by the lease.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-604(1).**

Cross-References

Full market value required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

Royalty in pooling agreements, 77-3-121.

77-3-117. Modification of lease provisions. The board, by agreement with the permittee or lessee, may, in its discretion and upon such terms as it considers best, amend or modify the terms and conditions within the limitations of this part or extend the term of any lease or prospecting permit issued under this part, subject to the limitations contained in 77-3-102(1) and (2).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-603(part).**

77-3-118. Restrictions on removal of minerals and gems during preliminary prospecting period. No mining lessee may, during any preliminary prospecting period contained in any lease, remove any metalliferous minerals or gems from the leased premises, except as are necessary for the proper testing and sampling of the lands or mineral rights, and except as are permitted by the board.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-603(part).**

77-3-119. Bonds to state. The board may, at the time of the execution and delivery of a mining lease or at any time during the life of the lease, require a mining lessee to file with the department, for the benefit of the state, a bond or bonds conditioned to protect the rights of the state, particularly in the payment to the proper officer of the state of the royalties reserved in the mining lease. The bond or bonds shall be in a form and amount prescribed by the board. The board may at any time require new or additional bonds if in its discretion the interests of the state are not adequately protected by the bond or bonds previously filed.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 41, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-607.**

Cross-References

Bonds — who may issue — sureties, 33-26-101.

77-3-120. Bonds to protect prior purchasers, lessees, or contractees. (1) If the lands at the time of the issuance of a mining lease have been sold, are under contract of sale, or have been leased for agricultural, grazing, or other purposes, the board shall provide against the infringement of the rights of the prior purchaser, contractee, or lessee and among other things may at any time require the mining lessee to file with the department a corporate surety bond in a reasonable amount fixed by the board, conditioned to protect the rights of the prior purchaser, contractee, or lessee.

(2) The form of the bond shall be prescribed by the board, and the bond shall run to the state for the benefit of the prior purchaser, contractee, or lessee. New or additional bonds may be required by the board at any time.

(3) Suit may be brought upon the bond by any such prior purchaser, contractee, or lessee for alleged violation of the terms of the bond by the mining lessee. Such suit shall be brought by the claimant in the name of the state for the use and benefit of the claimant, and any recovery upon the bond shall be paid to the claimant.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 42, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-608.**

Cross-References

Guaranty, indemnity, and suretyship — generally, Title 28, ch. 11.

Surety — corporate bonds — who may issue, 33-26-101.

77-3-121. Pooling agreements and unit plans of operation. (1) The board may enter into agreements for the pooling of acreage or yardage with others holding the mineral rights in adjoining lands for unit operation of placer mining and the apportionment of royalties on a cubic yardage or area basis in the case of placer mining deposits lying partly on land in which the state holds the mining rights and partly on land in which others hold the mining rights.

(2) From each cleanup of values under such unit operations in which any yardage or area mined on lands to which the state holds the mineral rights is included, the state is entitled to royalties computed on that proportion of the whole value of recoveries from the cleanup as the yardage or area mined from lands included in the agreement in which the state holds the mining rights bears to the total yardage or area mined and included in the cleanup.

(3) The board may also enter into agreements for the unit operation of such placer mining deposits and the apportionment of royalties upon any other equitable basis the board considers in the best interest of the state. The agreements may not change the percentage of royalties to be paid to the state under the unit operations from the percentage fixed in the lease or to a smaller percentage than the 5% minimum under 77-3-116.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 205, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 38, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-604(2).**

77-3-122. Sales, contracts for sale, and other leases subject to mining leases. Any sale of state lands, any contract for the sale of state lands, and any lease of state lands made or issued by said board during the life of any mining lease issued under the provisions of this part shall be subject to such mining lease during the life thereof, and no bond shall be required of such mining lessee for the protection of any such purchaser, contractee, or other lessee unless provision therefor shall be made in such mining lease.

History: **En. Sec. 9, Ch. 148, L. 1937; R.C.M. 1947, 81-609.**

77-3-123. Failure of title. In issuing mining leases, the board and the state have leased only such right, title, and interest as the state has in the lands, metalliferous minerals, or gems therein contained. Neither the state, the board, nor any representative, agent, or employee of the state or the board are under any liability for the failure of the title of the state, in whole or in part, to the lands, metalliferous minerals, or gems covered by the lease.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-612.**

77-3-124 through 77-3-129 reserved.

77-3-130. Limitation on public inspection rights. The department may withhold from public inspection any information obtained from a mining lessee or permittee under this part if the information relates to the geology of the mining lease or permit. The withholding is effective for as long as the department considers it necessary either to protect the mining lessee's or permittee's economic interest in the geologic information against unwarranted injury or to protect the public's best interest.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 105, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

77-3-131. Limitations on prospecting permits. A permit shall be limited to prospecting for metalliferous minerals or gems and no permittee may remove from any lands or mineral rights covered by the permit any metalliferous minerals or gems except such as are necessary for the proper testing and sampling of the lands or mineral rights and except as are permitted by the board.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 22, L. 1971; Sec. 81-615, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-601.1 and amd. by Sec. 47, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-601.1(part).**

77-3-132. Leasing privileges of permittee. (1) During the life of any permit the permittee may apply for a lease of the lands or mineral rights covered by the permit, and if a lease is granted it must be in the form and subject to all the terms and conditions specified in this part, as in the case of a mining lease issued under this part.

(2) If some other person makes a better bid for a mining lease upon the land covered by the permit and if the board awards a mining lease to a better bidder, the board shall also require the mining lessee to pay to the permittee, prior to the issuance of the lease, the full value of all the work the permittee has performed upon the land under the permit in connection with prospecting and exploration work. Within 30 days from the date the board gives the permittee notice of the issuance of the mining lease or within a further time as the board upon good cause shown allows, the permittee may remove any machinery, equipment, improvements, and other property placed on the land by the permittee.

History: **En. Sec. 15, Ch. 148, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 22, L. 1971; Sec. 81-615, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-601.1 and amd. by Sec. 47, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-601.1(part); amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 18, L. 1999.**

Part 2
Nonmetallic Minerals, Excluding Coal, Oil, and Gas

77-3-201. Nonmetallic mineral leases authorized. When there are found upon state lands deposits of stone, limestone, oil shale, clay, bentonite, calcite, talc, mica, ceramic, asbestos, marble, diatomite, gravel or sand, or phosphate, sodium, potash, sulfur, fluorite or barite, or any other nonmetallic minerals, but not including coal, oil, or gas, valuable for building, mining, or other commercial purposes, the board may in its discretion issue permits or leases to private persons for the removal and disposition of the above-named deposits upon such terms and conditions as the board may determine.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.52, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-701(part).

Cross-References

Authorization, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.

Eminent domain — surface rights rest in others, except for strip or open-pit mining, 70-30-102.

Mining permit required, 82-4-221.

Opencut, nonmetallic mining reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4, part 4.

Reclamation and Development Grants Program Act, Title 90, ch. 2, part 11.

77-3-202. Fee. The fee for issuing the lease is the same as for an oil and gas lease.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.52, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-701(part).

77-3-203. Duration of lease. No such lease shall be made for a longer term than 10 years.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.52, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-701(part).

Cross-References

Leases for production of minerals — term of years as provided by Legislature, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

77-3-204. Royalty provisions. (1) All such leases shall be upon a royalty basis calculated upon a gross value by weight or cubic measurement as is most favorable for the particular substance being mined or extracted from the lands. The gross value shall be determined at the mine or site of operation, and the rates shall be the same that ordinarily would be charged by private owners under similar circumstances or as in the determination of the board is fair and reasonable.

(2) The board may demand a cash deposit to guarantee the payment of the royalties, a surety bond, or both a cash deposit and bond, as the board may determine.

History: En. Sec. 52, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.52, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1961; amd. Sec. 49, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-701(part).

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Board, 77-1-202.

77-3-205. Report of lessee and payment of royalty. (1) On or before the last day of each month, every holder of a producing lease under this part shall make a report to the department on a form the department prescribes showing:

(a) the amount of substances mined or extracted from the lands in the preceding month;
(b) the price obtained;
(c) the total amount of sales; and
(d) any additional information required.

(2) The report must be verified by the lessee or some responsible person having knowledge of the facts and must be accompanied by payment of the amount to the state as royalty for the month covered by the report.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.53, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-702(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 96, L. 2013.

77-3-206. Disposition of royalties, fees, and penalties. The royalties, fees, and penalties received under these leases shall be credited to the various funds to which they properly belong in the same manner as is now provided for crediting the same under oil and gas leases.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.53, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 194, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 50, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-702(part).

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.

Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.

Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).

Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

Disposition of royalties and other money collected under oil and gas leases — credited to general fund unless otherwise disposed of, 77-3-436.

77-3-207. Land leased for other purposes. Such portions of the section or other subdivision of the land on which such deposits are located as are not needed for the quarrying or digging and removal of the stone, limestone, oil shale, clay, sand, or gravel may be leased for grazing or agricultural purposes the same as other state lands. In the case that grazing or agricultural leases are issued they shall provide for a right-of-way across the land for the removal of the stone, limestone, oil shale, clay, gravel, sand, or other deposits, but the rights of the lessee shall also be duly protected.

History: **En. Sec. 54, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.54, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-703.**

Cross-References

State grant of easements, Title 77, ch. 2, part 1.

77-3-208. Stone, gravel, and sand permits for public use. (1) The board may in its discretion issue permits upon such terms and conditions it determines to the department of transportation, the board of county commissioners of any county of the state, or to the governing body of a city or town and of any other political subdivision of the state granting them the right to take, remove, and use stone, gravel, or sand from any state lands that have not been sold under certificate of purchase or otherwise for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of public roads, highways, bridges, streets, or alleys.

(2) The rights of lessees to the lands on which such stone, gravel, or sand may be located shall be properly safeguarded under the terms of the permits.

History: **En. Sec. 55, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.55, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 51, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-704; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 512, L. 1991.**

Cross-References

Sale under certificate of purchase, 77-2-327.

77-3-209 and 77-3-210 reserved.

77-3-211. Limitation on public inspection rights. The department may withhold from public inspection any information obtained from a lessee under this part if the information relates to the geology of the mining lease. The withholding is effective for as long as the department considers it necessary either to protect the lessee's economic interest in the geologic information against unwarranted injury or to protect the public's best interest.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 105, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.

Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Part 3
Coal

Part Cross-References

Educational impact statement, 20-1-208.

Safety in coal mines, Title 50, ch. 73.

Preference given to coal lessees in obtaining mining leases, 77-3-114.

Reclamation, Title 82, ch. 4.

Reclamation and Development Grants Program Act, Title 90, ch. 2, part 11.

77-3-301. Coal leases authorized. In response to an application or on its own initiative, the board may lease in a manner that it considers in the best interests of the state any state lands to which the title is vested in the state and in which the coal or coal rights are not reserved by the United States for exploring for, mining, removing, selling, and disposing of the coal, upon the terms and conditions provided in this section and subject to the rules that the board prescribes.

History: **En. Sec, 38, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-501(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 318, L. 2003.**

Cross-References

Authority to grant leases, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.

Eminent domain — not available for coal mining in certain cases, 70-30-106.

Mineral reservations in state lands, 77-2-304.

Geophysical exploration — permits required, 82-1-101.

Coal mine-site location permit, 82-4-122.

Mining permit required, 82-4-221.

77-3-302. Lands subject to coal leasing. The authority to lease extends to state lands no matter how acquired and extends to state lands which have been sold but in which the coal rights are reserved by the state, whether the lands are under certificate of purchase or patents have been issued.

History: **En. Sec, 38, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-501(part).**

Cross-References

Certificates of purchase, 77-2-327.
Patents, 77-2-341.

77-3-303. Rules relating to coal leasing. (1) The board may adopt rules and perform all acts not inconsistent with The Enabling Act, the constitution, and the statutes of this state that it considers necessary and proper relating to the leasing of state land for coal mining purposes.

(2) The board is encouraged to lease the property interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange for coal mining purposes. The proceeds from the leases must be used for the direct funding of education, including K-12 school districts, institutions of higher education, and vocational-technical education, unless otherwise provided in the transfer agreement.

History: En. Sec. 44, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.44, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-507; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 485, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Full market value for interest in public lands, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Lease for production of hydrocarbons, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).
Adoption of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-3-304. Protection of rights of purchasers or prior lessees. Whenever the leased lands are under certificate of purchase or patents have been issued and in all cases where the lands are under lease for grazing, agriculture, or similar purposes, care shall be taken in issuing the coal mining lease to protect the rights of the purchaser or lessee.

History: En. Sec, 38, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-501(part).

Cross-References

Eminent domain — not available for coal mining in certain cases, 70-30-106.
Mineral rights reserved to state upon sale, 77-2-304.
Certificate of purchase, 77-2-327.
Patents, 77-2-341.

77-3-305. Limitations on leasing. (1) The board may not issue leases to any citizen of another country or any person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity controlled by interests foreign to the United States unless that country provides for similar or like privileges to citizens of the United States.

(2) The board shall consider whether the extraction of the coal from those lands by strip-mining methods would adversely affect the methods of recovery of deep minable coal from those operations on those lands in the future.

History: En. 81-511 by Sec. 6, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-511(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 127, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 332, L. 2011.

77-3-306. Conditions on manner of mining. (1) Every coal lease shall be conditioned upon compliance with Title 82, chapter 4, parts 1 and 2.

(2) These coal leases are subject to the condition that the coal must be mined, handled, and marketed in a manner that will prevent as far as possible all waste of coal and are also subject to the condition that the mining operations shall be carried on in a systematic and orderly manner that will not make subsequent mining operations more difficult or expensive. A violation of any of these conditions is grounds for the forfeiture of the lease after a hearing before the board.

History: En. Sec, 38, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-501(part).

77-3-307. Improvements of former lessee. (1) When a coal mining lease is applied for on land where mining operations have been carried on by a former lessee and there are surface or underground improvements on the land used at the former operations, disposition must be made of the improvements satisfactory to the board before a new lease is issued. If the owner of the improvements desires to sell the improvements to the new lessee, the new lessee shall pay the owner the reasonable value of the improvements as far as they are suitable for the new mining operations. If they fail to agree on the value of the improvements, the value must be ascertained and fixed as provided in 77-6-306.

(2) Before a new lease is issued, the applicant shall show to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant has paid the owner for the improvements as agreed on between them or as fixed under the provisions of 77-6-306, that the applicant has tendered payment as fixed, or that the owner desires to remove the owner's improvements.

History: En. Sec. 43, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.43, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-506; amd. Sec. 2557, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

77-3-308. Limitation on public inspection rights. The department may withhold from public inspection any information obtained from a coal mining lessee or permittee under this part if the information relates to the geology of the mining lease or permit. The withholding is effective for as long as the department considers it necessary either to protect the lessee's or permittee's economic interest in the geologic information against unwarranted injury or to protect the public's best interest.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 105, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

77-3-309 and 77-3-310 reserved.

77-3-311. Form of lease. The board shall prescribe the form of the lease.

History: En. Sec. 39, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.39, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-502(part).

77-3-312. Leasing procedures. (1) (a) Prior to issuing a coal mining lease, the board shall evaluate the coal and land proposed to be leased for the purpose of determining the fair market value of any coal reserves located on the land, giving opportunity for and consideration to public comments on the evaluation.

(b) (i) The board may determine fair market value by competitive bid or through an appraisal.

(ii) If no competitive bids are offered on the coal and land to be leased, the board may enter into a lease that is at least at the full market value as determined by the appraisal pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(i).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), leases must be awarded by a competitive bid system, including a bonus bid for the first year's rental that may be amortized for a period of up to 5 years at the discretion of the board, and a lease may not be awarded at less than fair market value.

History: En. Sec, 38, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.38, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-501(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 332, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Fair market value for disposition of interest in state lands required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-3-313. Bond requirements. The board may also demand a surety company bond in a form and in an amount as it may determine, conditioned for the payment of all royalties due the state and for the carrying on of the mining operations according to the terms of the lease. However, a lessee may, in lieu of furnishing a surety company bond, increase the cash deposit provided for under this part in an amount that in the judgment of the board makes the furnishing of a bond unnecessary.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.42, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-505; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 332, L. 2011.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Corporations as sureties, 33-26-101.

77-3-314. Duration of lease. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), coal mining leases must be issued for a primary term of 10 years and for as long thereafter as coal is produced from lands in commercial quantities.

(b) If a lease under this part or a corresponding permit issued pursuant to Title 82, chapter 4, parts 1 and 2, is challenged before an administrative agency or in court, the primary term of the lease must be extended for the period of time that the lease or permit was subject to challenge.

(2) A lease not producing coal in commercial quantities at the end of the primary term must be terminated, unless the leased lands are described in a strip mine permit issued under 82-4-221 or in a mine-site location permit under 82-4-122 prior to the end of the primary term, and the lease may not be terminated so long as the lands are covered and described under valid permit.

(3) For the purpose of this part:

(a) "commercial quantities" means that quantity of coal that can be sold at profit in the commercial market;

(b) "covered and described" under a valid permit or "described" in a strip mine or mine-site location permit means that the leased lands or a portion of the leased lands within or outside of the boundaries of the permit area are expected to be affected or disturbed at some point during the life of the permittee's strip-mining or underground-mining operation and are identified in the permittee's permit application.

History: **En. Sec. 39, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.39, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-502(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 332, L. 2011.**

77-3-315. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 538, L. 1981.

History: **En. 81-511 by Sec. 6, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-511(part).**

77-3-316. Rental and royalty terms. (1) The compensation of the state under all coal mining leases must be upon a rental and royalty basis and must be fixed and determined by the board.

(2) The rental and royalty terms of each lease must be subject to readjustment to reflect fair market value at the end of its primary term of 10 years and at the end of each 5-year period thereafter if the lease is producing coal in commercial quantities.

(3) The rental may be on a per-acre basis or per-ton basis but the rental may not be less than $2 per acre.

(4) (a) The amount of the royalty must be based upon:

(i) the kind, grade, and character of the coal in each particular mine;

(ii) the size, shape, and nature of the coal vein, strata, or body; and

(iii) the shipping and marketing facilities for the product.

(b) Consideration must also be given to every other known factor affecting the value of each particular coal mining lease, but the royalty for the coal mined may not be less than 10% of the f.o.b. mine price of a ton prepared for shipment.

History: **(1), (3), (4)En. Sec. 40, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.40, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 358, L. 1975; Sec. 81-503, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 39, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.39, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 121, L. 1967; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1975; Sec. 81-502, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-502(part), 81-503; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 332, L. 2011.**

77-3-317. Report and payment of royalty. (1) On or before the last day of each month every holder of a producing coal mining lease shall make a report to the department on a form the department prescribes showing:

(a) the number of tons mined during the preceding calendar month;

(b) the price obtained for the number of tons mined during the preceding calendar month at the mine;

(c) the total amount of all sales; and

(d) any additional information required by the department.

(2) The report must be verified by the lessee and be accompanied by payment of the royalty due the state for the preceding month as shown by the report.

History: **En. Sec. 45, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.45, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 33, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-508; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 96, L. 2013.**

77-3-318. Disposition of royalties and other receipts. All fees, rentals, royalties, and bonuses collected under state coal leases shall be paid to the department and credited as follows:

(1) All fees shall be credited to the state general fund.

(2) All rentals and bonuses shall be credited to the income fund of the grant to which the lands under each lease belong.

(3) All moneys collected as royalties shall be credited to the permanent fund arising from the grants to which the lands under lease belong.

History: **En. Sec. 47, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.47, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 358, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-510.**

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.

Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.

Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).

Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-3-319 and 77-3-320 reserved.

77-3-321. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 18, L. 1999.
History: En. Sec. 46, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.46, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-509.

77-3-322. Obligation to pay royalties under coal lease contract — interest. (1) The obligation arising under a coal lease to pay coal royalties to the department, to deliver coal to a purchaser to the credit of the department, or to pay a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the coal to the department is of the essence in the lease contract.

(2) If the operator under a coal lease fails to pay coal royalties to the department within 120 days after the initial coal produced under the lease is marketed and within 90 days for all coal produced and marketed thereafter, the unpaid royalties must bear interest at the legal rate of interest authorized under 31-1-106 from the date due until paid. The operator may remit semiannually to the department the aggregate of 6 months' royalties if the aggregate amount is less than $50 and annually if the aggregate amount is less than $10.

(3) An action for failure to make payments under the lease or seeking payments under this section must be filed in the district court for the county in which the coal mine is located, and that court has jurisdiction over any actions brought under this section. The prevailing party in a proceeding brought under this section is entitled to recover court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

(4) This section does not apply if the department has elected to take the owner's or assignee's proportionate share of production in kind or if there is a dispute as to the title to the minerals or entitlement to royalties, the outcome of which would affect distribution of royalty payments.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 243, L. 2011.

77-3-323. Audit — notice — action to compel payment. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the department may, within 5 years of the filing of a report pursuant to 77-3-317, commence an audit of a lessee's or former lessee's operation to determine whether the report is complete and accurate and whether all royalties owed have been paid. The department shall notify the lessee in writing of the audit. The notice must describe the period for which the audit is being conducted. Upon conclusion of the audit, the department shall notify the lessee of the department's conclusions and, if the department has determined that additional royalties are owed, the basis for that determination. An action to compel payment of royalties due must be commenced within 2 years of the date of mailing the notice.

(2) If a lessee or former lessee, with intent to evade payment of royalties, purposely or knowingly files a false report or purposely or knowingly fails to pay royalties owed, the department may conduct an audit and file an action to collect royalties at any time after the royalties are due.
History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 243, L. 2011.

Part 4
Oil and Gas

Part Cross-References
Down-hole equipment exempt from taxation, 15-6-213.
Laborers' liens on oil and gas wells and pipelines, Title 71, ch. 3, part 10.
Oil or gas well drilling permits — environmental impact statements, 75-1-201.
Consent of oil and gas lessees required for other mining lease, 77-3-114.
Release of record upon forfeiture of lease — penalty, 82-1-201.
Oil and gas — general provisions, Title 82, ch. 10.
Surface damage and disruption payments — penalty for late payment, 82-10-504.
Oil and gas conservation, Title 82, ch. 11.
Emergencies — notice and hearing, 82-11-151.
Oil and gas production damage mitigation account, 82-11-161.
Reclamation and Development Grants Program Act, Title 90, ch. 2, part 11.

77-3-401. Oil and gas leases authorized. (1) The board is hereby authorized and empowered to lease in such manner as it may determine, not inconsistent with The Enabling Act and the constitution, any state lands to which the title has vested in the state and in which the oil and gas rights are not reserved by the United States, for prospecting and exploring for oil and gas, mining, drilling, developing, and removing the same upon the terms and conditions herein prescribed to any person, association, corporation, domestic or foreign, or municipality qualified under the constitution and the laws of the state.

(2) This power and authority to lease state lands for such purposes shall extend to and include all lands owned by the state under navigable lakes and streams and shall also extend to and include all those state lands which have been sold but in which the oil and gas rights have been reserved by the state; but in such cases and in all cases where the lands are under lease for grazing, agriculture, or similar purposes, care shall be taken in issuing the oil and gas leases to protect the rights of the purchaser or lessee.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1701(part).

Cross-References

Authorization to permit leasing, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.

Reservation of mineral rights to state, 77-2-304.

Geophysical exploration — permits required, 82-1-105.

Authorization of oil and gas leasing by local governments, Title 82, ch. 10, part 2.

Notice of intention to drill or conduct seismic operations, 82-11-122.

77-3-402. Rules. (1) The board shall have the power and authority to prescribe such rules and to do and perform all acts and things not inconsistent with The Enabling Act, the constitution, and the statutes of this state as it may deem necessary and proper relating to the leasing of state lands for oil and gas exploration and development. The board shall formulate rules not inconsistent with law governing the leasing of state lands for oil and gas exploration and development which shall be compiled and printed periodically.

(2) Copies of the rules and notices of changes therein shall be made available to any person desiring a copy thereof at a reasonable cost to be fixed by a rule of the board.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 144, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1707.

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

77-3-403. Hearings on questions related to leases. The board is hereby granted full power and authority to order and hold hearings on any matter or question involving oil and gas leases under such rules as it may adopt.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1710(part).

77-3-404. Limitation on area under single lease. An oil or gas lease issued on state lands may not embrace more than 640 acres, except that any section surveyed by the United States which contains more than 640 acres may be included under one lease.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(part).

77-3-405. Leased lands to be generally compact and contiguous. (1) The lands shall be leased in as compact bodies as the form and areas of the tracts held by the state and offered for lease will permit.

(2) No lease may embrace noncontiguous subdivisions of lands unless the subdivisions are within an area comprising not more than 1 square mile.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702.1(3).

77-3-406. Number of leases which one person may hold. Any person, association, corporation, or municipality qualified to hold an oil or gas lease on state lands may receive from the board or take through assignment or succession, will, judgment, decree, or otherwise through the operation of law more than one oil and gas lease to state lands, subject to such regulations and limitations as the board prescribes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(part).

77-3-407. New leases on lands leased prior to February 28, 1953. (1) In the case of all leases issued under the provisions in force prior to February 28, 1953, where oil or gas is being produced, the board shall at the expiration thereof or termination for any cause advertise the land held thereunder for re-leasing and lease the same to the highest responsible bidder therefor at public auction on the terms then existing for such leasing. Any person, association, firm, or corporation who held such lease at the expiration thereof shall have the privilege of re-leasing the same at such highest responsible bid offered therefor upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the board or the legislature.

(2) In the case of all leases issued under the provisions in force prior to February 28, 1953, where oil or gas is not being produced, the board may at the expiration thereof or termination for any cause advertise the land held thereunder for re-leasing and lease the same to the highest responsible bidder therefor at public auction if in the judgment of the board such advertising and public auction will result in leasing of the land on terms advantageous to the state.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.15, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 104, L. 1965; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1715.

77-3-408. Certain state officers not to be interested in leases. It is unlawful for any officer or employee of any agency of the executive branch of state government who is required to inspect or examine oil or gas wells or otherwise to gather field information in regard to prospecting for oil and gas or the production thereof to lease or to become interested in any manner in any oil or gas lease on state lands.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 93, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1720.

Cross-References

Public officers not to have interest in contracts, 2-2-201.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.

77-3-409. Misconduct of officers in relation to oil and gas leases. (1) Any officer, employee, or representative of the state who directly or indirectly accepts any money or any other valuable thing, except the officer's, employee's, or representative's regular and lawful compensation, for performing or not performing an official act under the provisions of this part or for modifying the performance of an official act is guilty of a felony.

(2) Any officer, employee, or representative of the state who knowingly and willfully makes any false classification or appraisal of any state land or interest of the state in the land or of any oil and gas deposits in which the state is interested or who knowingly and willfully makes any false report of any classification or appraisal is guilty of a felony.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.21, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1721; amd. Sec. 2558, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Public employee standards of conduct, Title 2, ch. 2.
Jurisdiction relating to felony, 45-1-201.
Felony defined, 45-2-101.
Bribery, 45-7-101.
Official misconduct, 45-7-401.
Felony — when no penalty specified, 46-18-213.

77-3-410. False statements relating to oil and gas leases. Any person who shall knowingly make and file in any department, bureau, or office of the state any application, statement, or report in writing required by regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this part containing any false statement of a material fact shall be guilty of a felony.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.22. R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1722.

Cross-References

False swearing — misdemeanor, 45-7-202.
Unsworn falsification to authorities — misdemeanor, 45-7-203.

77-3-411. Notice of lease sale required. (1) Within 15 days of the previous oil and gas lease sale, the department shall publish the date and place of the upcoming sale in a publication of general circulation in Montana and on the department's website.

(2) (a) The department shall accept nominations of tracts for an upcoming sale until 77 days prior to the date of the sale.

(b) Upon receipt of a nomination by the department, the location of the tracts is public information.

(3) At least twice, the department shall publish a notice containing the time and place of the sale, a statement that all sales will be by competitive bidding, and the number of tracts

in each county offered for sale at the time of the notice on the department's website and in a publication of general circulation in Montana:

(a) not less than 63 days before the date of an upcoming sale; and

(b) between 21 days and 35 days before the date of the sale.

(4) In a publication of general circulation in each county where a tract is nominated for sale, the department shall publish a notice in compliance with subsection (3), except that each notice needs to contain only the number of tracts nominated for sale in that county and notice that a description and maps of tracts nominated are available on the department's website.

(5) The department shall publish on its website a description and maps of all tracts to be offered for sale.

(6) (a) Except as provided in subsection (6)(b), the department shall provide notice by first-class mail to surface owners of a tract being offered for sale using the most current known property owners of record as shown in the records of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the tract is located.

(b) The notice in subsection (6)(a) is not required if the surface is managed by the department pursuant to Title 77, chapter 1.

(7) The notice required by subsection (6) must contain the time and place of the sale, a statement that all sales will be by competitive bidding, and a description and area map of each tract offered for sale.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 432, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 206, L. 2019.

77-3-412 through 77-3-420 reserved.

77-3-421. Duration of lease. (1) All state oil and gas leases entered by the board shall be granted for a primary term of not more than 10 years or less than 5 years and as long thereafter as oil or gas in paying quantities is produced, on condition that all drilling, rental, and other obligations are fully kept and performed by the lessee. However, leases for a period of less than 5 years may be issued if the board determines that such shorter term is necessary to ensure full compensation for the oil and gas resource.

(2) Oil or gas produced from any part of a unit in which state lands are included by virtue of a pooling agreement are considered to be produced from the state lands therein within the meaning of this part.

(3) The board may grant reasonable extensions of the primary term of a state oil or gas lease upon a showing that the lessee, despite due care and diligence, is or has been directly or indirectly prevented from exploring, developing, or operating the lease or is threatened with substantial economic loss, due to litigation regarding the lease or another lease in the immediate area held by the same lessee, state compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act, Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, rules adopted under Title 75, chapter 1, or adverse conditions caused by natural occurrences.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 165, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Term of years as provided by Legislature for oil and gas lease, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

Pooling agreements, 77-3-430.

77-3-422. Lease extension clause. If oil or gas is not being produced from the leased premises at the expiration of the primary term of the lease but the owner of the lease is then engaged in drilling on the premises for oil or gas, then the lease continues in force so long as such drilling operations are being diligently prosecuted. If oil or gas is recovered from any such well drilled or being drilled at or after the expiration of the primary term of the lease, the lease continues in force so long as oil or gas in paying quantities is produced from the leased premises.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(part).

77-3-423. Annual rental. (1) The annual money rentals to be paid to the state for oil and gas leases must be set by the board but may not be less than $1.50 for each acre of land leased.

(2) In addition to the sum of $1.50 per acre, the rental for the first year of the lease must also include any sum in excess of $1.50 per acre offered and accepted for the first year's rental.

(3) The annual rental under this section may not be less than $100 a year.

(4) The first year's rental must be paid before the issuance of the lease. The rentals for each subsequent year of the lease are due and payable before the beginning of the subsequent lease year. Upon failure to make the rental payment, the lease terminates unless there is a well currently being drilled, a producing well, or a shut-in well approved by the department on the lease. Rental paid for any year must be credited against any royalty that accrues during that year.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702.1(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 163, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 34, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Forfeiture and cancellation of leases — hearing, 77-3-440.

77-3-424. Power to terminate lease in absence of commencement of drilling or payment of delay drilling penalty. (1) In every oil and gas lease granted after March 3, 1955, under this part there must be reserved to the board full power to declare termination of the lease at the end of the fifth year or any subsequent year of the primary term of the lease upon failure of the lessee to either:

(a) commence the drilling of a well for oil and gas upon the leased premises; or

(b) pay a delay drilling penalty as follows:

(i) for the sixth year of the lease $1.25 per acre per year; and

(ii) for the remainder of the primary term of the lease an amount per acre per year as the board may in its discretion determine.

(2) Notice of that determination must be given to the lessee, and if the lessee applies for a hearing thereon within 10 days after receipt of the notice, the determination becomes final only after the hearing has been held.

(3) This annual delay drilling penalty must be paid each year in advance. The board shall refund delay drilling penalties paid on a lease for any year in which the lessee commences drilling on that lease.

(4) If a well for oil and gas is commenced, the drilling of the well must be prosecuted with due diligence and dispatch to such depth as is necessary to make a reasonable test for oil or gas.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702.2(part); amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 15, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 163, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Drilling permit — requirement, 82-11-134.

77-3-425. Dry hole clause. If the first well drilled is a dry hole and if a second well is not commenced on the land covered by the lease before the next anniversary of the lease following the completion of the well, the lease may be terminated by the board unless the lessee, on or before such anniversary, resumes payment of any delay drilling penalties imposed by the board. Upon the resumption of payment of any required delay drilling penalties and their continued payment, the lease continues in force during the primary term as though there had been no interruption in the delay drilling penalty payments.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 161, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 251, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 86, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702.2(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 163, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Expenditure of funds from bonds for plugging wells, 82-11-136.

77-3-426. Lessee to prevent waste. Oil and gas leases issued under the provisions of this part must all be subject to the conditions that the lessee in conducting explorations and mining or drilling operations shall use all reasonable precautions to prevent waste of oil or gas developed in the land or the entrance of water through wells drilled by the lessee to the oil or gas sands or oil-bearing or gas-bearing strata to the destruction or injury of the oil or gas deposits. Violations of any of these conditions constitutes grounds for the forfeiture of the lease after a hearing on the violations before the board.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1701(part); amd. Sec. 2559, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Forfeiture and cancellation of leases, 77-3-440.

Oil and gas conservation, Title 82, ch. 10.

77-3-427. Provision for offset wells — compensatory royalties. (1) Oil and gas leases granted by the state shall contain suitable provisions imposing upon all lessees the obligation to drill offset wells wherever and whenever necessary to prevent waste and damage to the property of the state.

(2) The board may allow the lessee the following options in lieu of drilling an offset well:

(a) releasing the lands in question; or

(b) paying a compensatory royalty on a nonproducing lease if the board determines that such compensatory royalty will fully compensate the state for waste and damage to the property of the state. The compensatory royalty shall be based upon the estimated drainage, as determined by the board, and shall be paid on a monthly basis unless circumstances require otherwise.

(3) If the board or the lessee terminates the lease, that termination does not impair any implied covenant against drainage or the right of the board to seek damages from the lessee for the lessee's failure to protect the lease from drainage of oil or gas by a well adjacent to the state lease.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.19, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1719(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 81, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 163, L. 1989.

77-3-428. Additional development following completion of productive well. (1) The lessee shall be required, upon completing a commercially productive oil or gas well upon the leased premises, to proceed with reasonable diligence to drill such additional wells to the depth of the formation found commercially productive or to such depth as may be necessary to economically test, develop, and operate the deposits discovered.

(2) No lessee shall, however, be required to drill to completion more than one well under any one lease during any one calendar year or a total number of wells under any one lease in excess of the total number of 40-acre subdivisions of land held under such lease. As to lands found valuable for gas production only, the drilling obligation of the lessee shall be confined to a total number of wells equal to the total number of tracts comprising 160 acres of land included in the lease, except as the drilling of offset oil or gas wells necessary to protect the leased premises and deposits from loss or depletion due to wells drilled on contiguous lands shall require greater diligence in drilling and a greater number of wells to be drilled.

(3) The performance of said well drilling operations may be suspended only by and with the consent of the board during the time oil or gas previously discovered cannot be marketed at a profit or for other good cause shown.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.11, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1711.

77-3-429. Operating agreements. Owners of state oil and gas leases may enter into agreements with other persons, associations, firms, and corporations for drilling and other operations on the state lands under their leases. No such operating agreements are in any way binding upon the state until filed with the board and approved by it. No such drilling or operating agreement in any way affects the obligations of each individual leaseholder to the state.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(3).

77-3-430. *(Temporary)* **Pooling agreements and unit operations.** Nothing contained in this or in prior related laws prevents the board from entering into agreements for the pooling of acreage with others for unit operations for the production of oil or gas or both and the apportionment of oil or gas royalties or both on an acreage or other equitable basis and from modifying leases with respect to delay rentals, delay drilling penalties, and royalties in accordance with such pooling agreements and such unit plans of operation. However, such agreements may not change the percentage of royalties to be paid to the state from the percentages as fixed in its leases. The board may modify existing pooling and unit agreements so as to commit the state lands included therein for as long as the unitized substance or substances for which the state lands are committed is produced from any lands in the unit.

77-3-430. *(Effective on occurrence of contingency)* **Pooling agreements and unit operations.** Nothing contained in this or in prior related laws prevents the board from entering into agreements for the pooling of acreage with others for unit operations for the storage of carbon dioxide in a geologic storage reservoir or the production of oil or gas or both and the apportionment of oil or gas royalties or both on an acreage or other equitable basis and from modifying leases with respect to delay rentals, delay drilling penalties, and royalties in accordance with pooling agreements and unit plans of operation. However, agreements may not change the percentage of royalties paid to the state from the percentages fixed in its leases. The board may modify existing pooling and unit agreements to commit the state lands included in the pooling or unit agreements for as long as the unitized substance or substances for which the state lands are committed are produced from any lands in the unit.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 108, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 193, L. 1931; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1882.2, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 109, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 91, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 84, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702(4); amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 474, L. 2009.

Compiler's Comments

Contingent Effective Date: Section 31(1), Ch. 474, L. 2009, provided that this section is effective on the date that the board of oil and gas conservation is granted primacy to administer activities at carbon dioxide sequestration wells by the United States environmental protection agency.

Cross-References

Duration of lease, 77-3-421.
Delay of drilling — rentals, 77-3-424.
Royalty percentage, 77-3-432.
Unit operations — spacing, pooling, terms, etc., Title 82, ch. 11, part 2.

77-3-431. Report of lessees. (1) On or before the last day of each month every holder of a producing oil or gas lease shall make a report to the department for the preceding calendar month on a form the department prescribes. The report shall show the amount of oil or gas produced and saved during the preceding month, the price obtained, the total amount of all sales, and any additional information as may be required, and it shall be signed by the lessee or some responsible person having knowledge thereof.

(2) Oil and gas leases granted by the state shall contain suitable provisions imposing upon all lessees the obligation to make such report of operation, production, and sales in the manner, at the time, and to such representative of the state as may be required by the board.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-1705, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.19, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1719, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1705(part), 81-1719(part).

Cross-References

Payment of royalty to accompany report, 77-3-435.

77-3-432. Royalty. In each oil and gas lease granted by the state under this part, there must be reserved to the state as consideration for the lease a royalty in all oil and gas produced and saved from all lands covered by the lease and not used for light, fuel, and operation purposes on the leased premises, which must be equivalent to the full market value, as ascertained by the board at the date of the lease, of the estate or interest of the state in the lands and oil and gas deposits disposed of under the lease. The royalty reservation must be set by the board but may not be less than 12½% on gas and not less than 12½% on oil or casinghead gasoline for each producing well for the calendar month. The state may share the expense of transporting the oil to the nearest market on a basis proportional to the state's royalty interest in the oil and at a rate per mile acceptable to the department.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1704(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 163, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 34, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Disposition of royalties and other money, 77-3-436.
Limitation on overriding royalties and payments out of production, 77-3-444.
Obligation to pay royalties as essence of contract — interest, 82-10-103.

77-3-433. Shut-in gas royalty. The royalty on gas, including casinghead gas and all gaseous substances not sold or used off the premises, must be at the rate of $400 per lease each year or the amount of the annual rental provided in the lease, whichever is the greater, payable on or before the annual anniversary date of the lease. As long as the leased lands contain a well capable of production in paying quantities and the requisite payment is made, the lease must be considered as a producing lease under the lease terms.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1704(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 34, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Disposition of royalties, 77-3-436.

77-3-434. Manner of making royalty payment. Such lease shall provide for the rendering of payment of such royalty on all oil and gas produced and saved and sold or used off the premises in the following manner and upon the following terms:

(1) the lessee shall pay to the state in cash, for all oil and gas royalty reserved, the posted field price existing on the day such oil or gas is run into any pipeline or storage tank to the credit of the lessee, plus any bonus actually paid or agreed to be paid to the lessee for such oil or gas; or

(2) at the option of the state exercised in writing by the board not oftener than every 30 days, the lessee shall deliver the state's royalty oil or gas free of cost or deductions into the pipeline to which the wells of the lessee may be connected or into any storage designated by the state and connected with such wells.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 61, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 103, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1704(part).

77-3-435. Payments due to state — audit — notice — action. (1) The report under 77-3-431 must be accompanied by payment of the amount due the state as royalty for the month covered by the report unless the state's royalty is being or has been paid directly by the purchaser. However, when the amount of royalty due from a lease is determined by the board to be so small as to make it uneconomical to collect monthly, the board may authorize royalty payments to be made semiannually.

(2) Oil and gas leases granted by the state must contain suitable provisions imposing upon all lessees the obligation to make payments due the state in the manner, at the time, and to the representative of the state that may be required by the board.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), the department may, within 7 years of the filing of a report pursuant to 77-3-431, commence an audit of a lessee's or a former lessee's operation to determine whether the report is complete and accurate and whether all royalties owed have been paid. The department shall notify the lessee in writing of the audit. The notice must describe the period for which the audit is being conducted. Upon conclusion of the audit, the department shall notify the lessee of the department's conclusions and, if the department has determined that additional royalties are owed, the basis for that determination. An action to compel payment of royalties due must be commenced within 2 years of the date of mailing the notice.

(4) If a lessee or former lessee, with intent to evade payment of royalties, purposely or knowingly files a false report or purposely or knowingly fails to pay royalties owed, the department may conduct an audit and file an action to collect royalties at any time after the royalty is due.

History: (1)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.5, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 122, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 87, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-1705, R.C.M.; (2)En. Sec. 19, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.19, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1719, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1705(part), 81-1719(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 34, L. 1997.

77-3-436. Disposition of royalties and other money. All fees, rentals, penalties, royalties, and bonuses collected for or under state oil and gas leases shall be paid to the department and credited as follows:

(1) All fees and penalties shall be credited to the state general fund.

(2) All rentals shall be credited to the income fund of the grant to which the lands under each lease belong.

(3) All moneys collected as royalties and bonuses shall be credited to the permanent fund arising from the grant to which the land under each particular lease belongs and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof. However, all royalties and bonuses collected from the lands forming part of the capitol building grant shall be available as income, the same as all other receipts from such lands.

(4) All moneys received as rentals, royalties, and bonuses for or under leases on state lands and not held in trust for the public schools of the state or for any state institution shall be credited to the state general fund unless other disposition is provided by law.

History: **En. Sec. 12, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.12, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 44, Ch. 100, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 89, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1712; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 353, L. 1985.**

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-3-437. Amendment of existing leases. The owner or owners of any existing state oil and gas lease shall have the right to exchange it for an amended lease containing the same provisions as to the term of said lease as are then provided by law for state oil and gas leases upon filing a written application therefor and upon payment of a sum which is the full market value of the exchange, as determined by the board. The amended lease shall be subject to all other provisions, including rents and royalties, contained in the original lease and shall bear the same commencement date as the original lease.

History: **En. Sec. 8, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 122, L. 1953; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1708.**

77-3-438. Assignments of leases. (1) The assignment of any oil and gas lease issued under this part, either in whole or as to subdivisions of land embracing not less than 40 acres covered thereby, made to an assignee qualified as provided herein is permitted. Such assignment is not, however, binding upon the state until filed with the department and accompanied by the required fees, together with such proof of qualifications required by the board, and approved by the board or its lawful representative. The approval of any assignment so filed and supported may not be withheld in any case where the rights or interest of the state in the property assigned will not in the judgment of the board be prejudiced thereby, and the decision of the board in all cases is subject to appeal upon proper court proceedings.

(2) All other assignments of oil and gas leases issued under this part or interests therein are subject to approval by the board and are binding upon the state in the discretion of the board.

History: **En. Sec. 16, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.16, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 90, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1716.**

77-3-439. Surrender of leases. The lessee under any oil and gas lease granted by the state may at the termination of any rental year, by giving to the department 30 days' previous notice in writing, surrender and relinquish the lease to the state in whole or as to any legal subdivision of the lands covered thereby and be discharged from any obligation not yet accrued as to lands so surrendered and relinquished without prejudice to the continuance of the lease as to lands not surrendered or relinquished.

History: **En. Sec. 18, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.18, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1718.**

77-3-440. Forfeiture and cancellation of leases. (1) All oil and gas leases granted by the state pursuant to the terms of this part shall provide for forfeiture and cancellation thereof upon failure of the lessee to fully discharge the obligations provided therein, after written notice from the state and reasonable time allowed to the lessee for performance of any undertaking or obligation specified in such notice concerning which the lessee is in default.

(2) Any lessee, upon application therefor, shall be granted a hearing on any notice or demand of the board before any lease is declared forfeited or canceled by the board.

History: **En. Sec. 10, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.10, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1710(part).**

Cross-References

Release of record upon forfeiture of lease — penalty, 82-1-201.

77-3-441. Restriction on new lease following termination of old lease. In all cases where an oil and gas lease issued after March 3, 1955, is surrendered for cancellation before its expiration, relinquished to the state, or canceled through proceedings on the part of the state, no new lease on the lands under such lease may be issued within 30 days from the date of cancellation or relinquishing. This restriction does not apply, however, in cases of bona fide assignment.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 85, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 379, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1702.1(4).

77-3-442. Disposition of property of lessee upon termination of lease. (1) Upon the termination for any cause of a lease issued under this part, the former lessee has 6 months after the date of the termination to remove from the premises all machinery, fixtures, improvements, buildings, and equipment belonging to the lessee, except for casing in the wells and other equipment or apparatus necessary for the preservation of any oil or gas well or wells and the structures described in 77-1-134. As to the casing, equipment, and apparatus, any succeeding lessee or, in the event there is no succeeding lessee, the state wishing to have the property left upon the premises shall pay a reasonable value for the property to the former lessee.

(2) If the succeeding lessee or the board is unable to agree with the former lessee upon the reasonable cash value of the casing, equipment, and apparatus, the succeeding lessee or, if there is no succeeding lessee, the state shall pay in cash to the former lessee a sum fixed as a reasonable price by a board of three appraisers, one of whom must be chosen by the successful bidder, one by the former lessee, and the third by the two appraisers chosen. If a person refuses to appoint an appraiser within 15 days of a request to do so by the department, the department may appoint an appraiser for that person. The appraisal must be reported to the respective parties in writing and is final and conclusive.

(3) Except as provided in 77-1-134, unless the department gives written authorization, the former lessee may not remain in possession or manage the land and property formerly covered by the lease. During the time the former lessee remains in authorized possession, the lessee may retain the same share of the products of the premises as inured to the lessee during the term of the lease. Except as provided in 77-1-134, if the state or other bidder does not desire any of the lessee's property as provided in this section, the lessee shall properly plug all wells and remove all of the lessee's property from the premises.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.17, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 91, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1717; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 34, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

77-3-443. Reservation in lease for disposition of surface. In every oil and gas lease granted pursuant to the terms hereof there shall be reserved unto the state the right to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the surface of the lands covered thereby, subject always to the rights and privileges granted unto the lessee under such oil and gas lease.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1882.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 90, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 261, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 184, L. 1961; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1701(part).

77-3-444. Limitation on overriding royalties and payments out of production. (1) A person, partnership, or association may not enter into an agreement that in the aggregate creates overriding royalties or payments out of the production of oil and gas in excess of 5% above the landowner's royalty payable to the state of Montana unless that agreement expressly provides that the obligation to pay overriding royalties or payments out of production may be suspended by the director of the department at any time upon a determination that the excess overriding royalties or payments out of production constitute a burden on lease operations to the extent that:

(a) proper and timely development may be retarded;

(b) continued operation of the lease may be impaired; or

(c) premature abandonment of the wells may occur.

(2) This section applies separately to any zone or portion of a lease segregated for computing a royalty due to the state of Montana.

(3) All agreements of any kind creating overriding royalties or payments out of production of oil and gas must be filed with the department within 30 days of their creation by the lessee.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 157, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 287, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

77-3-445 through 77-3-450 reserved.

77-3-451. Limitation on public inspection rights. The department may withhold from public inspection any information obtained from an oil or gas lessee under this part if the information, including drill logs, seismic data, and lithographic descriptions, relates to the geology of the oil or gas lease. The withholding is effective for as long as the department considers it necessary either to protect the lessee's economic interest in the geologic information against unwarranted injury or to protect the public's best interest.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 105, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9, Mont. Const.
Right of privacy, Art. II, sec. 10, Mont. Const.

Part 5
Underground Storage of Natural Gas

Part Cross-References

Eminent domain not to prejudice other mineral rights, 70-30-105.
Use of eminent domain to acquire underground gas reservoirs, 82-10-303.
Prohibited activity — injection wells, 82-11-127.

77-3-501. Lease for underground storage of natural gas authorized. (1) The board is hereby authorized and empowered to lease in such manner and upon such terms as it may determine, not inconsistent with The Enabling Act and the constitution, state lands to which the title has vested in the state, subject to existing rights, for use for the underground storage of natural gas upon the terms and conditions herein prescribed, to any natural gas public utility authorized to do business in this state and engaged in the business of transporting or distributing natural gas by means of pipelines into, within, or through this state for ultimate public use.

(2) State lands which may be leased shall include lands in which the deposit of native gas shall have been depleted, provided the lessee pays to the state the amount specified by the board for the native gas then remaining in the lands to be leased.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1725(1).**

Cross-References

Authorizations, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).
Board authority to lease, 77-1-204.

77-3-502. Rules. The board shall have the power and authority to prescribe such rules and to do and perform all acts and things not inconsistent with The Enabling Act, the constitution, and the statutes of this state as it may deem necessary and proper relating to the leasing of state lands for the underground storage of natural gas and the sale of the gas remaining in state lands in a gas field wherein native gas deposits have been depleted.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 213, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1727.**

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

77-3-503. Hearings on questions related to leases. The board may order and hold hearings on any matter or question involving leases issued under 77-3-501 under such rules as it adopts.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1729(part).**

77-3-504. Lessee's right to hearing. Any lessee, upon application, is entitled to a hearing on any notice or demand of the department before any lease is granted, forfeited, or canceled by the board.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1729(part).**

77-3-505. Bond of lessees. A lessee under 77-3-501 shall furnish bond to the state in a form prescribed by the board and in an amount adequate to indemnify the state against loss, damage, or detriment by reason of failure of the lessee to fully discharge the obligations contained in any lease. No bond in excess of $20,000 is required under any one lease.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 95, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1728.**

77-3-506. Disposition of leased land. In every lease granted pursuant to the terms hereof there shall be reserved unto the state the right to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the lands covered thereby, subject always to the rights and privileges granted unto the lessee under a lease provided for by this part.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1725(2).**

77-3-507. Lessee to prevent waste. (1) Leases issued under the provisions of this part shall all be subject to the conditions that the lessee in conducting the underground storage of natural gas shall use all reasonable precautions to prevent waste of oil or gas developed in the land or the entrance of water through wells drilled to store natural gas to the oil or gas sands or oil or gas bearing strata to the destruction or injury of oil or gas deposits.

(2) Violations of any of these conditions shall constitute grounds for the forfeiture of the lease after hearing had thereon before the board.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 213, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1725(3).

Cross-References

Cancellation and forfeiture of lease, 77-3-510.

77-3-508. Duration of lease. All leases issued under 77-3-501 may be granted for a period not exceeding 20 years, and the lessee has a preferential right to renew the lease for an additional period not exceeding 20 years, subject to any terms and conditions the board imposes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 94, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1726.

77-3-509. Disposition of funds. All rentals collected for or under leases issued under 77-3-501 shall be paid to the department and credited in the same manner as rentals from oil and gas leases.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1730.

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.
Disposition of funds from oil and gas leases, 77-3-436.

77-3-510. Cancellation and forfeiture of lease. All leases granted under 77-3-501 shall provide for their forfeiture and cancellation upon failure of the lessee to fully discharge the obligations provided therein, after written notice from the department and reasonable time allowed to the lessee for performance of any undertaking or obligation specified in such notice concerning which the lessee is in default.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 96, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1729(part).

77-3-511. Termination and surrender of lease. The lessee may at the termination of any rental year, by giving to the department 30 days' previous notice in writing, surrender and relinquish such lease to the state and be thereupon discharged from any obligation not yet accrued.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1731(1).

77-3-512. Disposition of lessee's property upon termination of lease. Upon the termination for any cause of any lease issued under 77-3-501, the lessee has 6 months after the date of the termination within which to remove all machinery, fixtures, improvements, buildings, and equipment belonging to it upon the premises.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 213, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1731(2).

CHAPTER 4
RENEWABLE RESOURCES

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Part 1
Geothermal Resources

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Educational impact statements, 20-1-208.
Major facility siting — applicability, 75-20-104.
Geothermal exploration — notification of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 75-20-1001.
Geothermal potential — bottom-hole temperatures — public information, 82-11-125.

77-4-101. Geothermal leases authorized. (1) The board may lease state-owned lands, including the beds of navigable streams and the beds of navigable bodies of water, to persons, associations, or corporations for prospecting, exploration, well construction, and the production of geothermal resources.

(2) The board may exercise business discretion in entering into leases under this part.

History: (1)En. 21-2601 by Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1974; Sec. 81-2601, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; Sec. 81-2604, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2601, 81-2604(part).

Cross-References

Authorizations, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.
Recreational use of streams, Title 23, ch. 2, part 3.
Powers and duties of Board, 77-1-202.

77-4-102. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Geothermal development" means any of the operations or facilities necessary for the production of geothermal resources.

(2) "Geothermal resources" means the natural heat energy of the earth, including the energy, in whatever form, which may be found in any position and at any depth below the surface of the earth, either present in, resulting from, created by, or which may be extracted from such natural heat and all minerals in solution or other products obtained from the material medium of any geothermal resource.

History: En. 81-2602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2602(part).

77-4-103. Rules. The board shall adopt rules governing the issuance of geothermal resource leases and the conduct of all geothermal operations. The board may also require the applicant for a geothermal lease to pay an application fee.

History: En. 81-2603 by Sec. 3, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2603.

Cross-References

Promulgation of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4.

77-4-104. Nature of geothermal resources. Geothermal resources are sui generis, being neither a mineral resource nor a water resource, but they are closely related to and possibly affecting and affected by water resources in many instances.

History: En. 81-2602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2602(part).

77-4-105. State retention of geothermal resources. No right to seek, obtain, or use geothermal resources has passed or shall pass with any existing or future lease of state or school lands.

History: En. 81-2602 by Sec. 2, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2602(part).

77-4-106. Bonding requirements. The board may, at any time prior to the execution and delivery of a geothermal lease or at any time during the life of the lease, require a lessee to file with the department a bond to protect the rights of the state. The bond shall be in form and amount prescribed by the board. The board may at any time require new or additional bonds if the interests of the state will not adequately be protected by the bond previously filed.

History: En. 81-2606 by Sec. 6, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2606.

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Corporations as sureties, 33-26-101.

77-4-107. Compensation to surface lessee. The lessee of any geothermal lease shall compensate the surface lessee for any damage to the surface or leasehold interest caused as a result of the geothermal lease. The board may require the geothermal lessee to post a bond in an amount to be set by the board to insure the payment of damages to any surface lessee. If the surface lessee and the geothermal lessee disagree as to the reasonable amount of surface damage, damage shall be ascertained in the same manner as prescribed in 77-4-129.

History: En. 81-2607 by Sec. 7, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2607.

77-4-108. Water rights in connection with geothermal development. If any geothermal development located on state land requires the utilization of water, the lessee may, at any time prior to 1 year before the expiration of the lease, make application to the board for permission to secure a water right to the land under the lease. The application must be in writing, show the permanency of the water supply, and give the estimated cost of utilizing the water resources. If the proposed plan meets with the approval of the board, permission must be granted to the lessee to secure the desired water right for the land. The right must be secured in accordance with Title 85, chapter 2, and must be filed in the name of the state. Existing water rights purchased by the geothermal lessee are the property of the lessee.

History: En. 81-2611 by Sec. 11, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2611; amd. Sec. 2560, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Water rights — generally, Title 85, ch. 2.

77-4-109. Conflicting leases. Where there are conflicting leases, including but not limited to geothermal, coal, mineral, and oil and gas leases, embracing the same land, the person who first was issued a lease shall be entitled to priority of rights; provided, however, that the exercise of this priority shall not interfere with actual production from the lease as determined by the board.

History: En. 81-2612 by Sec. 12, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2612.

77-4-110 through 77-4-120 reserved.

77-4-121. Provisions of the lease. (1) A lease issued by the board gives the lessee, so long as the lessee complies with the terms and conditions of the lease, the exclusive right of possession of the lands or interests leased, subject to conditions contained in the lease.

(2) In a geothermal resource lease granted there is reserved to this state the right to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the surface of the lands covered by the lease subject to the rights and privileges granted the lessee under the terms of the lease.

(3) A lease must specify the rental and royalty to be paid, reasonable forfeiture provisions, and reasonable terms under which the lessee may, within a specified time, remove property placed on the leased lands upon the termination of the lease by forfeiture or by lapse of time.

(4) The lease may contain other provisions that the board and the lessee agree upon that are not inconsistent with this part.

History: En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2604(part); amd. Sec. 2561, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

77-4-122. Duration of lease. The term of each lease shall be for a primary term of 10 years and for so long thereafter as geothermal resources in paying quantities are produced, provided that all conditions and terms of the lease are fully performed by the lessee.

History: En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2604(part).

77-4-123. Extension of lease. If geothermal resources are not being produced from the leased premises at the expiration of the primary term of the lease but the owner of the lease is then engaged in drilling on the premises for geothermal resources, then the lease term shall be extended for so long as the drilling operations are diligently continued. If geothermal resources are recovered from any well drilled after the expiration of the primary term, the lease shall continue in force so long as geothermal resources in paying quantities are produced from the leased premises.

History: En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2604(part).

77-4-124. Operating agreements. Lessees may enter into agreements with other persons, associations, firms, and corporations for drilling and other operations on state lands, but no such operating agreements shall be binding upon the state until filed with the department and approved by the board. No drilling or operating agreement may affect the obligations of each individual leaseholder to the state.

History: En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2604(4).

77-4-125. Pooling agreements and unit operations. (1) Nothing contained in this part or other related laws shall prevent the board from entering into agreements for the pooling of acreage for unit operations for the production of geothermal resources and apportionment of geothermal royalties on an acreage or other equitable basis or from modifying the royalty provisions of existing leases and all subsequent leases in accordance with pooling agreements and unit plans of operation. No agreement may be entered into which changes the percentage of royalties to be paid to the state from the percentages fixed in its leases.

(2) Geothermal resources produced from any part of a unit in which state lands are included by virtue of a pooling agreement shall be considered to be produced from the state lands therein.

History: En. 81-2604 by Sec. 4, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2604(5), (6).

77-4-126. Royalties and rentals. Geothermal leases shall be issued at an annual rental of not less than $1 per acre, payable in advance and/or a royalty which shall not be less than 10% of the amount or value of steam or other forms of heat or energy derived from the production under the lease and sold or utilized by the lessee or reasonably susceptible to sale or utilization by the lessee and not more than 5% of any byproduct derived from production under the lease and sold or utilized or reasonably susceptible of sale or utilization by the lessee.

History: En. 81-2605 by Sec. 5, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2605.

77-4-127. Disposition of royalties and other receipts. (1) The department shall credit fees collected under geothermal leases to the general fund.

(2) All rentals, penalties, and bonuses shall be credited to the income fund of the grant to which the lands under each lease belong.

(3) All moneys collected as royalties shall be credited to the permanent fund arising from the grant to which the land under each particular lease belongs.

History: En. 81-2610 by Sec. 10, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2610.

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-4-128. Permission for and disposition of improvements. (1) A geothermal lessee of state lands has the right to place upon the leased lands a reasonable amount of improvements, provided that the improvements are directly related to the purpose of the lease.

(2) Whenever another person becomes the geothermal lessee, the person shall pay the former lessee the reasonable value of the improvements at the time the new lessee takes possession of the improvements.

(3) In determining the value of these improvements, the original cost, the present condition, and the suitability of the improvements for the uses ordinarily made of geothermal resources must be considered.

(4) The former lessee may remove or dispose of the movable improvements from the land within 60 days from the expiration of the former lessee's lease except for the well casing and other equipment necessary for the preservation of any geothermal well. If not removed within 60 days, improvements become the property of the state unless the board grants additional time for the removal of the improvements. Before a lease is issued to the new lessee, the new lessee shall show that the new lessee has paid the former lessee the value of the improvements as agreed upon by them or as fixed and determined under 77-4-129, that the new lessee has offered to pay the value of the improvements as fixed and determined, or that the former lessee elects to remove the improvements.

History: En. 81-2608 by Sec. 8, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2608; amd. Sec. 2562, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

77-4-129. Procedure to fix value of improvements. (1) If the owner of any improvements on state lands of the type authorized by law at the time they were placed on the land desires to sell these improvements to the new lessee and they are unable to agree on the value of the improvements, the value must be ascertained and fixed by three arbitrators, one of whom must be appointed by the owner of the improvements, one by the new lessee, and the third by the two arbitrators appointed. The reasonable compensation that the arbitrators may fix must be paid in equal shares by the owner of the improvements and the new lessee. The value of the improvements as ascertained and fixed is binding on both parties.

(2) If either party is dissatisfied with the valuation as fixed, the party may within 10 days appeal the arbitrators' decision to the department and the department shall examine the improvements and make the final decision as to the value of the improvements. The department shall apportion the actual cost of the reexamination to the owner and the new lessee as justice may require. The value of the improvements must be ascertained and fixed as provided in 77-4-128.

History: En. 81-2609 by Sec. 9, Ch. 111, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-2609; amd. Sec. 2563, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Part 2
Hydroelectric Resources

Part Cross-References

Educational impact statements, 20-1-208.
Rural cooperative utilities, Title 35, ch. 18.
Environmental policy, Title 75, ch. 1.
Major facility siting, Title 75, ch. 20.
Power generation negotiation process, 85-1-514.
Surface water and ground water, Title 85, ch. 2.
Environmental impact statement — water usage — fees, 85-2-124.
Water leasing program, 85-2-141.
Montana Dam Safety Act, Title 85, ch. 15.

77-4-201. Lease or license of power sites. It is unlawful to sell or advertise for sale state lands constituting power sites or part of power sites capable of developing hydroelectric energy in commercial quantities. However, the board may issue a lease or license to any person, corporation, or municipality for the development of power sites and the distribution, use, and disposition of the electrical energy generated on the sites as specifically provided in this chapter.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1802; amd. Sec. 70, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Leases authorized, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.

77-4-202. Power site defined. The words "power site" as used in this part shall mean not only the state-owned land on which the dam is constructed, but also each separate tract of such land which will become part of the reservoir and which in and of itself makes an essential contribution to the value of the power site as a whole of not less than 5% of the entire value of such power site.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.1, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1801.

77-4-203. Restrictions and regulations. In issuing any lease or license under the provisions of this part, the board shall have the power and it shall be its duty to incorporate in the lease or license such reasonable restrictions and regulations as it finds necessary in order to protect the interest of the state and its people.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.6, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1806.**

Cross-References

Powers and duties of Board, 77-1-202.

77-4-204. Examination of power sites. Whenever an application in writing has been presented to the board for lease or license on a power site on state lands, the board shall make such preliminary examination as to the value of the power site, as to the plans of development submitted by the applicant, and of all other matters relating to the proposed development as it deems necessary for the proper disposition of the business.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part).**

77-4-205. Notice of proposed lease or license. If these preliminary investigations and the offer made for lease or license are such that the board deems further proceedings on the application to be justified, it shall cause notice of the proposed lease or license to be published not less than once each week during not less than 6 weeks previous to the meeting at which further consideration will be given to the application in two newspapers of general circulation throughout the state, one of such newspapers to be published in the neighborhood of the location of the power site.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part).**

77-4-206. Meeting of board on proposed lease or license. (1) At this meeting all other applications which may have been received for lease or license to such power sites shall be duly considered together with the application originally filed.

(2) The board shall have the right to reject any or all bids.

(3) If, however, the board finds that any of the bids submitted offers to pay adequate rental for such power site, shows to the satisfaction of the board that it is capable of carrying out the proposed development and of rendering efficient service to the customers that will be served from such power development, and intends in good faith without any unnecessary delay to proceed with the development, then the board shall accept such bid. If more than one such acceptable bid is received, then the lease or license shall be awarded to the person, corporation, or municipality whose offer, considered in its totality, is the most advantageous to the state.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part).**

Cross-References

Full market value required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-4-207. Preference to bid of municipality. In case one of the applicants is a municipality, its bid shall have preference provided that it is in all respects as advantageous to the state as the bid which has been submitted by any person or corporation.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part).**

77-4-208. Rental for power sites — deposit of rental money in proper accounts. (1) The rental payment to the state for power sites must be paid annually or semiannually, and the rental may not be less than the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of through the granting of the lease or license. The value must be carefully ascertained from all available sources.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2011, all rental payments received under this section must be deposited in accordance with 17-3-1003(5).

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part); amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 377, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 371, L. 2011.**

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.
Full market value required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.
Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).
Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

77-4-209. Duration of lease. The term of the lease shall not exceed 50 years.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.3, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1803(part).**

Cross-References

Term not to exceed 50 years, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

77-4-210. Joint development with United States. (1) If the state land constituting a power site is part of a larger power site owned or controlled by the government of the United States, then the board may grant a joint lease or license with the United States for the development of the power site and the distribution, use, and disposition of the electrical energy generated at the power site under the laws of the United States and regulations issued pursuant to those laws.

(2) The lease or license may be granted for a term not exceeding 50 years.

(3) The share or percentage of ownership of the state in the joint power site must be in proportion to the total contribution that the lands of the state make to the value of the entire power site. Before the share of the state in the power site is advertised for lease or license, the percentage of the state's share in the entire power site must be calculated and agreed upon between the state and the United States.

(4) The fee or compensation to be paid to the state under the lease or license must be calculated on the basis of the state's share of ownership in the entire power site as calculated and agreed to. However, the fee or compensation may not be less than the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of in the lands through the granting of the lease or license to be carefully ascertained from all available sources.

(5) Before the lease or license is issued, notice of the lease or license must be given in the same manner as required in this chapter for the issuance of a separate lease or license by the state.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.4, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1804; amd. Sec. 71, Ch. 7, L. 2001.

Cross-References

Full market value required, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.

77-4-211. Amortization of investment. (1) In all cases where the lease or license issued by the United States requires the amortization of the investment made in dams, machinery, equipment, and appurtenant works, such amortization requirement shall also apply to that portion of the investment representing the state's part or share in the power site so that the state will at all times retain its full share of ownership in the power site and in the dams, machinery, equipment, and appurtenant works.

(2) If the state lands constitute a separate power site wholly owned by the state and independently developed, the lease or license issued by the state may provide for the amortization of the capital invested in the dam, machinery, equipment, and appurtenant works, not including the distribution system, so that ultimately the state will become the owner of the power site including the dam, machinery, equipment, and appurtenant works, not including the distribution system.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 123, L. 1931; re-en. Sec. 1904.5, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1805.

Part 3
Wind and Solar Resources

77-4-301. Wind and solar leases authorized. (1) The board may lease state lands for exploration, planning, development, and the production of energy from wind and solar resources.

(2) Leases for wind or solar rights only where no ground disturbance is authorized do not require reclassification.

(3) The board may exercise business discretion in entering leases under this part.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 313, L. 2021.

77-4-302. Compensating surface lessee. (1) A person who leases wind or solar resources under this part shall compensate the surface lessee for damage to the surface improvements caused by the lease.

(2) (a) The board may require the wind or solar resource lessee to post a bond in an amount set by the board to insure the payment of damages to any surface lessee.

(b) If a surface lessee and a wind or solar resource lessee disagree on the reasonable amount of surface damage, compensation is determined in the manner prescribed by 77-4-129.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 2021.

77-4-303. Lease provisions. (1) A lessee under this part has exclusive rights of possession of the lands or interest leased, subject to conditions in the lease and compliance with the lease.

(2) The state reserves the right in leases under this part to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the surface, and the right to lease or exchange the subsurface, of the lands covered by the lease subject to the rights and privileges granted the lessee under the terms of the lease.

(3) A lease must specify the rental to be paid, duration, reasonable forfeiture provisions, bonding, and decommissioning terms.

(4) A lease may contain other provisions that the board and the lessee agree upon that are consistent with this part.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 313, L. 2021.

77-4-304. Rental and disposition of rent and other receipts. (1) The rental payment to the state for a wind resource development lease may not be less than the full market value of the interest described in the approved lease.

(2) Rentals are credited to the income fund of the grant to which the lands under each lease belong.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2021.

77-4-305. Rulemaking. The board may adopt rules governing the issuance of leases under this part.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 313, L. 2021.

CHAPTER 5
TIMBER RESOURCES

Part 1 — State Forests

77-5-101. Classification of lands as state forests.
77-5-102. Designation of state forests.
77-5-103. Role of department.
77-5-104. Repealed.
77-5-105. Repealed.
77-5-106. Repealed.
77-5-107 through 77-5-114 reserved.
77-5-115. Repealed.
77-5-116. State forest lands — deferral of management prohibited.

Part 2 — Timber Sales and Removal

77-5-201. Sale of timber.
77-5-202. Agreement with purchaser — bond.
77-5-203. Breach of timber sale agreement.
77-5-204. Sale of timber — fee for forest improvement.
77-5-205. Approval or disapproval of sales.
77-5-206. Management of timber by department.
77-5-207. Salvage timber program.
77-5-208. Repealed.
77-5-209 and 77-5-210 reserved.
77-5-211. Repealed.
77-5-212. Commercial permits for timber sale.
77-5-213. Repealed.
77-5-214. Statement of policy.
77-5-215. Definitions.
77-5-216. Contract harvesting authorized.
77-5-217. Contract harvesting to address forest health concerns.
77-5-218. Rules.
77-5-219. Contract harvesting account — authorized expenditures — termination.
77-5-220 reserved.
77-5-221. Definition.
77-5-222. Determination of annual sustainable yield.
77-5-223. Annual sustainable yield as timber sale requirement.
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Part 3 — Streamside Management Zones

77-5-301. Findings and purpose.
77-5-302. Definitions.
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77-5-304. Inspection — onsite consultation.
77-5-305. Responsibility for compliance — penalties — administrative orders.
77-5-306. Repealed.
77-5-307. Rulemaking.

Part 4 — Community and Urban Forestry Program

77-5-401. Title — purpose.
77-5-402. Definitions.
77-5-403. Authority — rulemaking.
77-5-404. Special revenue account — donations.

Part 1
State Forests

Part Cross-References

County forests, Title 7, ch. 8, part 26.

77-5-101. Classification of lands as state forests. All lands at present owned by the state and all that may hereafter be acquired by the state through escheat, exchange, purchase, grant, or devise which are principally valuable for the timber that is on them or for the growing of timber or for watershed protection are hereby classified and designated "state forests" and reserved for forest production and watershed protection.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.1, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 167, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 97, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1401.

Cross-References

Escheat — how disposed of, 72-14-206.

State to pay assessments on state lands within organized forest protection districts, 76-13-108.

77-5-102. Designation of state forests. The following state forest units are hereby established, primarily to secure through forestry management a continuous supply of timber and the performance of watershed covers:

(1) A state forest containing lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 90,000 acres, situated in the watersheds of the Stillwater and Whitefish Rivers of Flathead and Lincoln Counties shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Stillwater State Forest".

(2) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 42,000 acres, situated in the Swan River watershed of Lake County shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Swan River State Forest".

(3) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 20,000 acres, situated in the Coal Creek watershed of the North Fork of the Flathead River shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Coal Creek State Forest".

(4) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 10,000 acres situated in the watersheds of Camp and Cameron Creeks of Ross Hole of Ravalli County shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Sula State Forest".

(5) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 14,628 acres, situated in the west half of township 25 north, range 26 west; and township 23 north, range 27 west; and west half of township 22 north, range 26 west; and township 21 north, range 26 west, except sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 18, in the Thompson River watershed of Sanders County shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Thompson River State Forest".

(6) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 18,076 acres, situated in townships 13, 14, and 15 north, range 14 west; and townships 13 and 16 north, range 15 west, Montana meridian, in the Clearwater River watershed of Missoula County shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Clearwater State Forest".

(7) A state forest containing all lands owned or hereafter acquired by the state, now comprising about 8,245 acres, situated in township 14 north, ranges 7, 8, and 9 west; and township 13 north, ranges 8 and 9 west, Montana meridian, of the Blackfoot River watershed in Lewis and Clark County shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Lincoln State Forest".

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.2, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1402.

77-5-103. Role of department. (1) The department shall, under the direction and control of the board, do all the field work in the selection, location, examination, appraisement, and reappraisement of state timberlands.

(2) The department shall do all acts required of it by the board, and under the direction of the board, it has general charge of the timberlands of the state.

(3) The department shall, under the supervision of the board:

(a) execute all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of the state;

(b) direct the protection, improvement, and condition of state forests;

(c) take any action authorized by law to prevent and extinguish wildland fires; and

(d) enforce the laws pertaining to forest and nonforest lands and prosecute for any violation of those laws.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 147, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 118, L. 1911; re-en. Sec. 1831, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1831, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 218, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 34, Ch. 93, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 102, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 397, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1411; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

Cross-References

Timber resources — Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Title 76, ch. 13.
Classification of forest lands by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 76-13-107.
Transportation of coniferous trees — Department authority, 76-13-601.
Department defined, 77-1-101.
Department of Commerce to locate and maintain information on prime forestry sites, 90-1-102.

77-5-104. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1833, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1833, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 147, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 103, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 17, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1412; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 662, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 310, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 324, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

77-5-105. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: (1)En. Sec. 12, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1834, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1834, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 253, L. 1974; Sec. 81-1413, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 13, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1835, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1835; R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1414, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1413(part), 81-1414.

77-5-106. Repealed. Sec. 30, Ch. 336, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 147, L. 1909; re-en. Sec. 1834, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 1834, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1413(part).

77-5-107 through 77-5-114 reserved.

77-5-115. Repealed. Sec. 2, Ch. 182, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 419, L. 1995.

77-5-116. State forest lands — deferral of management prohibited. The board and the department are prohibited from designating, treating, or disposing of any interest in state forest lands for the preservation or nonuse of these lands prior to obtaining funds for the affected beneficiary equal to the full market value of that designation, treatment, or disposition. Unless the full market value of the property interest or of the revenue foregone is obtained, the board and the department are prohibited from either temporarily or permanently designating, treating, or disposing of any interest in any state forest lands for the following purposes:

(1) as a natural area pursuant to Title 76, chapter 12, part 1, or as otherwise provided for by law;

(2) as open-space land as defined in 76-6-104;

(3) for old growth timber preservation; and

(4) as a wildlife management area.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 2001.

Part 2
Timber Sales and Removal

77-5-201. Sale of timber. (1) Under the direction of the board, the department may sell the timber crop and other crops of the forests after examination, estimate, appraisal, and report and under any rules established by the board. Timber or forest products sold from state trust lands may be sold by a stumpage method or a lump-sum method or marketed by the state through contract harvesting as provided in 77-5-214 through 77-5-219.

(2) Timber proposed for sale in excess of 500,000 board feet must be advertised in a paper of the county in which the timber is situated or on the department's website for a period of at least 30 days, during which time the department must receive sealed bids up to the hour of the closing of the bids, as specified in the notice of sale.

(3) (a) In cases of emergency because of fire, insect, fungus, parasite, or blowdown or to address forest health concerns or in cases when the department is required to act immediately to take advantage of access granted by permission of an adjoining landowner, timber proposed for sale not in excess of 1 million board feet may be advertised by invitation to bid for a period of not less than 10 days. The department may reject any bids, upon approval of the board, or it shall award the sale to the highest responsible bidder.

(b) (i) In cases when the department is required to act immediately to take advantage of access granted by permission of an adjoining landowner and there is only one potential buyer with legal access, the department may negotiate a sale of timber not in excess of 2 million board feet without offering the timber for bid if the sale is for fair market value.

(ii) The provisions of subsection (3)(b)(i) do not apply to situations when the only access is totally controlled by a potential purchaser of the timber, in which case the department shall seek to negotiate permanent, reciprocal access.

(c) In the situations described in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b)(i), the department is not required to comply with the provisions of 75-1-201(1) to the extent that compliance is precluded by limited time available to take advantage of the sales opportunities described by this subsection (3).

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 301, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1404(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 223, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 494, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2017; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 82, L. 2019; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2023.**

Compiler's Comments

2023 Amendment: See 2023 Session Law for amendment made by sec. 1, Ch. 143, L. 2023. Amendment effective October 1, 2023.

Cross-References

Loggers' and logging camp cooks' liens, 71-3-601.
Declaration of insect infestation zone, 76-13-303.
Department defined, 77-1-101.
Permits without advertising, 77-5-212.

77-5-202. Agreement with purchaser — bond. (1) Upon award of sale the purchaser shall execute a formal agreement, approved by the board, which describes the area on which the timber is to be cut, the approximate quantity to be cut by species, and the rate for each product of each species. The agreement shall stipulate that all timber shall be paid for in advance of cutting, fix a date for termination of the agreement, and define rules of silviculture, cutting, utilization, scaling, and slash disposal and such other rules as in the discretion of the board are essential to the perpetuation of the state forests.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), as a guarantee for the faithful performance of the agreement, the purchaser shall be required to furnish a bond, with sufficient sureties, to the state of Montana, in an amount equal to the potential loss to the state, as determined by the department.

(b) The bond required under this section must be in an amount equal to at least 5% of the estimated value of the timber sold.

History: **(1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.4, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 98, Ch. 253, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 301, L. 1977; Sec. 81-1404, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.5, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 81-1405, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1404(part), 81-1405; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 373, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Suretyship, Title 28, ch. 11, part 4.
Surety bonds, 33-26-101.
Fire hazard reduction agreement and bond, 76-13-408.
Duty of purchaser to ensure compliance with fire hazard reduction, 76-13-409.

77-5-203. Breach of timber sale agreement. For breach of timber sale agreement, the department may suspend cutting or removal of the timber and take such steps as are advisable upon advice and counsel of the attorney general to adjust the breach or to liquidate the state's claim for damages or it may submit the case with full report as to damages sustained by the state to the attorney general for collection on the bond.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.6, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 99, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1406; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981.

Cross-References

Attorney General — member of Board of Land Commissioners, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.
Attorney General — duties, 2-15-501.
Department defined, 77-1-101.

77-5-204. Sale of timber — fee for forest improvement. (1) The board may sell timber on state lands or other forest products removed from state lands, as provided in 77-5-214 through 77-5-219, at a per-unit price when, in the board's judgment, it is in the best interest of the state, provided that live timber is not sold for less than full market value.

(2) Timber sold or cut from state lands must be cut and removed under rules that may be prescribed by the board for standing timber preservation and fire prevention. In all cases, the board shall require the person cutting the timber to pile and burn or otherwise dispose of the brush and slash in the manner that may be prescribed by the board.

(3) Before the sale of timber is granted, the value of the timber must be appraised under the direction of the department, upon the request and subject to the approval of the board. An appraisal must show as nearly as possible the per-unit value, when appropriate, of all merchantable forest products.

(4) In addition to the price of the forest products established under subsection (1), the board may require a timber or other forest product purchaser to pay a fee for forest improvement unless the timber is to be harvested from land granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862, 7 U.S.C. 301 through 308, and the Morrill Act of 1890, 7 U.S.C. 321 through 329. Revenue from the fee must be deposited in the forest improvement account, established in 77-5-224, to the credit of the department and, as appropriated by the legislature, may be used only for:

(a) disposing of logging slash;

(b) acquiring access and maintaining roads necessary for timber harvesting on state lands;

(c) reforesting, thinning, and otherwise improving the condition and income potential of forested state lands; and

(d) complying with legal requirements for timber harvesting.

History: En. Sec. 3560, p. 193, L. 1897; re-en. Sec. 2213, Rev. C. 1907; amd. Sec. 53, Ch. 147, L. 1909; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 118, L. 1911; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 26, L. 1919; re-en. Sec. 1872, R.C.M. 1921; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 132, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1872, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 219, Ch. 147, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 82, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1601; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 277, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 446, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 157, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 494, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Burning permits, 76-13-121.
Spark arresters required, 76-13-125.
Control of timber slash and debris, Title 76, ch. 13, part 4.

77-5-205. Approval or disapproval of sales. All sales of timber on state lands shall be subject to the approval and confirmation by the board, and no sale shall be deemed completed until after such approval and confirmation. The board shall have the power and it shall be its duty to disapprove any sale which in its opinion would be disadvantageous to the state.

History: En. Sec. 82, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.82, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-918(part).

77-5-206. Management of timber by department. (1) The department shall supervise all the management of timber before it is cut and secure the most complete utilization of all forest products consistent with the current forest management practices.

(2) It shall instruct and supervise the cruisers, forest wardens, and scalers in the conduct of their work and fix and establish the standard practice in timber sales administration.

(3) Records of converting factors, units of measure, and the scale of logs shall be kept as a permanent public record showing the date of scale or measurement, the designation of the scale, and the name of the scaler.

(4) Where the volume of timber involved is not in excess of 1 million board feet log scale, the department may designate each tree to be cut and make a tree scale measurement of all trees to be sold.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.8, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 40, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 219, L. 1955; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 145, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 100, Ch. 253, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1408; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 529, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 110, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Transportation of coniferous trees — Department authority, 76-13-601.
Department defined, 77-1-101.

77-5-207. Salvage timber program. (1) The department shall establish a salvage timber program that provides for the timely salvage logging on state forests of dead or dying timber or timber that is threatened by insects, disease, fire, or windthrow. In managing the harvest of salvage timber, the department shall consider:

(a) the economic value of the timber to be salvaged;

(b) the cost of salvage efforts; and

(c) the long-term costs to all forest resources from insects, disease, or fire that otherwise might be controlled through salvage operations.

(2) The department shall, to the extent practicable, harvest dead and dying timber before there is substantial wood decay and value loss.

(3) The department may sell salvage timber pursuant to this part.

(4) The department's salvage timber program may not take precedence over the timely sale and harvest of green timber.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 285, L. 1993.**

77-5-208. Repealed. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 2019.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 224, L. 1999.**

77-5-209 and 77-5-210 reserved.

77-5-211. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 270, L. 2001.

History: **En. Sec. 7, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1407(part).**

77-5-212. Commercial permits for timber sale. (1) Permits for quantities of 500,000 board feet or less may be issued to citizens of the state for commercial purposes, at commercial rates, without advertising, and under restrictions and rules that the board may approve for the sale of timber.

(2) To apply for a permit under this section, an individual shall:

(a) complete a permit application on a form provided by the department and submit the completed application to the department office that is responsible for management of the state land where the proposed sale is located;

(b) using ribbon, mark the area of the proposed sale; and

(c) designate on a U.S. geological survey map or other approved map the area proposed for sale and existing roads that would be used to remove timber from the site.

(3) For sales of less than 30,000 board feet, an individual shall provide proof of vehicle liability insurance and $1 million in commercial general liability insurance, naming the state of Montana as additionally insured, and shall provide a performance bond in an amount not to exceed $1,000.

(4) For sales of 30,000 board feet or more, an individual shall provide proof of vehicle liability insurance and $1 million in commercial general liability insurance, naming the state of Montana as additionally insured, and shall provide a performance bond in accordance with 77-5-202.

(5) Unless the timber proposed for sale is already sold or is part of another proposed sale being reviewed by the department, the department shall review completed permit applications within 30 days of the application's submittal. If the proposed sale complies with existing state and federal laws and regulations, the department shall perform an appraisal within 60 days of the application's submittal.

(6) The department shall issue a permit within 5 working days of the date that the applicant agrees to the terms of the proposed sale, unless the parties mutually agree upon a time extension.

(7) Repeated permits of this kind may not be issued to avoid advertising and the consequent competition secured by advertising.

(8) Permit applications for timber sales in cases of emergency due to fire, insect, fungus, parasite, or blowdown, and no other, are categorical exclusions as defined by rule, and the

department is not required to comply with the provisions of 75-1-201(1) in reviewing those applications.

(9) Proposed timber sales under subsection (8) do not take precedence over the timely sale and harvest of green timber pursuant to 77-5-207.

(10) Permit applications made pursuant to this section may be subject to further environmental review, and the number of permits may be limited if the department determines that sales may have a cumulative effect on geographic area.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1407(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 108, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 82, L. 2019.

Cross-References

Standard timber sales, 77-5-201.

77-5-213. Repealed. Sec. 8, Ch. 18, L. 1999.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 179, L. 1925; re-en. Sec. 1830.7, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 217, L. 1955; R.C.M. 1947, 81-1407(part).

77-5-214. Statement of policy. (1) The application of contract harvesting on Montana's trust lands provides an opportunity to improve forest health and long-term productivity, increase options for managing forests in environmentally sensitive areas, and provide potential revenue benefits for trust beneficiaries.

(2) It is important that the department has clear authorization and direction for conducting contract harvesting, including marketing and selling log sorts and other forest products.

(3) A clear funding mechanism addressing the receipt of revenue and payment for costs associated with contract harvesting projects provides the transparent process that allows beneficiaries to understand the costs and benefits associated with contract harvesting.

(4) Contract harvesting has the potential to result in increased bidder activity, better use and merchandising of products, improved harvesting results and environmental protection, and quicker completion of projects when time constraints are a factor.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 494, L. 2007.

77-5-215. Definitions. As used in this part, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Contract harvesting" means a timber harvest or timber sale occurring on state trust lands by which:

(a) the department solicits bids and contracts with a firm or individual awarded the bid to:

(i) perform all necessary work to harvest and process trees into merchantable forest products;

(ii) sort trees pursuant to contract specifications and department use standards; and

(iii) transport and deliver the products to forest product purchasers; and

(b) the department sells the forest products to one or more forest product purchasers through the competitive bidding process pursuant to 77-5-201(1) and (2).

(2) "Contract harvesting costs" means expenses related to the production of log sorts or other merchantable products from a stand of timber and the transportation of the products to point-of-sale locations. These expenses may include but are not limited to:

(a) sale preparation and development costs;

(b) marketing of forest products and administration of contract harvesting contracts;

(c) road building and maintenance;

(d) labor for felling, bucking, yarding, and loading;

(e) scaling of forest products; and

(f) the transportation of sorted logs and other merchantable products from the harvest site to a point of sale.

(3) "Decked" means a pile of logs or other merchantable forest products that have been prepared for sale or shipment and placed upon a landing.

(4) "Forest health concerns" means issues that can be addressed through management or harvest of merchantable or nonmerchantable trees and includes:

(a) forested lands that are overcrowded or stagnant and that are showing declining annual growth;

(b) wildland-urban interface areas where timber harvest or forest management is necessary to prevent catastrophic or other damage to forested lands, livestock, buildings, or other infrastructure;

(c) fire fuel buildup and treatment on forested lands;

(d) forested lands susceptible to imminent or repeated insect or disease attack and timber degradation;

(e) forested lands that are in a high state of decline or decay or are rapidly deteriorating;

(f) forested lands with high recreational use and high degradation risk; and

(g) forested lands under drought stress.

(5) "Forest products" means any product produced from the forest that the department can sell through competitive bid or direct negotiation.

(6) "Log sorts" means trees or portions of trees that are grouped and sorted into various product categories, including but not limited to pulp logs, sawlogs, and house logs.

(7) "Sawlogs" means merchantable timber prepared and sorted as decked, scaled logs and sold f.o.b., as defined in 30-2-319, at a designated location, expressed in terms of dollars per thousand board feet or dollars per ton.

(8) "Scaled" means the measured volume, weight, or other measurement of a log, load of logs, or other products.

(9) "Stumpage" means the value of timber as it exists, uncut, within a harvest unit, expressed in terms of dollars per thousand board feet, dollars per ton, or other appropriate value per-unit designation.

(10) (a) "Timber" means any wood growth on state trust land, mature or immature, alive or dead, standing or down, that is capable of furnishing merchantable raw material used in the manufacture of lumber or other forest products.

(b) The term does not include cultivated Christmas trees.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 494, L. 2007.

77-5-216. Contract harvesting authorized. (1) Under direction of the board and after submitting the various portions of the sale for bid, as described in 77-5-201, the department is authorized to sell timber and forest products from contract harvesting sales through the competitive bidding process pursuant to 77-5-201(1) and (2) and to contract with firms and individuals for the removal of timber and forest products from state trust lands, the preparation of those materials into merchantable form, the transportation of those materials to a point of sale, and other purposes that the department determines to be necessary.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), the department may not conduct contract harvesting on state trust lands in an amount greater than 10% of the annual sustained yield.

(3) If the department is addressing forest health concerns as provided in 77-5-217, the department may exceed the annual sustained harvest level by up to 10% using contract harvesting, provided that the contract harvest volume in excess of the annual sustained harvest level contains no more than 25% merchantable sawlog volume.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 494, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 116, L. 2009.

77-5-217. Contract harvesting to address forest health concerns. All contract harvesting sales meant to address specific forest health concerns must be designed to:

(1) improve the overall health, productivity, and long-term revenue potential for the timber stand;

(2) be consistent with the state forest land management plan; and

(3) comply with all applicable state laws, rules, and regulations.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 494, L. 2007.

77-5-218. Rules. (1) (a) The board may adopt rules to implement the contract harvesting program. The board shall evaluate each proposed contract harvest to determine if, in the board's judgment, contract harvesting will fulfill its duty to prudently obtain the maximum long-term revenue for the trust beneficiaries or to address forest health concerns or other environmental concerns.

(b) The board shall adopt rules describing the procedures necessary to ensure that the trust beneficiaries receive the full market value of the forest products.

(2) The board may adopt rules that impose specific appraisal requirements and sale procedures for any forest products directly marketed and sold by the department.

History: **En. Sec. 5, Ch. 494, L. 2007.**

77-5-219. Contract harvesting account — authorized expenditures — termination. (1) An account, called the contract harvesting account, must be created as a subaccount of the trust land administration account established in 77-1-108, in which to deposit gross revenue and for the payment of expenditures associated with contract harvesting sales. All proceeds of the sale of forest products from a contract harvesting sale must be deposited into this account and must be retained in the account to be used to pay for all contract harvesting costs, as provided in subsection (2).

(2) Expenditures may be credited against the account for contract harvesting costs. Personnel services costs for state employees may not be credited against the account.

(3) An amount equal to the contract harvesting costs must be retained in the account and must be deducted from the gross proceeds to determine the net proceeds. The net proceeds from the sale of the forest products must be distributed to the appropriate trust.

(4) An initial account balance must be created by transferring up to $500,000 into the contract harvesting account from the trust land administration account.

(5) If the contract harvesting program is terminated or discontinued for more than 10 years, any balance remaining in the contract harvesting account in excess of $500,000 must be distributed to the appropriate trust. The remaining balance up to $500,000 must be transferred back to the trust land administration account provided for in 77-1-108.

History: **En. Sec. 6, Ch. 494, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 465, L. 2009.**

77-5-220 reserved.

77-5-221. Definition. As used in 77-5-222, 77-5-223, and this section, "annual sustainable yield" means the quantity of timber that can be harvested from forested state lands each year in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to the laws pertaining to wildlife, recreation, and maintenance of watersheds, and in compliance with water quality standards that protect fisheries and aquatic life and that are adopted under the provisions of Title 75, chapter 5, taking into account the ability of state forests to generate replacement tree growth.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 517, L. 1995.**

77-5-222. Determination of annual sustainable yield. (1) (a) On July 1, 2013, the department, under the direction of the board, shall commission a new study by a qualified independent third party to determine, using scientific principles, the annual sustainable yield on forested state lands. The department shall direct the qualified independent third party to determine the yield pursuant to, but not exceeding, all state and federal laws.

(b) A new study may be commissioned by the department, under the direction of the board, at any time during the 10-year period provided for in subsection (2).

(2) A determination of annual sustainable yield under subsection (1) must be reviewed and redetermined by the department, under the direction of the board, at least once every 10 years.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 440, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 288, L. 2013.**

77-5-223. Annual sustainable yield as timber sale requirement. The annual sustainable yield constitutes the annual timber sale requirement for the state timber sale program administered by the department. This annual requirement may be reduced proportionately by the amount of sustained income to the beneficiaries generated by site-specific alternate land uses approved by the board based on a determination under 77-5-222.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 517, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 288, L. 2013.**

Cross-References

Revenue for state equalization aid, 20-9-343.

77-5-224. Forest improvement account. (1) There is a forest improvement account in the state special revenue fund.

(2) Forest improvement fees collected pursuant to 77-5-204 must be deposited in the forest improvement account and accounted for by trust.

(3) Funds in the forest improvement account must be invested. Any interest earned must be deposited in the forest improvement account in proportionate share to each fund's contribution to the account.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 465, L. 2009.

Part 3
Streamside Management Zones

Part Cross-References
Water Use, Title 85.

77-5-301. Findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the streamside management zone:

(a) acts as an effective sediment filter to maintain water quality;

(b) provides shade to regulate stream temperature;

(c) supports diverse and productive aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitats;

(d) protects the stream channel and banks;

(e) provides large, woody debris that is eventually recruited into a stream to maintain riffles, pools, and other elements of channel structure; and

(f) promotes flood plain stability.

(2) The legislature further finds that maintaining the integrity of forest streams is crucial to the quality and quantity of water available to Montanans for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and recreational use.

(3) The legislature further finds that forest streams are highly susceptible to impacts from land development and that in many cases forest practices in streamside zones in Montana are causing excessive and unnecessary damage to the banks, beds, and protective vegetation of forest streams.

(4) The legislature further finds that, through careful management in the streamside zone, owners and operators can achieve timber harvest goals without sacrificing water quality or impairing the beneficial uses of the water.

(5) The purposes of this part are:

(a) to protect the legitimate public interest in the quality and quantity of forest waters;

(b) to provide for standards, oversight, rehabilitation, and penalties to ensure that forest practices are conducted in a manner that conserves the integrity of Montana's streamside zones;

(c) to provide guidelines for the management of wildlife habitat in streamside zones; and

(d) to allow operators necessary flexibility to use practices appropriate to site-specific conditions in the streamside management zone.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 608, L. 1991.

77-5-302. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Alternative practices" means forest practices that are:

(a) conducted in the streamside management zone and that are different from practices required by rules adopted under this part;

(b) designed for site-specific conditions encountered during a timber sale; and

(c) subject to department approval under 77-5-303.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in 2-15-3301.

(3) "Forest practices" means, within a timber sale, the harvesting of trees, road construction or reconstruction associated with harvesting and accessing trees, site preparation for regeneration of a timber stand, reforestation, and management of logging slash. The term does not include activities related to the operation of a Christmas tree farm or nursery that do not involve new road construction.

(4) "Operator" means a person responsible for conducting forest practices. An operator may be the owner or a person who, through contractual agreement with the owner, is obligated to or entitled to conduct forest practices or carry out a timber sale.

(5) "Owner" means an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or association of any nature that holds an ownership interest in forest land or timber.

(6) "Person" means an individual, firm, partnership, company, commercial entity, corporation, or association.

(7) "Stream" means a natural watercourse of perceptible extent that has a generally sandy or rocky bottom or definite banks and that confines and conducts continuously or intermittently flowing water.

(8) "Streamside management zone" or "zone" means a stream, lake, or other body of water and an adjacent area of varying width where management practices that might affect wildlife habitat or water quality, fish, or other aquatic resources need to be modified. The streamside management zone encompasses a strip at least 50 feet wide on each side of a stream, lake, or other body of water, measured from the ordinary high-water mark, and extends beyond the high-water mark to include wetlands and areas that provide additional protection in zones with steep slopes or erosive soils.

(9) "Timber sale" means a series of forest practices designed to access, harvest, or regenerate trees on a defined land area for commercial purposes.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 608, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 320, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 325, Ch. 418, L. 1995.

77-5-303. Standards for forest practices in streamside management zones. (1) The following practices are prohibited in a streamside management zone:

(a) broadcast burning;

(b) the operation of wheeled or tracked vehicles except on established roads;

(c) the forest practice of clearcutting;

(d) the construction of roads except when necessary to cross a stream or wetland;

(e) the handling, storage, application, or disposal of hazardous or toxic materials in a manner that pollutes streams, lakes, or wetlands or that may cause damage or injury to humans, land, animals, or plants;

(f) the side-casting of road material into a stream, wetland, or watercourse; and

(g) the deposit of slash in streams or other water bodies.

(2) The department shall publish and distribute the rules implementing the streamside management standards.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 608, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Water quality, Title 75, ch. 5.
Aquatic ecosystem protections, Title 75, ch. 7.
Waste and litter control, Title 75, ch. 10.

77-5-304. Inspection — onsite consultation. (1) The department may inspect forest practices on any federal, state, or private land in this state to assess compliance with the provisions of this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(2) The department may conduct an onsite consultation with an owner or operator to review harvest plans and watershed conditions. During the onsite consultation, the department may review and, if appropriate, approve the proposed use of alternative streamside management practices, as provided in 77-5-303.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 608, L. 1991.

77-5-305. Responsibility for compliance — penalties — administrative orders. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure compliance with the provisions of this part and rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(b) If a written contract between an owner and an operator specifies that the operator is responsible for compliance with laws relating to forest practices, the operator is considered the responsible party for all enforcement actions taken by the department under this section.

(2) A person who violates a provision of this part, a rule adopted pursuant to this part, or an order issued under this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $1,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation.

(3) (a) When the department determines that an owner or operator has violated a provision of this part or a rule adopted pursuant to this part and has caused damage to watershed or wildlife resources, the department may serve an order requiring the person responsible for the conduct of forest practices to undertake necessary site rehabilitation within a reasonable period of time stated in the order. The order must specify the nature of the violation and the damage or unsatisfactory condition resulting from the violation.

(b) The order becomes final unless, within 30 days after the notice is served, the person named requests in writing a hearing before the department. On receipt of the request, the department shall schedule a hearing. Service by mail is complete on the date of mailing.

(c) If, after a hearing, the department finds that a violation has occurred and the watershed or wildlife habitat damage warrants site rehabilitation, it shall affirm or modify the order previously issued. If the department finds that a violation has not occurred or that site rehabilitation is not warranted, it shall rescind the order.

(d) The department may include in an order a provision that the owner or operator immediately cease causing further damage and take immediate action to alleviate the damage or to prevent future damage. The department may institute an action for injunctive relief under Title 27, chapter 19, if the recipient of the order does not comply with it.

(4) Subsection (3) does not prevent the department from seeking voluntary compliance and site rehabilitation through warning, conference, or any other appropriate means.

(5) All fines and penalties levied under this section must be deposited in the state general fund.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 608, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 60, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

77-5-306. Repealed. Sec. 66, Ch. 422, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 608, L. 1991.

77-5-307. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules:

(1) implementing each of the management standards provided in 77-5-303;

(2) providing specific direction necessary for owners and operators to understand and comply with the management standards, including additional definition of the streamside management zone and the forest practices permissible within the zone;

(3) providing alternative practices for the standards provided for in 77-5-303; and

(4) regulating the harvest of timber in streamside management zones.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 608, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

Part 4
Community and Urban Forestry Program

Part Cross-References

County Board of Park Commissioners, Title 7, ch. 16, part 23.
Municipal authority for planting and protection of trees, 7-16-4102.

77-5-401. Title — purpose. This part may be cited as the "Community and Urban Forestry Act". The purpose of the act is to:

(1) encourage the planting, maintenance, and management of trees in municipalities and counties;

(2) maximize the potential of trees and vegetative cover in improving the quality of the environment;

(3) encourage the coordination of state and local agency activities and maximize citizen participation in the development and implementation of community and urban forestry-related programs;

(4) foster healthy economic activity for the state's community and urban forestry-related businesses through cooperative and supportive contracts with the private business sector;

(5) facilitate the creation of jobs related to community and urban forestry activities, including opportunities for retraining and employing displaced timber resource workers; and

(6) provide meaningful voluntary opportunities for the state's citizens and organizations interested in community and urban forestry activities.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 1993.

77-5-402. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Community and urban forestry" means the planning, establishment, protection, care, and management of trees and associated plants individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within municipalities and counties.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in 2-15-3301.

(3) "Local government" means a city, town, county, consolidated city-county, or other political subdivision of the state.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 326, Ch. 418, L. 1995.**

77-5-403. Authority — rulemaking. (1) The department may establish and maintain a program in community and urban forestry to accomplish the purpose set forth in 77-5-401. The department may assist local governments in establishing and maintaining community and urban forestry programs and in encouraging persons to engage in appropriate and improved tree management and care.

(2) The department may advise, encourage, and assist local governments in the development and coordination of policies, programs, and activities for the promotion of community and urban forestry.

(3) The department may appoint an advisory committee to assist the department in establishing and carrying out a program in community and urban forestry.

(4) The department may adopt rules to implement this part.

History: **En. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Adoption and publication of rules, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.

77-5-404. Special revenue account — donations. (1) There is an account in the state special revenue fund. The department shall deposit in the account money received from gifts, grants, bequests, or endowments from public or private sources, and the funds must be used to carry out the provisions of this part. The money in the account may be spent in accordance with a legislative appropriation.

(2) The department may accept donations of labor, material, seedlings, and equipment from public or private sources for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this part.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 321, L. 1993.**

CHAPTER 6
AGRICULTURAL, GRAZING, AND OTHER SURFACE LEASES

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77-6-101. Statement of policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state, that in the interest of accomplishing a sustained income for the school and other trust funds to be derived from land grant and other state lands, agricultural and grazing lands and town and city lots shall be appraised from time to time but not less than once during the term of every lease by competent appraisers. The purpose of such appraisals shall be to determine the rental value of agricultural lands and town and city lots, the general condition of the lands, and the carrying capacity of grazing lands.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 260, L. 1963; R.C.M. 1947, 81-401.

Cross-References

Market value for interest in state lands, Art. X, sec. 11, Mont. Const.
Appraisal of grazing land, 77-6-201.

77-6-102. Surface leases authorized. Under the general direction and control of the board, the department shall lease all agricultural and grazing lands and all town lots, city lots, and lands valuable for commercial development open to leasing upon proper application.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-402(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 488, L. 1985.

Cross-References

Authorization, Art. X, sec. 4, Mont. Const.; The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1); 77-1-204.

77-6-103. Lease of state land to United States for military purposes authorized. The board, when it considers it in the public interest, may lease to the United States for military purposes any state land, whether such land was received by the state through federal land grants or whether such land consists of so-called “mortgage lands”, on such terms and conditions as it considers necessary to promote the public welfare and protect the interests of the state. Rental shall be payable at the end of each year of the lease.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 122, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-424.

77-6-104. Renumbered 77-1-209. Code Commissioner, 1983.

77-6-105. Criteria for determining land to be included in single lease. (1) All lands shall be leased in as compact bodies as possible, and care shall be taken not to separate parts of any section from the section lines or public highways or from any available water supply or in a form that will make it more difficult to lease the remaining state lands in the section in which they are located.

(2) There may be included under one lease tracts of lands embracing more than one section.

History: (1)En. Sec. 27, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.27, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 428, L. 1973; Sec. 81-413, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 23, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 1974; Sec. 81-407, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-407(part), 81-413(part).

77-6-106. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 488, L. 1985.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-402(4).

77-6-107. Leases of land wanted for both agricultural and grazing use. If there are applications or bids for renting certain land for grazing purposes and also applications or bids for renting the same land for agricultural purposes, an inspection of the land shall be made by the department at the earliest practical opportunity and a determination made, based on its findings, of the highest and best use which can be made of the land or portions thereof. Any lease of the land subsequent to the applications or bids shall be such as to return to the state revenue commensurate with the highest and best use.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.27, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-413(part).

77-6-108. Who may lease. A person may not lease state lands, except one who is the head of a family, unless the person has attained 18 years of age. An eligible person and an association, company, or corporation authorized to hold lands under lease may lease state lands and may hold more than one lease to state lands.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-407(part); amd. Sec. 2564, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

77-6-109. Duration of agricultural or grazing lease. Except as provided in 77-6-116, a lease for agricultural or grazing lands may not be for a period other than 5 or 10 years.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-407(part); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 488, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 555, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 404, L. 2003.

Cross-References

Grazing and agricultural leases not to exceed 10 years, The Enabling Act, sec. 11 (see anno. vol. 1).

77-6-110. Lease expiration dates. Except as provided in 77-6-116, all leases for agricultural lands, grazing lands issued after February 27, 1939, no matter on what date issued, shall expire on February 28 within 10 years from the date on which the lease becomes effective.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.24, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-408; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 555, L. 1989.

77-6-111. Terminated. Sec. 2, Ch. 304, L. 1977.

History: En. 81-407.1 by Sec. 1, Ch. 304, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-407.1.

77-6-112. Liens on crops and improvements. (1) The state has a lien upon all crops growing upon any of its land and upon the crops after they have been separated from the land for any rentals and penalties due or delinquent under the lease on the land or becoming due during the calendar year in which the crops are harvested, for any year or part of a year that the land has been held or used by the lessee. This lien applies to all buildings, structures, fences, and other improvements and is prior and superior to all other liens, except thresher's liens and seed liens specified in 71-3-701 and 71-3-801, which have priority, but only for the aggregate amount of the indebtedness then existing, including any advances made, interest due and other charges as evidenced by the original loan-contract, and indebtedness accumulating, exclusive of any other future advances originally contemplated.

(2) Any person acquiring any of these crops or improvements takes them subject to this lien. The department or the sheriff of the county in which the land is located may demand of the lessee payment of the amounts due the state, and if they are not paid upon demand, the officer making the demand or the department may seize and sell, either at a private or public sale, upon giving notice for not less than 3 days of the sale, sufficient of those crops or improvements, or of both, to pay the amounts due the state, together with costs and expenses of seizure and sale. These provisions relating to liens on crops and improvements must be embodied in all leases for agricultural and grazing lands and for town, city, or other lots.

History: En. Sec. 31, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.31, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-418; amd. Sec. 2565, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Liens — generally, Title 71, ch. 3.
Farm laborers' liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 4.
Construction liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 5.
Lien for hail insurance, 71-3-711.
Fertilizer and pesticide liens, Title 71, ch. 3, part 9.

77-6-113. Lease conditions — cancellation. (1) It is a condition of all leases of agricultural or grazing state lands that:

(a) in the case of agricultural lands, the lessee shall observe the ordinary rules for good management of agricultural lands and shall handle the leased land with the view of maintaining its productivity and minimizing wind and soil erosion and noxious weeds and planting crops with a view of securing the greatest yields of good quality; and

(b) in the case of grazing lands, the lessee shall observe the ordinary rules for good range management and shall manipulate the numbers, class, distribution, and season of the range use and the handling, feeding, breeding, and marketing of grazing livestock with a view of securing the production of the maximum of livestock and livestock products, consistent with the conservation of the land resources and the perpetuation of its productivity, and to these ends the state land lease may not be abused by overgrazing.

(2) For the gross violation of any of these rules, the lease involved must be canceled by the department, subject to the appeal procedure provided in 77-6-211.

(3) This section may not be construed to interfere with the right of the owner of property adjacent to a navigable river or stream to control noxious weeds on the land adjacent to the navigable river or stream.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 27, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-415; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Renewal leases, 77-6-205.
Effect of competitive bidding, 77-6-508.

77-6-114. Repealed. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 195, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 90, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 228, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 16-1715(part); amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 607, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 124, Ch. 114, L. 2003.

77-6-115. Acquisition of water right by lessee — limitation. (1) Subject to subsection (4), the lessee of state lands may at any time prior to 1 year before the expiration of the lease make application to the board for permission to secure a water right to the land under the lease. The application must be in writing and must show how much of the land can be irrigated, the permanency of the water supply, and the probable cost of placing the land under irrigation. If the proposed plan meets with the approval of the board, permission must be granted the lessee to secure the desired water right for the land and to place the land under irrigation.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), if the water right becomes a permanent and valuable improvement, then in case of the sale or lease of the land to other parties, the former lessee is

entitled to receive compensation in the amount of the reasonable value of the water right, as in the case of other improvements, from the new lessee or the purchaser.

(3) These provisions may not be construed to make the state liable to the lessee for the payment of the cost or value of the irrigation improvements.

(4) A water right acquired under this section may not interfere with a water right used in conjunction with a structure described in 77-1-134.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.33, R.C.M. 1935; R.C.M. 1947, 81-420; amd. Sec. 2566, Ch. 56, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 472, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Compensation for improvements, Title 77, ch. 6, part 3.

Water rights — generally, Title 85, ch. 2.

77-6-116. Voluntary termination of lease to allow concurrence with federal conservation reserve program — competitive bidding required. (1) A lessee of state land who wishes to enter the state land in the federal conservation reserve program may request voluntary termination of the remainder of the lease prior to scheduled expiration in order to seek a renewal lease that will run concurrently with the federal program. The lessee shall apply for voluntary termination to the department on a form prescribed by the department. The form must specify:

(a) the name of the lessee and a designation of the leased land for which voluntary termination is sought;

(b) the scheduled termination date of the lease; and

(c) the term of eligibility of the land under the federal conservation reserve program.

(2) Upon receipt of a proper application, the department shall terminate the remainder of the lease. When a request for voluntary termination is granted, the department shall fulfill the notification requirements of 77-6-204, and the lease is subject to the same competitive bidding process as renewal leases under 77-6-205. However, the lessee requesting voluntary termination retains the preference right allowed under 77-6-205.

(3) If a lease renewal is granted pursuant to 77-6-205 to a lessee who has requested voluntary termination under this section, the term of the renewal lease must coincide with the term of eligibility under the federal conservation reserve program.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 555, L. 1989.

Part 2
Leasing Procedure

77-6-201. Appraisal of grazing lands. (1) The department shall appraise the grazing lands owned by the state as to their animal-unit-month carrying capacity and make and preserve records of carrying capacity in its office and from time to time reexamine these lands as to their animal-unit-month carrying capacity in order to keep the records in its office reasonably accurate.

(2) In appraising these grazing lands, the following factors must be taken into consideration:

(a) inventory of the forage resources, including kind, amount, and location of vegetation;

(b) accessibility and usability of this forage resource as influenced by topography, availability of stock water, and season of usability;

(c) condition of soils, including the erosion situation;

(d) other and related resources such as timber, game animals, and need for watershed protection;

(e) record of needed improvements and facilities, including fuel and stock water, revegetation, rodent control, trails, fences, and the like;

(f) pertinent facts and figures submitted by stockgrowers living in the area and directors of state grazing districts including the land or in its vicinity;

(g) carrying capacity set for similar land in a state grazing district in which the land is situated.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-404; amd. Sec. 2567, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Cross-References

Persons entitled to examine and copy public records, 2-6-1003.

Annual grazing rental based on "animal units", 77-6-507.

77-6-202. Lease by competitive bidding — full market value required. When the department receives an application to lease an unleased tract, it shall advertise for bids on the tract. The tract must be leased to the highest bidder unless the board determines that the bid is not in the state's best interest for the reasons set forth in 77-6-205(2). The board may not accept a bid that is below full market value. If the high bid is rejected, the board shall set forth the reasons for the rejection in writing. The lease may be issued, at a rental rate to be determined by the board, to the first bidder who is willing to pay the board-determined rate whose name is selected through a random selection process from all bidders on the tract.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.21, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-405(3); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 288, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Cross-References

Effect of competitive bidding, 77-6-508.

77-6-203. Bid deposit. (1) A person bidding for the lease of state lands shall deposit with the department, as evidence of good faith, a certified check, cashier's check, or money order in an amount equal to 100% of the annual rental bid in the case of grazing land and an amount equal to $20 per acre for each acre of agricultural land contained in the lease in the case of agricultural land on which the bid is made on a crop share basis.

(2) The department shall retain the deposit of the successful bidder, apply it on the rental for the first year of the lease only, and return any balance of the deposit at the end of the first year to the successful bidder. The department shall return the deposits of the unsuccessful bona fide bidders. If the department finds a bid has been submitted that is frivolous, forged, or a bad faith bid or a bid submitted for purposes of harassment, the deposit is forfeited. The department shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the bidder in writing of the forfeiture and reasons therefor.

(3) If the successful bidder fails to execute the lease for any reason, the deposit is forfeited.

(4) The department shall credit all forfeited deposits to the interest and income account of the proper trust.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 185, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 29, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-436; amd. Sec. 37, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 290, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 89, L. 2005.

Cross-References

Public school fund — revenue, Art. X, sec. 2 and 5, Mont. Const.; 20-9-601.

Trust and agency fund types, 17-2-102.

Interest and income money, 20-9-341(1)(c).

Portion of income to go to development of state lands, Title 77, ch. 1, part 6.

Conservation easement for sale of leased cabin or home sites or city or town lots, 77-2-319.

77-6-204. Notification of termination of lease. When a lease expires, is canceled, or is voluntarily terminated under 77-6-116, the department shall immediately notify the holder of the lease and all persons who have expressed an interest in leasing the land during or immediately preceding the term of the expired, canceled, or terminated lease.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-407(part); amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 555, L. 1989.

Cross-References

Lease expiration dates — cancellation, 77-6-110, 77-6-210.

77-6-205. Renewal leases. (1) A lessee of state land classed as agricultural, grazing, town lot, city lot, or land valuable for commercial development who has paid all rentals due the state or who has voluntarily terminated a lease under 77-6-116 is entitled to have the lease renewed for a period not to exceed the maximum lease period provided in 77-6-109 at any time within 30 days prior to its expiration or within 30 days following voluntary termination if no other applications for lease of the land have been received 30 days prior to the expiration of the lease or within 30 days following voluntary termination. The renewal must be at the full market rental rate established by the board for the renewal period and subject to any other conditions at the time of the renewal imposed by law as terms of the lease. Except as provided in 77-6-212, if other applications have been received, the holder of the lease has the preference right to lease the land covered by the former lease by meeting the highest bid made by any other applicant. Applications for lease of lands in this section must be given preference in the order of their receipt at the office of the department.

(2) The board shall accept the highest bid. If the lessee exercises the preference right and believes the bid to be excessive, the lessee may request an administrative hearing. The request must contain a statement of reasons why the lessee believes the bid not to be in the state's best interest. The department shall grant the request for a hearing if it determines that the statement indicates evidence that the bid may not be in the state's best interests. The board may, after the hearing, reduce the rental from the amount bid if the lessee shows that the bid is not in the best interest of the state because it is above community standards for a lease of the land, would cause damage to the tract, or would impair its long-term productivity. If the board reduces the bid, it shall set forth its findings and conclusions in writing and inform the lessee and competitive bidder of the reduction. It is the duty of the board to secure the best lessees possible, so that the state may receive the maximum return possible with the least injury occurring to the land.

(3) A renewal lease may be canceled pursuant to 77-6-113, 77-6-208, 77-6-209, or 77-6-210 for a violation by the lessee that occurred during the previous lease term but no more than 3 years prior to the date on which the notice of cancellation required by 77-6-211 is issued. Cancellation procedures instituted but not completed before renewal are applicable to the renewal lease.

(4) A renewal lease may be voluntarily terminated pursuant to 77-6-116.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.21, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-405(1), (2); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 73, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 488, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 687, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 383, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 555, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 586, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Lease bidding, 77-6-202.

77-6-206. Withdrawal of lands from leasing. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the board may withdraw any agricultural or grazing land from further leasing for such period as the board determines to be in the best interest of the state. Bids for leases and applications for renewals of leases of state agricultural lands or state grazing lands shall be in writing and sealed and shall be submitted to the board at the office of the department.

History: **En. Sec. 21, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.21, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 20, L. 1941; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 311, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 81-405(4).**

77-6-207. Form of lease — bond optional. The general form of lease to state lands shall be prescribed by the board, and no changes in the form for these leases may be made without the approval of the board. All leases shall be issued in duplicate, one copy shall be mailed to the lessee, and one copy shall be preserved by the department. Unless the board decides otherwise, these leases shall be issued without bonds, but the board may require a bond and prescribe the form and conditions thereof whenever it considers it necessary.

History: **En. Sec. 29, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.29, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-416.**

77-6-208. Assignment of leases — subleasing — loss of preference right. (1) Leases to state lands may be assigned on blanks prescribed by the department, but an assignment is not binding on the state unless the assignment is filed with the department and approved by it and payment made of the assignment fee under 77-1-302.

(2) Preference must always be given to the applicant who wants the land for the applicant's own individual use, so that the full advantage coming from the leasing and use of the lands may reach those who actually till the soil and so that they are not compelled to pay a higher rental than that due the state.

(3) (a) If a lessee, other than a holder of a commercial lease, subleases state lands on terms less advantageous to the sublessee than the terms given by the state, the department shall cancel the lease, subject to the appeal procedure provided in 77-6-211.

(b) If a lessee subleases state lands without filing a copy of the sublease with the department and without receiving the department's approval, the department may cancel the lease, subject to the appeal procedure provided in 77-6-211.

(c) Upon approval by the department, a commercial leaseholder may sublease state land on terms less advantageous to the sublessee than the terms given to the lessee by the state. However, the department may adjust the lease rate to require that the lessee pay the state a portion of what the sublessee pays to the lessee.

(4) The subleasing of state land may result in loss of the preference right to renew the lease as provided in 77-6-212.

(5) An assignment or series of assignments may not be made to avoid the loss of the preference right under 77-6-212.

History: **En. Sec. 32, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.32, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 14, L. 1937; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 27, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-419; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 383, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 96, L. 1993.**

Cross-References

Renewal leases, 77-6-205.

Pledge or mortgage of leasehold interest, 77-6-401.

77-6-209. Change from grazing lease to agricultural lease. (1) When land is leased for grazing purposes and the lessee desires to cultivate any part of the land, the lessee shall, before doing any cultivation, make application to the department stating how much land the lessee desires to cultivate and showing the location in the section of the land and agree that for the remainder of the term of the lease the annual rental will be at the rate of the original lease until the time that the first crop is harvested from the cultivated portion of the lease. At the time of the first harvest, the lease must be at the original rate for that portion remaining as grazing land plus the crop share rental for that portion cultivated. If any person cultivates lands leased for grazing purposes without first securing the right to do so under this section, the department shall either cancel the lease, subject to the appeal procedure provided in 77-6-211, or require the lessee to pay twice the regular agricultural rental on the land cultivated in addition to the grazing rental.

(2) The provisions of this section must be incorporated in every lease.

History: **En. Sec. 28, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.28, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 120, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 27, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-414; amd. Sec. 2568, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

77-6-210. Cancellation of leases. (1) The department may cancel a lease for any of the following causes:

(a) fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of facts relating to its issue, which if known would have prevented its issue in the form or to the party issued;

(b) subleasing state land contrary to the provisions of 77-6-212;

(c) using the land for other purposes than those authorized by the lease;

(d) conviction of the lessee for a felony offense involving a dangerous drug, as defined in Title 50, chapter 32, and involving the planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, or concealing of a dangerous drug on any portion of the unit; however, when a state land lease is held by an association, company, or corporation, conviction of a member of the association, company, or corporation under this subsection does not result in cancellation of the lease unless it appears that the operator, manager, or family in control of the association, company, or corporation is a consenting party or privy to the violation of this subsection;

(e) for any other cause which in the judgment of the department makes the cancellation of the lease necessary in order to do justice to all parties concerned and to protect the interests of the state.

(2) Cancellation of a lease under this section does not entitle the lessee to any refund of rentals paid or exemption from the payment of any rentals, penalties, or other compensation due the state.

History: **En. Sec. 36, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.36, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 27, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-422(1); amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 383, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 319, L. 1989.**

Cross-References

Renewal leases, 77-6-205.
Unit of land defined, 77-6-221.
Date when rental due — cancellation for nonpayment, 77-6-506.

77-6-211. Procedure to cancel lease — appeal. (1) When the department cancels a lease pursuant to 77-6-113, 77-6-208, 77-6-209, or 77-6-210, it shall immediately notify the lessee by certified mail of the cancellation and the reasons therefor. The date of cancellation is 15 days from the date the notice is received by the lessee.

(2) The lessee has 15 days after the receipt of the notice to file with the department a notice of appeal for a hearing before the board. If notice of appeal is filed, the lease remains in effect until the decision of the board. Within 10 days after notice of appeal has been filed, the department shall set the time and place of hearing and shall so notify the lessee. The board may, after 10 days' notice to the lessee, change the time and place of hearing.

(3) Under rules it adopts, the board shall conduct an open hearing to determine whether the lease should be reinstated. The burden of proof is on the lessee to show why the lease should not be canceled. If the lease is reinstated, all of the lessee's rights and privileges thereunder shall be preserved; if not, the land shall be open for re-leasing as provided by law. If the board finds that the terms of the lease have been violated but in its judgment the violation is not serious enough to warrant cancellation, it may reinstate the lease and assess a penalty up to three times the annual rental against the lessee.

History: En. Sec. 36, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.36, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 27, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-422(2), (3).

Cross-References

Open hearings required, 2-3-203.
Adoption of rules — Montana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 2, ch. 4, part 3.
Notification of interested parties of termination, 77-6-204.

77-6-212. Loss of preference right — cancellation of lease — subleasing — pasturing agreements. (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a lessee of state land classed as agricultural or grazing land may not exercise the preference right provided in 77-6-205 if the lessee subleases the land for more than 2 years in the term of the lease.

(2) The department shall cancel a lease of state agricultural or grazing land if the lessee subleases the land for more than 3 years during the term of the lease unless the sublease is made between members of a family as provided in subsection (3).

(3) A lessee under subsection (1) or (2) may sublease the land for a period of not more than 5 years without losing the preference right or the lease to state land if, during the term of the lease, the land is subleased only to a spouse, son, daughter, adopted child, or sibling of the lessee.

(4) The lessee does not lose the preference right or right to lease because of subleasing as provided under this section if:

(a) the sublease is one-third or less acres of the lease; or

(b) the sublease is considered to be a pasturing agreement and is approved in writing by the department prior to the initiation of the agreement.

(5) For purposes of this section, a sublease may not be considered a pasturing agreement unless the lessee personally retains management and physical control of the land and livestock. "Management" includes but is not limited to:

(a) providing all costs for improvements, land maintenance, and range renovation, if range renovation is approved by the department;

(b) making all decisions regarding rotation or other placement of livestock on state land;

(c) making all decisions regarding turn-in and turn-out dates of the livestock on state land; and

(d) making all decisions regarding proper range management, including placement of water, fencing, and salt.

(6) A lessee of state land classified as agricultural or grazing land loses the preference right provided in 77-6-205 upon conviction of a felony offense involving a dangerous drug, as defined in Title 50, chapter 32, and involving the planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, or concealing of a dangerous drug on any portion of

the unit. When a state land lease is held by an association, company, or corporation, conviction of a member of the association, company, or corporation under this subsection does not result in loss of lease preference unless it appears that the operator, manager, or family in control of the association, company, or corporation is a consenting party or privy to the violation of this subsection.

History: **En. Sec. 4, Ch. 383, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 319, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2569, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Unit of land defined, 77-6-221.

77-6-213 through 77-6-220 reserved.

77-6-221. Unit of land defined. As used in this part, "unit" means privately deeded land or land leased from the state, or a combination of the two, that is under the control of one operator, manager, or family.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 319, L. 1989.**

Part 3
Improvements

77-6-301. Improvements authorized. A lessee of state lands may place upon the lands a reasonable amount of improvements directly related to conservation of the land or necessary for proper utilization of it. These improvements may consist of fences, cultivation, improvement of the land itself, irrigation ditches, sheds, wells, reservoirs, and similar improvements.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.34, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421(part).**

Cross-References

Water rights as improvement, 77-6-115.

77-6-302. Compensation for improvements — actual costs. (1) Except for the improvements described in 77-1-134, prior to renewal of a lease, the department shall request from the lessee a listing of improvements on the land associated with the lease, including the reasonable value of the improvements. This information must be provided to any party requesting to bid on the lease. Except for the improvements described in 77-1-134, when another person becomes the lessee of the land, the person shall pay to the former lessee the reasonable value of the improvements. The reasonable value may not be less than the full market value of the improvements.

(2) If the former lessee is unable to produce records establishing the reasonable value or if the former lessee and the new lessee are unable to agree on the reasonable value of the improvements, the value must be ascertained and fixed as provided in 77-6-306. The former lessee shall initiate this process within 60 days of notification from the department that there is a new lessee. The department notification must include an explanation of the requirements of 77-6-306. Failure to initiate the process within this time period results in all improvements, except those described in 77-1-134, becoming the property of the state.

(3) Upon the termination of a lease, the department may grant a license to the former lessee to remove the movable improvements from the land. Upon authorization, the movable improvements must be removed within 60 days or they become the property of the state unless the department for good cause grants additional time for the removal. The department shall charge the former lessee for the period of time that the improvements remain on the land after the termination of the lease.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.34, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 270, L. 2001; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 476, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 472, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Lease expiration dates, 77-6-110.

77-6-303. Determination of compensation. (1) In determining the value of the improvements described in 77-6-302, consideration must be given to their original cost, their present condition, their suitability for the uses ordinarily made of the land on which they are located, and to the general state of cultivation of the land, its productive capacity as affected by former use, and its condition with reference to the infestation of noxious weeds. Consideration must be given to all actual improvements and to all known effects that the use and occupancy of the land have had upon its productive capacity and desirability for the new lessee.

(2) However, if any of the improvements consist of the original plowing of the land and 1 year's crops have been raised on the land after the plowing, the compensation for the improvement may not exceed $2.50 per acre, and if two or more crops have been raised on the land after the original plowing, the original plowing may not be considered as an improvement to the land.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.34, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421(part); amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 472, L. 2009.**

77-6-304. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 270, L. 2001.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.34, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421(part).**

77-6-305. Repealed. Sec. 7, Ch. 270, L. 2001.

History: **En. Sec. 34, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.34, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421(part); amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 586, L. 1993.**

77-6-306. Arbitrators to fix value of improvements. (1) If the owner of any improvements on state lands of the type authorized by law at the time they were placed on state lands desires to sell these improvements to the new lessee and they are unable to agree on the value of the improvements pursuant to 77-6-302, the value must be ascertained and fixed by three arbitrators, one of whom is appointed by the owner of the improvements, one by the new lessee, and the third by the two appointed arbitrators. If any party refuses to appoint an arbitrator within 15 days of being requested to do so by the director of the department, the director may appoint an arbitrator for that party. An arbitrator appointed by the director has the same duties and powers as if appointed by one of the parties. The value of the improvements must be ascertained and fixed pursuant to 77-6-302.

(2) The reasonable compensation that the arbitrators may fix for their services must be paid in equal shares by the owner of the improvements and the new lessee.

(3) The value of the improvements ascertained and fixed is binding on both parties. If either party is dissatisfied with the valuation, the party may within 10 days appeal from the decision to the department. The department shall examine the records pertaining to the costs of the improvements, and except as provided in subsection (4), its decision is final. The department shall charge and collect the actual cost of the reexamination to the owner and the new lessee in the proportion as, in its judgment, justice may demand.

(4) If either party is dissatisfied with the valuation fixed by the department, the party may within 30 days after receipt of the department's decision petition the district court in the county in which the majority of the state land is located for judicial review of the decision.

History: **En. Sec. 22, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.22, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 260, L. 1963; Sec. 81-406, R.C.M. 1947; redes. 81-421.1 and amd. by Sec. 13, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-421.1; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 586, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 327, Ch. 418, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 476, L. 2005.**

Cross-References

Arbitration, Title 27, ch. 5.

Part 4
Pledges and Mortgages of Leasehold Interests

77-6-401. Pledge or mortgage of leasehold interest in state lands. Any lessee of a grazing or agricultural lease of state lands is authorized to pledge the lease or mortgage the leasehold interest in the lands.

History: **En. Sec. 1, Ch. 52, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-425; amd. Sec. 2570, Ch. 56, L. 2009.**

Cross-References

Mortgages of real property, Title 71, ch. 1, part 2.
Pledges — generally, Title 71, ch. 2.
Assignment of leases, 77-6-208.

77-6-402. Filing with department required. The pledgee of such lease or the mortgagee of such leasehold interest shall, within 30 days after receipt of the pledge agreement or mortgage, file it or a certified copy thereof with the department.

History: **En. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-426.**

77-6-403. Transfer of lease. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), upon due proof that a person has acquired through foreclosure or conveyance the pledgor's or mortgagor's leasehold interest, the board shall transfer the lease to that person, who is subject to all the conditions, obligations, and liabilities and entitled to all the rights and privileges provided for in the lease. To authorize transfer of a lease, a decree of foreclosure must specifically refer to the lease or the leased premises, but neither the board nor the department is required to be named as a party to the action. The plaintiff shall, however, file a copy of the complaint with the department at the time it is filed with the court.

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed to require the board to complete the transfer of a lease to an assignee whom the board considers unqualified as a lessee of state lands.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 52, L. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-427; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 679, L. 1991.

Cross-References

Liens on crops and improvements, 77-6-112.

77-6-404. Proof of termination of pledge or mortgage to be filed. The lessee of any grazing or agricultural lease of or leasehold interest in state lands which is pledged or mortgaged as provided in this part shall, within 30 days after payment of the indebtedness secured thereby or within 30 days after the pledge agreement is terminated or the leasehold interest is released from the mortgage, file with the department proof of that fact.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 52, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 121, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-428.

Part 5
Rental Provisions

77-6-501. Agricultural leases. (1) For agricultural land, all leases except lease renewals upon which the lessee has made improvements at the lessee's expense, as provided in subsection (3), must be continued or made upon a crop share rental basis of not less than one-fourth of the annual crops to the state or the usual landlord's share prevailing in the district, whichever is greater. The board may, however, approve special crop share rentals of less than one-fourth for high production cost crops, such as but not limited to potatoes and sugar beets, or for high production cost methods when these methods would result in more income to the state. The board may not delegate the authority to approve special crop share rentals.

(2) Except in the case of cash lease renewals under subsection (3), if it is in the best interests of the state, the department may authorize a lease upon other bases than crop share, but in these cases, the rental must at least equal the value of the usual landlord's share prevailing in the district under similar circumstances, and the department shall set forth in the records the conditions of the case and the rental to be charged.

(3) Subject to 77-1-134, in a case in which the lessee has made substantial improvements for irrigation purposes to the lease at the lessee's own expense, the department shall authorize a cash lease renewal at not less than $15 an acre on the portion of the lease that has been improved.

(4) For all agricultural leases issued through competitive bidding provided for under 77-6-202 or 77-6-205, the department shall require on any competitive bid greater than a one-third crop share a minimum annual guarantee of not less than $15 an acre.

(5) The department shall set annual hay prices based on round bales for agricultural leases under the jurisdiction of the regional land offices.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-402(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 54, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 168, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 5, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 472, L. 2009; (5)En. Sec. 1, Ch. 397, L. 2021.

Cross-References

Effect of competitive bidding, 77-6-508.

77-6-502. Grazing leases. (1) The rental rate for leasing all state grazing lands must attain full market value based upon the appraised animal-unit-month carrying capacity of the land as provided in 77-6-507.

(2) If the board raises the rentals for state grazing lands during the term of any leases of grazing land that are not issued as a result of competitive bidding, the lessee shall, for the years after the increase becomes effective, pay the increased rental, and the terms of grazing leases must provide for the increase.

History: (1)En. Sec. 20, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 1974; Sec. 81-402, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 23, Ch. 60, L. 1927; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1933; re-en. Sec. 1805.23, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 65, L. 1939; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 240, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 30, Ch. 94, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 135, L. 1974; Sec. 81-407, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 81-402(part), 81-407(part); amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Leases by competitive bidding, 77-6-202.

77-6-503. Leases of city lots, town lots, and commercial property. The fair rental value of state-owned town lots, city lots, and land valuable for commercial development must be determined from time to time by the department with the approval of the board, and a record must be made of the values. State-owned town lots, city lots, or land valuable for commercial development may be leased at the current appraised rental value for terms not to exceed 99 years.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.20, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 207, L. 1945; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 254, L. 1947; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 201, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 257, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 428, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 134, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 135, L. 1974; R.C.M. 1947, 81-402(part); amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 488, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 404, L. 2003.

77-6-504. Lease rentals for part year. Lease rentals for agricultural or grazing state land, where the lease term begins after February 28 in the initial year of the lease, shall be for the whole of the yearly rate for the fractional part of the initial year if the lease term begins prior to July 1 in such fractional part of year, and for one-half the yearly rate for such fractional part of the year if the lease term begins after June 30 in the initial year and prior to the succeeding February 28.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 207, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 81-410.

Cross-References

Expiration date — leases, 77-6-110.

77-6-505. No reduction for summer fallow. No credit or reduction or refund in rental shall be allowed any lessee of agricultural or grazing state land on account of summer fallow.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 207, L. 1945; R.C.M. 1947, 81-411.

77-6-506. Date when rental due — penalty — cancellation for nonpayment. (1) For a grazing lease, for the grazing portion of a lease containing both agricultural and grazing land, and for agricultural leases not based on a crop share, the grazing rental for the first year of the lease must be paid at or before the time of the execution of the lease; however, in the case of a lease that takes effect on and after October 1 and before the expiration of the coming February, both the rental for the fractional year and for the next full year beginning March 1 must be paid and collected at the time of issuing the lease. If the United States is the lessee of state lands for grazing purposes, the rental is payable at the end of each year of the lease. The rental for each succeeding year on a lease issued after July 1, 1999, with the exception of a lease that involves the United States as the lessee, is due and payable before March 1. If the rental is not paid before March 1, a $25 penalty must be imposed on the lessee. If the full rental and the $25 penalty are not paid by April 1, the entire lease is canceled.

(2) For an agricultural lease and for the agricultural portion of a lease containing both grazing and agricultural land, when the rental is paid on a crop share basis or on a crop share/cash basis, the rental is due in cash on or before November 15 of the year in which the crop is harvested. If the rental is not paid on or before November 15 of the year of crop harvest, a $25 penalty must be imposed on the lessee. If the full rental and the $25 penalty are not paid on or before December 31 of the year in which the crop is harvested, the entire lease is canceled. The department may extend the deadline in writing. If the lessee does not make the rental payment by the date of extension, the entire lease is canceled. Any rental payment made after November 15 of the year in which the crop is harvested, including payment made after an extension of the deadline, must include the $25 penalty.

(3) For all state land leases and licenses other than those described in subsections (1) and (2), the department shall impose a $25 penalty for failure to make a rental payment by any deadline established by statute, by rule, or in the lease or license.

(4) At least 2 weeks prior to the final deadline for payment under subsection (1) or (2), the department shall send by certified mail to each lessee who has not made payment a letter notifying the lessee that the lease is canceled if payment and the $25 penalty are not received by the final deadline. The notice must be sent to the lessee at the address given in the lease.

(5) When a lease is canceled under subsection (1) or (2), the department shall notify the lessee of the cancellation by letter at the address given in the lease.

(6) The department may, within 30 days of cancellation, reinstate a canceled agricultural, grazing, or other surface lease upon payment of the rental that is owing, plus a penalty not to exceed three times the annual rental, except that a penalty imposed under this subsection may not be less than $500.

(7) A canceled lease that is not reinstated must be made available for lease as provided in 77-6-202.

(8) The penalties collected pursuant to this section must be deposited into the same trust account as the rentals from the state land to which the penalties apply.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 60, L. 1927; re-en. Sec. 1805.26, R.C.M. 1935; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 197, L. 1943; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 22, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-412; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 473, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 187, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 140, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 5, L. 1999.

Cross-References

Lease to United States for military purposes authorized, 77-6-103.
Bid deposit and forfeiture requirements, 77-6-203.
Notification of interested parties when lease canceled, 77-6-204.
Cancellation of lease for other reasons, 77-6-210.

77-6-507. Formula for fixing annual rental. (1) In this section:

(a) "animal unit" means one cow, one horse, five sheep, or five goats;

(b) "animal-unit-month carrying capacity" means that amount of natural feed necessary for the complete subsistence of one animal unit for 1 month.

(2) The board shall establish the per annum rental rate per section of all grazing lands that are the property of the state by multiplying a factor established by the board pursuant to 77-6-502 times the average price per pound of beef cattle on the farm in Montana for the previous year times the animal-unit-month carrying capacity of the land.

(3) The carrying capacity of the land to be used in the above formula must be in accordance with the determinations of the department made under 77-6-201.

(4) The average price per pound of beef cattle on the farm in Montana must be taken from statistics published by the United States department of agriculture current at the time of computation of the rental or from other reliable sources current at that time.

(5) In establishing the rental rate described in subsection (2), the board shall consider applicable elements that include but are not limited to those set forth in 77-1-106.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 190, L. 1949; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1951; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 284, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 260, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 97, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 28, Ch. 428, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 81-433; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 259, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 38, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Appraisal of grazing land, 77-6-201.

77-6-508. Effect of competitive bidding. Whenever competitive bidding establishes a rental price higher than the rental price established by the board, the board in leasing the lands shall incorporate in the lease conservation requirements as are considered necessary for the protection of the grass or forage crops.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 190, L. 1949; R.C.M. 1947, 81-434; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 586, L. 1993.

Cross-References

Competitive bidding — when required, 77-6-202.

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